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Interview with HANS WOLFGANG PHILIPPI

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Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

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Date: 9-2-1998 Place: San Mateo, California

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Interviewer: Peter Ryan

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Videographer: Anne Grenn Saldinger

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Transcriber: Beverly W. Dillman

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1 Q. WE ARE AT THE TEMPLE BETH EL, AT 1700 ALAMEDA DE
2 LAS PULGAS, IN SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA. THIS MORNING WE ARE
3 GOING TO INTERVIEW HANS PHILIPPI. MY NAME IS PETER RYAN,
4 INTERVIEWER; AND ANNE SALDINGER IS DOING THE VIDEOTAPING.
5 AND COULD WE BEGIN BY MY ASKING YOU WHERE AND WHEN YOU WERE
6 BORN?

7 A. I was born in Germany on the 27th of January,
8 1921.

9 Q. AND WHERE?

10 A. Berlin.

11 Q. HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE IN YOUR FAMILY?

12 A. I have a brother and -- who is still living --
13 and two parents that --

14 Q. YOUR BROTHER IS OLDER OR YOUNGER?

15 A. The brother is four years younger than I am.

16 Q. FOUR YEARS YOUNGER?

17 A. And he lives in Foster City.

18 Q. LIVES WHERE?

19 A. In Foster City.

20 Q. FOSTER CITY?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. WHAT DID YOUR FATHER DO?

23 A. He had notions. And in 1935 he had a nervous
24 breakdown, with the Hitler regime, and then he couldn't
25 work any more in Germany. So my mother was going to help

1 us out; so, therefore, she got into the business of
2 children's wear. And she --

3 Q. CHILDREN'S WEAR? CLOTHING?

4 A. Children's wear, clothing, yes. And she had
5 several tailors who worked for her, and she did it out of
6 our home. And we had nice customers, nice customers, and
7 they were friends also. And with the Jewish emigration
8 flourishing, her business was flourishing, because she made
9 clothes for the kids.

10 And when the kids became older, they had still
11 the clothing from her. And we had one customer who
12 emigrated to the States also, and he said, "For the
13 next" -- "For the 10 years after I emigrated, I have still
14 clothes of your mother's."

15 Q. SO THEY WERE STURDY, HUH?

16 A. Yeah -- no, they were made to fit at a later date
17 also.

18 Q. AH-HAH, SO THEY HAD A LITTLE ROOM IN THEM?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. YEAH. WHAT KIND OF LIVING ARRANGEMENTS DID YOU
21 HAVE IN BERLIN?

22 A. We lived in a -- what is called here, I would
23 say, an apartment building.

24 Q. UH-HUH.

25 A. And in the western part of Berlin, which is

1 called Charlottenburg, and which became later on the West
2 Berlin after the war, we grew up there, and we went to the
3 zoo very often.

4 And I was working in -- as apprentice in a
5 factory, which made lithographies and printing. It was a
6 Jewish-owned, big, big company. And I learned -- I was
7 supposed to learn for four years, and then get the master
8 in lithography and in printing. And after a year and a
9 half, I was thrown out, which happened after the -- which
10 happened in November of 1938.

11 Q. WAS THIS A BUSINESS PART OF BERLIN OR WAS IT
12 RESIDENTIAL, WHERE YOU LIVED?

13 A. Yeah, we lived in a residential part.

14 Q. RESIDENTIAL?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. WAS IT A MIXED NEIGHBORHOOD OR A JEWISH
17 NEIGHBORHOOD?

18 A. It was mixed.

19 Q. MIXED?

20 A. Mixed. We went to public schools, my brother and
21 I. I went to the Kaiser Freilicht Schule, which was --
22 it's called a gymnasium, which is a -- which is a higher
23 school, which had from the fifth grade to the -- just
24 before the university. It was, I would say, a high school
25 here.

1 Q. UH-HUH. COULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR EARLY SCHOOLING.

2 A. Well, when I was six, I had an ear infection and
3 an operation, and I got deaf in one ear. So, therefore, I
4 got to school not in March, but in September.

5 Q. SO THAT WAS LIKE A SIX-MONTH DELAY?

6 A. Yes, it was six months' delay. And I entered a
7 class, we had three classes of the same grade, and there
8 was one teacher who asked "I take all the Jewish kids." So
9 we were, out of 48 kids, we were 32 Jews in the class, even
10 if it was a public school.

11 Q. NOW, WAS THIS A JEWISH TEACHER?

12 A. No.

13 Q. NO?

14 A. He was -- he became a big Nazi afterwards.

15 Q. REALLY?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. WHAT YEAR WAS THAT THAT --

18 A. This was in 1927.

19 Q. '27?

20 A. Yes. You went to school when you were six years
21 old.

22 Q. YEAH. DID YOU TAKE THAT AT THE TIME AS A SIGN
23 THAT HE WAS SYMPATHETIC TO JEWS, THAT HE WANTED TO HELP
24 JEWS?

25 A. Yes, at this time he was sympathetic to Jews, and

1 he thought that if he has a lot of Jewish people, he can
2 advance quicker.

3 Q. UH-HUH.

4 A. And then we had it very easy in the -- called
5 gymnasium. Gymnasium has nothing to do with gymnastics
6 here.

7 Q. NO. NO. NO. NO.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. IT'S A SCHOOL?

10 A. It's a class -- it's a school term, and it
11 determines the type of school, which is, I would say, an
12 upper education.

13 Q. DID YOU HAVE FRIENDS IN SCHOOL WHO WERE BOTH JEWS
14 AND NON-JEWS?

15 A. Good question. I think there were more Jewish
16 because I had a big selection. I had only one friend, one
17 good friend in the school, and he was Jewish.

18 Q. UH-HUH. HOW ABOUT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD YOU LIVED
19 IN?

20 A. Well, it came to this, in 1933, one guy came with
21 a Nazi uniform, and he was beaten down because the Jews
22 were in majority.

23 Q. THIS WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. YEAH. DID YOU HAVE NON-JEWISH FRIENDS IN THE

1 NEIGHBORHOOD?

2 A. We talked to them, but actually "friends
3 friends," no.

4 Q. NO?

5 A. No. We were always with Jewish people.

6 Q. SO YOU DIDN'T PLAY WITH THEM OR REALLY HAVE CLOSE
7 FRIENDSHIPS?

8 A. I don't think so, no.

9 Q. WAS YOUR FAMILY RELIGIOUS?

10 A. We were reform.

11 Q. REFORM?

12 A. Yeah. But we went to temple, and then later on I
13 went to the Fasanenstrasse, which was a very famous
14 synagogue, and which was liberal conservative. But I would
15 say we had Friday shabbat service, and Saturday morning
16 actually. I got bar mitzvahed.

17 Q. SO YOU WOULD OBSERVE THE HOLIDAYS?

18 A. We would observe the holidays, yeah.

19 Q. COULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR FATHER. WHAT HE WAS
20 LIKE?

21 A. He was a very accommodating person.

22 Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

23 A. Well, he was very easy-going.

24 Q. UH-HUH.

25 A. He had a nice, very nice attitude towards others,

1 and towards us. He was hard working when he could. And I
2 would say there were in prosperous conditions.

3 Q. UH-HUH. DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG HE HAD BEEN IN
4 BERLIN, OR WHEN HE HAD --

5 A. Yes, quite a while. Well, we have what are these
6 trees, these ancestor trees?

7 Q. UH-HUH.

8 A. And we figured out that we were in Germany since
9 1700 and something.

10 Q. DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY HAD COME FROM BEFORE THEN?

11 A. I think one branch came from Koenigsburg, which
12 was Ostpreussen.

13 Q. PRUSSIA?

14 A. Prussia, yes. And my mother's side came from --
15 actually she was born in Gera, which is Thuringen.

16 Q. GERMANY?

17 A. Yes, Germany. And they lived there, and they
18 were also both -- I don't know of any ancestors which came
19 from other than Germany.

20 Q. OKAY. DO YOU KNOW HOW THEY MET, YOUR PARENTS?

21 A. Yes. They met over the telephone during the war.

22 Q. WORLD WAR I?

23 A. World War I. And my mother was in the
24 distribution of raw materials.

25 Q. UH-HUH?

(1 A. And my father was -- some way he had to phone
2 her, and they were in telephone contact. And then a
3 relative of them just said, "I have a nice Jewish girl, a
4 nice girl, you might meet." And they said, "We met
5 already." So they met, and they got engaged, and they were
6 married in --

7 Q. UH-HUH?

8 A. -- 1920. '20 they got married. In 1919 they got
9 engaged.

10 Q. UH-HUH. WAS YOUR FATHER IN THE WAR?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. HE WAS?

(13 A. But he had back trouble, so he was not qualified
14 to fight.

15 Q. OKAY.

16 A. I think he was in the reserve.

17 Q. HE WAS IN THE RESERVE?

18 A. Yeah. He got an (Airencoits) also.

19 Q. UH-HUH.

20 A. But I don't know, I didn't think he was really
21 active in the war.

22 Q. BUT PART OF HIS JOB WAS TO TALK TO --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- YOUR MOTHER ABOUT SUPPLIES?

(25 A. Yes. Yes.

1 Q. UH-HUH.

2 A. Yeah, they were in the -- that's where -- they
3 needed office people also in the war.

4 Q. SURE.

5 A. So he was active actually, but --

6 Q. DID HE HAVE A BIG FAMILY?

7 A. He had one sister.

8 Q. ONE SISTER.

9 A. One sister, that's it.

10 Q. OLDER OR YOUNGER?

11 A. She was older, yes.

12 Q. OLDER. AND HOW ABOUT YOUR MOTHER?

13 A. My mother had also one sister, and she was also
14 older.

15 Q. ALSO -- SO TWO YOUNGER?

16 A. Yeah, two youngers, yes.

17 Q. TELL ME WHAT YOUR MOTHER WAS LIKE.

18 A. My mother had a very strong attitude, and she
19 could keep us, let's say, alive, let's say the family, in
20 hard times, after 1934 to 1938, with her hard work.

21 Q. UH-HUH. DID SHE --

22 A. She was dominant, a little bit dominant person,
23 but she was very kind also.

24 Q. UH-HUH. WAS YOUR FATHER ACCOMMODATING TO THE
25 DOMINANCE?

1 A. I would say so a little bit, yes.

2 Q. UH-HUH. DID YOU HAVE MEALS TOGETHER AT HOME?

3 A. Yes. Every meal was together.

4 Q. ALL FOUR OF YOU?

5 A. Yes, all four. Well, my father was traveling
6 with his notions, so, therefore, at the beginning, when he
7 was still working, he was not home between Monday and
8 Thursday or Friday. So generally we ate dinner together,
9 yes.

10 Q. THE THREE OF YOU?

11 A. The three of us or the four of us. There was no
12 question about it.

13 Q. OKAY. AND WAS THAT LIKE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
14 DAY, THE BIG MEAL?

15 A. Yeah, the big meal was in the middle of the day,
16 and the evening was sandwiches, cold cuts and so on.

17 Q. AND THAT WOULD BE TOGETHER TOO?

18 A. Yes, definitely.

19 Q. WHAT WOULD TRANSPIRE IN YOUR MEALS? WAS THERE A
20 LOT OF TALK?

21 A. Yeah, there were talks.

22 Q. UH-HUH.

23 A. General talks, and --

24 Q. POLITICS?

25 A. Yes, also a little bit.

1 Q. YEAH.

2 A. Yes. We were not involved in political thing,
3 but we have seen disturbances very close to our house, when
4 we lived in Wilmersdorf. This was in 1930 -- 1932, when
5 the Nazis got into clashes with the police and all those
6 kinds.

7 Q. YOU WOULD WITNESS THAT?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?

10 A. Well, there were beatings and --

11 Q. THE POLICE WOULD BE BEATING THE NAZIS?

12 A. And they were throwing stones and so on. There
13 was no shooting actually at this time.

14 Q. UH-HUH. UH-HUH.

15 A. But we lived in a nice neighborhood, and they
16 came and clashed together.

17 Q. WAS THAT FRIGHTENING?

18 A. Yeah. I would say so.

19 Q. UH-HUH.

20 A. But then we lived our lives, and we have had
21 comfortable. We did not believe, when Hitler came to
22 power, that he could stay long. We had a girl who was
23 employed at -- from -- to do the house duties, and she had
24 a police officer, and he was a social democrat, and he
25 said, "This guy cannot stand; the German people will throw

1 him out." And he was unfortunately not right.

2 Q. NOW, YOU WERE 13 WHEN HE CAME INTO POWER?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. WERE YOU AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT THAT
5 TIME?

6 A. Yes, definitely.

7 Q. YEAH?

8 A. I was interested in this.

9 Q. YOU WERE INTERESTED?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. DID IT SEEM LIKE A THREAT, OR DID YOU BELIEVE
12 WHAT THE POLICEMAN SAID, THAT THIS WOULDN'T LAST?

13 A. Well, I didn't have enough experience at this
14 time, so I thought that he might be right; hopefully he
15 would be right.

16 Q. UH-HUH. HOW ABOUT YOUR FATHER?

17 A. He thought also nothing can happen here.

18 Q. THIS ISN'T GOING TO --

19 A. He serviced in the First World War, so why should
20 they throw him out?

21 Q. UH-HUH.

22 A. And then when April came, and the Jewish
23 businesses had to have their names printed on the main
24 window, we thought this is not nice, but what can we do?
25 We stood by our Jewish stores, but --

1 Q. DID YOU HAVE A STORE?

2 A. No.

3 Q. YOU DIDN'T?

4 A. No.

5 Q. YOU WORKED OUT OF THE HOME?

6 A. My mother worked out of the home, but this wasn't
7 after 1935.

8 Q. UH-HUH. SO THERE WAS NO BOYCOTT OF YOUR FATHER'S
9 BUSINESS?

10 A. No, he was -- he had a business, yes, and he
11 traveled for this business in the -- in -- excuse me -- he
12 traveled in the Provinz of Brandenburg, which goes from the
13 Frankfort on the Oder, which is not to be compared with
14 Frankfort on the Main, to -- actually to near the Baltic
15 Sea, to the Ostsee, what is called in Germany.

16 Q. TO THE WHAT?

17 A. Ostsee, Eastern Sea. And the Eastern Sea is the
18 Baltic.

19 Q. THE BALTIC?

20 A. The Baltic, yes.

21 Q. SO IT WAS FROM FRANKFORT UP NORTH?

22 A. Frankfort on the Oder.

23 Q. OKAY, NOW THE ODER IS OVER TO THE WEST?

24 A. The Oder is what is called now Poland.

25 Q. POLAND?

1 A. Yes. And it was Germany, it was the eastern
2 part, more or less, of the German -- of Germany.

3 Q. UH-HUH.

4 A. And he traveled all around and had his customers
5 in small towns and big towns, and he visited them and
6 showed them the merchandise and wrote the orders.

7 Q. NOW, AFTER HITLER CAME TO POWER IN 1933, DID IT
8 AFFECT HIS BUSINESS WHEN HE WENT TO TRAVEL?

9 A. Yes. Yes, it did.

10 Q. PEOPLE WOULD STOP BUYING?

11 A. Yes. Some did not want to buy from a Jew.

12 Q. UH-HUH. DID SOME REMAIN LOYAL?

13 A. Yes, I -- yes, definitely.

14 Q. ENOUGH THAT YOU COULD SURVIVE ECONOMICALLY?

15 A. Yes. Yeah.

16 Q. DID HE ALSO SELL IN BERLIN?

17 A. No.

18 Q. NO?

19 A. They had a business, and then they -- they had a
20 business in the wholesale sector of Berlin, which was
21 the -- on Klosterstrasse, which was very close to the
22 Alexanderplatz, which is the real middle of the city. And
23 it was an old section where all the notion businesses had
24 their main seats.

25 Q. SO THEY HAD A LITTLE BUSINESS THERE?

1 A. Well, they had a company there with partners.

2 Q. UH-HUH?

3 A. And then he traveled for the same company.

4 Q. SO HE REALLY WORKED FOR ANOTHER COMPANY?

5 A. No, no, no.

6 Q. NO, HE WORKED FOR HIMSELF?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. WHEN DID IT BECOME CLEAR THAT THINGS WERE NOT
9 GOING WELL FOR YOU?

10 A. Well, when he had the nervous breakdown.

11 Q. IN 1935?

12 A. In 1935. He was on a trip, and he wanted to take
13 a few days off, and then he got -- he lost his memory
14 completely.

15 Q. HIS MEMORY?

16 A. Yes. And he didn't know where he was; he didn't
17 know who he was.

18 Q. HUH.

19 A. So then he got a shock treatment, after we found
20 him, my mother found him.

21 Q. UH-HUH. WHERE DID SHE FIND HIM?

22 A. In Dresden.

23 Q. DRESDEN?

24 A. Yeah, with a sister.

25 Q. IN OTHER WORDS, HE WAS ON A TRIP? HE WAS

(1 WORKING?

2 A. No, he was not working. He said he wanted to go
3 to Switzerland to take a little bit of rest, and he went
4 alone. And then we got a phone call that he is disturbed
5 completely. So my mother picked him up later, and then we
6 put him into a sanitorium, which is a private hospital.

7 Q. WHERE?

8 A. Where they did shock treatments for nervous
9 breakdowns.

10 Q. WHERE WERE THE TREATMENTS? WHERE WAS THE
11 SANITORIUM?

12 A. It's very close to Berlin.

(13 Q. UH-HUH.

14 A. And it was a very nice surrounding, and they got
15 him up to high fever, and then did these treatments.

16 Q. HOW LONG WAS HE THERE?

17 A. I don't remember, but it was perhaps three-four
18 weeks.

19 Q. DID IT HELP?

20 A. Perfectly. He became completely normal again.
21 And he didn't lose any memory. There was no lapse of
22 anything.

23 Q. COULD HE REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED?

(24 A. Yes, he could remember everything. He had a
25 small lapse in the time where he was confused, but as it

1 was, he could remember everything.

2 Q. UH-HUH.

3 A. He was completely normal.

4 Q. RIGHT. DID THEY CONSIDER THAT A DEPRESSION, DO
5 YOU THINK?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. YES. THAT MUST HAVE BEEN FRIGHTENING TO HIM AND
8 TO YOUR FAMILY?

9 A. It was frightening to everybody, because then he
10 was dealt as an injured man, yeah?

11 Q. UH-HUH.

12 A. As a man who needs help actually.

13 Q. AND HOW LONG HAD HE NOT BEEN WORKING WHEN THAT
14 HAPPENED, THAT EPISODE?

15 A. Very little time.

16 Q. VERY LITTLE TIME?

17 A. Very little time, yes.

18 Q. SO IT WAS PROBABLY A RESULT OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING
19 TO HIM PERSONALLY?

20 A. Yes, I think so.

21 Q. UH-HUH?

22 A. He couldn't handle it probably.

23 Q. YEAH. SO HE WAS NOT ABLE TO WORK AFTER THAT?

24 A. No. After this he didn't work any at all.

25 Q. NOW, WHAT HAD YOUR MOTHER BEEN DOING BEFORE THAT

1 EPISODE HAPPENED TO HIM?

2 A. I think she started the business already a little
3 bit before to have some extra money, and then it became the
4 main supplier of money for the family.

5 Q. WOULD SHE DESIGN THE CLOTHES?

6 A. No. She had tailors who worked for her, and then
7 she had samples, and then the customer selected, and she
8 took the measurements, and then they gave it to them. And
9 she had various people working for her.

10 Q. WERE THESE JEWS WHO WERE WORKING FOR HER?

11 A. No, I don't think so, no.

12 Q. NO?

13 A. Perhaps partially there were Jews, but not --

14 Q. YOU COULD STILL OWN A COMPANY AND STILL HAVE
15 NON-JEWS WORKING FOR YOU?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. IN 1935?

18 A. Yes. Yes. Well, they were outside workers.
19 They were not working in our house.

20 Q. RIGHT, THEY WERE LIKE --

21 A. Our house was nothing manufactured.

22 Q. SO THEY WERE LIKE PIECE WORKERS, CONTRACT
23 WORKERS?

24 A. Yes, correct.

25 Q. AND THE AUTHORITIES DIDN'T INTERFERE?

1 A. No. Later on my father did the books, and then
2 when we emigrated, then he could work a little bit.

3 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE OLYMPICS?

4 A. Yes. I saw the first television --

5 Q. TELL US ABOUT IT.

6 A. -- in my life. For the Olympics, I went -- I had
7 cards. I bought cards for the swimming and for the
8 horseback riding.

9 Q. YOU BOUGHT TICKETS FOR IT?

10 A. Yes. And I was at the Olympics, because we lived
11 in Berlin, so it was very close by. And then I saw the
12 final, which was very, very nice. The Olympics were a big,
13 big thing at this time.

14 Q. UH-HUH. UH-HUH.

15 A. And they made advertising that if you want to see
16 the Olympics and do not want to be there, there is
17 something called television.

18 Q. SOMETHING WHAT?

19 A. Something called television.

20 Q. TELEVISION?

21 A. And television was put, a little tiny screen, in
22 the main post office, and you could watch it over there.
23 And it was the first television in Germany.

24 Q. WOW. DID THEY HAVE THE RACES?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. THE TRACK AND FIELD AND EVERYTHING?

2 A. Yes. Yes. They had very nice pictures already,
3 and it was very small, but you could still see something.

4 Q. NOW, DIDN'T THEY TAKE ALL THE SIGNS DOWN THAT
5 FORBID JEWS FROM GOING HERE OR THERE DURING THAT TIME?

6 A. I don't remember. But I know that when we went
7 on vacation, we went to the Harz, which was in the eastern
8 Germany before, and we saw a big sign on the street, on --
9 we were walking there on summer of -- could have been '37
10 or '36 --

11 Q. UH-HUH.

12 A. -- "Jews stop, turn around, and go home."

13 Q. WHAT DID YOU DO?

14 A. Well, we did it.

15 Q. YOU WENT HOME?

16 A. Yes. And there was only one hotel which accepted
17 Jews in the whole area, so we were staying. And once we
18 had lunch outside, and they asked "Where are you saying?"

19 We said at this hotel.

20 "Then would you please be so kind and leave the
21 premises."

22 Q. HUH.

23 A. Because they identified us immediately as Jews.

24 Q. SO YOU WERE KICKED OUT OF A RESTAURANT?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. AND THE WHOLE THING BECAME TOO UNPLEASANT?

2 A. Yes. Well, very often we went to Spindelmuhle
3 and to the Czech -- Czechoslovakia, the former
4 Czechoslovakia for our summer. And I went skiing in the
5 Czechoslovakia mountains, and it was very pleasant. And
6 then we couldn't go out any more because they didn't give
7 us passports to go for a vacation just out of the country.

8 Q. SO YOU COULDN'T GO?

9 A. No, we couldn't go.

10 Q. UH-HUH. WHEN DID THAT STOP, WHERE YOU COULDN'T
11 GO?

12 A. I think in '36, '37, about.

13 Q. WHEN YOU WENT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, YOU WOULDN'T
14 HAVE ANTI-SEMITISM THERE?

15 A. Oh, no, nothing, no. I went with a school,
16 actually, and I learned skiing with a class of the school.
17 A teacher got together with some parents and said, "Well,
18 let's go and have a nice vacation." So there were about
19 20 -- over 20 people, 20 youngsters --

20 Q. UH-HUH.

21 A. -- the age of 15 to 14 to 16. And we went skiing
22 to Petza, which is now Petsch. And it's in the Czech
23 mountain of the Big -- it's called Big Mountains,
24 translated to English. It's (Hreesgeberg), in German, huge
25 mountain. And where the (Snaycopper) is, this is the

Spelling
Spelling

(1 big -- the big -- the top of the mountain, which is 1,400
2 meter, 1,600 meter about. So that's about 3,000 feet, or
3 2,500 feet.

4 Q. WAS THAT YOUR FIRST SKIING?

5 A. Yes. It was beautiful. There were no ski lifts.

6 Q. YOU HAD TO TRUDGE UP THE MOUNTAIN?

7 A. Yes, we had to climb up the mountains. We left
8 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, when it was starting to get
9 light, and then we climbed up the mountain. We arrived at
10 the top at 2:00, and then one run down. That was it. We
11 couldn't afford to get another one.

(12 Then on the way down we had nice lunch, and was
13 very nice.

14 Q. YOU REALLY HAD TO WORK FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT?

15 A. Yes. No ski lifts like go to schau, go up and
16 then come down. This we didn't, no, at this time. It was
17 fun too. We were younger.

18 Q. YEAH. WHEN DID THE NAZI LAWS BEGIN TO AFFECT
19 YOUR SCHOOLING?

20 A. I wanted to go to school to get the Abitur, which
21 is complete, complete high school. And they were very
22 different. They said, well, you better go and learn
23 something else.

(24 Q. WHO SAID THAT?

25 A. Well, the whole atmosphere was not to study to

1 the end because the university were closed already.

2 Q. UH-HUH.

3 A. And I had a friend who did continue to school,
4 but I did not. And I left when we had the -- it was called
5 the Ober Zeugnis der. This was the lower of two complete
6 education, which you consider the complete education
7 already.

8 Q. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THE LOWER OF THE TWO?

9 A. The lower and the higher education, yeah? It was
10 a higher education, but it was on the lower level, I would
11 say. To finish, there were two steps; you had the Ober
12 Zeugnis der Reife, that is when you get to the -- we had
13 six years in the high school, and this was finished
14 education. And then you could study another three years in
15 order to get into the university.

16 Q. HUH. YOUR FRIEND WHO WENT ON TO SCHOOL --

17 A. Yes, he went on.

18 Q. -- WAS HE ABLE TO FINISH?

19 A. No. In 1938 he emigrated. So he would have
20 finished in 1940.

21 Q. SO WHAT YEAR DID YOU HAVE TO CHANGE SCHOOLS?

22 A. I didn't change school -- well, I changed school
23 in the -- from the lower school to the gymnasium in -- when
24 I was ten. That means in 1931. And then in 19 -- I was
25 16 -- 1937, I left school and I went to the apprenticeship.

1 And I wanted to learn engineer or architect, and there was
2 no possibility.

3 I applied for several jobs in factories, and they
4 said, "Don't you have at least one parent who is not
5 Jewish, so that we can accept you?"

6 And I said, "No, sorry."

7 "Not even a quarter, one grandparent?"

8 I said, "No."

9 "Sorry, we can't take you. That's it." And this
10 happened quite often.

11 Q. SO THEY WERE TRYING TO MAKE EXCEPTIONS?

12 A. Yes. They wanted to help me because I had good
13 notes, and they wanted people who might be helping them,
14 helpful, useful.

15 Q. YOU GOT GOOD GRADES IN SCHOOL?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. DID YOU LIKE SCHOOL?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. WHY ARCHITECT?

20 A. Well, I like drawing and I like calculating, and
21 I wanted to do this in an industrial way.

22 Q. UH-HUH?

23 A. But there was no possibility. So I got into
24 this -- I knew somebody, and he said, "Well, try
25 lithography." And this was drawing, and it was a very

1 tough apprenticeship.

2 Q. IT WAS DRAWING?

3 A. It was drawing and bringing pictures to the
4 stone, so that they could be printed. We didn't have
5 computer at this time.

6 Q. UH-HUH. WAS THAT A CRAFT WHERE YOU DO ETCHING?

7 A. Yes. Yes also.

8 Q. AND THEN --

9 A. My first work was I had to copy a picture of
10 Albrecht Durer, which was a famous man, famous in Germany.

11 Q. WHAT WAS HE FAMOUS FOR?

12 A. Albrecht Durer, what was he? I think he was
13 in -- I am not sure how to say -- in writing.

14 Q. AUTHOR?

15 A. Yeah, an author, yes. And I did it in about half
16 an hour. This was my first day. So the master threw it
17 away, ripped it up.

18 Q. THREW IT AWAY?

19 A. Ripped it up and said, "This takes two days at
20 least." So you do it the good way. So I did it the better
21 way. And then the third one was good. Then he accepted
22 it. This was apprentice.

23 Q. THIS IS PART OF THE TRAINING, RIGHT, THEY MAKE
24 YOU START AT THE BOTTOM?

25 A. This was training, yes.

1 Q. WAS THAT DISCOURAGING, OR DID YOU --

2 A. No, it wasn't discouraging, I don't think so. I
3 learned how to do things the right way.

4 Q. UH-HUH.

5 A. And I was working with -- I was only a few Jewish
6 people learned this, and I was surrounded by so-called
7 Aryan people.

8 Q. UH-HUH.

9 A. And they were very nice to me.

10 Q. DID THEY KNOW YOU WERE JEWISH?

11 A. Yes, they knew I was Jewish, and I was missing
12 the holy days, I was not working then, and it was a very,
13 very good atmosphere at this time.

14 Q. THEY DIDN'T BOTHER YOU?

15 A. No. Even in 1938, after November --

16 Q. UH-HUH.

17 A. -- after the Kristallnacht, I was working there.
18 And then I was called to the management, which has been
19 changed -- it was a Jewish management, and they put their
20 own people in, the Nazis -- and they said, "What, you damn
21 Jew are still working here on the 22nd of November in the
22 German, in the Nationale German Reich?"

23 And I said, "Yes. I have a contract."

24 He said, "You have a contract? Damn, get out of
25 here. Pack your things, and within 10 minutes you're out

1 of this company."

2 So I packed my things, and the people said, "What
3 are you doing? Where are you going?"

4 I said, "I was just fired."

5 They said, "But your contract didn't expire."

6 I said, "But I am a Jew." And I had to leave.

7 "This is not possible." They couldn't believe
8 it.

9 Q. HUH.

10 A. And then I packed, walked away, and that was it.
11 And I asked for a recommendation, and they said,
12 "Recommendation?" Nothing.

13 Q. WHAT KIND OF ACCOMMODATION?

14 A. A recommendation.

15 Q. OH, RECOMMENDATION?

16 A. For -- recommendation. You see, in Germany, when
17 you leave somebody, you get a recommendation that you
18 worked there and that you were good, and introducing --

19 Q. BUT THEY WOULDN'T GIVE IT?

20 A. They wouldn't give it. But finally I got it,
21 yeah, but days later. Then I emigrated.

22 Q. NOW, HOW LONG HAD YOU BEEN DOING THE LITHOGRAPHY?

23 A. One and a half years.

24 Q. DID YOU LIKE IT?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. YEAH. DID YOU SEE THAT AS SOMETHING YOU COULD DO
2 IN YOUR CAREER?

3 A. Could be, if I have learned everything. But I
4 couldn't do it. It didn't provide enough money for a
5 living.

6 Q. UH-HUH. SO REALLY IN THAT YEAR AND A HALF THAT
7 YOU WERE THERE, THEY DIDN'T BOTHER YOU AT WORK?

8 A. No, they were very nice. And I took the train
9 every morning from home to this part of the city, and --

10 Q. WAS THAT FEARFUL TO DO THAT?

11 A. No. Not at all. No. I wasn't fearful.

12 Q. OKAY. AND THEY WERE LEAVING YOUR MOTHER ALONE?

13 A. Yes. She had still her business.

14 Q. UH-HUH. SO EVEN THOUGH THE NOOSE WAS TIGHTENING,
15 YOU DIDN'T REALLY FEEL IT YET?

16 A. Well, we knew that it was people emigrated, and
17 so therefore the business of my mother flourished a lot
18 because people didn't want to take money out of the
19 country, they wanted to take clothes out, and clothes was
20 still allowed at this time.

21 Q. UH-HUH. SO THEY TRANSLATED THE MONEY INTO
22 CLOTHES?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. SO THE BUSINESS WAS DOING WELL THEN?

25 A. Yes, her business was doing well.

1 Q. YEAH. WHERE WERE YOU ON KRISTALLNACHT?

2 A. I was home, and then I went to work the next
3 morning on the 9th.

4 Q. DID YOU KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING THAT NIGHT?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. HOW DID YOU KNOW?

7 A. Let's say -- well, I heard and I saw.

8 Q. WHAT DID YOU SEE?

9 A. Well, I saw the synagogues burning. And I came
10 to the office, and they commented how terrible it was. And
11 then when I came home, my father was gone.

12 Q. YOUR FATHER WAS WHAT?

13 A. Was gone. They took him to a concentration camp
14 in Sachsenhausen. But he was lucky enough to get out after
15 six weeks.

16 Q. SIX WEEKS?

17 A. This was when they took most of the Jewish
18 people. And they were running. And my cousin, who was in
19 our house to be with my parents, came in. And when the
20 Gestapo came and asked for my father, they said, "Well, who
21 is this guy?"

22 Said, "That's my cousin."

23 "Oh, you just up and we take" -- "you get ready
24 and we take you also."

25 Q. HOW OLD WAS HE?

1 A. He must have been about 25, roughly -- no, more;
2 25-28.

3 Q. WHY WAS HE LIVING THERE?

4 A. He was living Berlin, was working, but at this
5 time he came to our house.

6 Q. JUST FOR A VISIT?

7 A. Yes, just for a visit.

8 Q. HE WASN'T LIVING THERE?

9 A. No. He had his own -- he lived with his parents.

10 Q. SO THEY TOOK HIM WITH YOUR FATHER?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. HOW LONG WAS HE IN?

13 A. He came out about the same time that my father.

14 Q. DID YOUR FATHER TALK ABOUT WHAT IT WAS LIKE?

15 A. Yeah. They said -- well, they -- besides
16 standing in line and saluting and saying "Heil Hitler" and
17 so on, it was -- at this time it was not so bad, like we
18 have seen in the concentration camps later, where they
19 killed people. It was the early stages. And he got out,
20 with shaven hair, and he -- I would think he got 10 years,
21 20 years older in these six weeks.

22 Q. HE LOOKED OLDER?

23 A. Yeah. But I didn't see him when he came out
24 because we were gone already; we were in Holland.

25 Q. TELL ME HOW THAT CAME ABOUT THAT YOU GOT TO

(1 HOLLAND.

2 A. My mother had very good customers, and they were
3 Mrs. Spiegelberg, who owns a barwerke bankhaus, which is
4 here in the United States also. And they were living in
5 Holland at this time; they emigrated to Holland because
6 they had a bank in Holland. And we got a phone call on
7 about the 4th of December of 1938, if the children could be
8 ready in two days to go to Holland.

9 My mother said, "Well, what do you want?"

10 They said, "We can bring them out, and they go to
11 Holland, and they stay with a private family -- with
12 friends or families. And then we will see what happens to
(13 you, and for the moment they will be out. Because I was 17
14 and 11 months at this time. And the children transport
15 were only for children under 18. So it was last minute.

16 Q. WAS THIS THE CHILDREN'S TRANSPORT THAT WENT TO
17 ENGLAND?

18 A. No, this was a children's transport which went to
19 Holland.

20 Q. OKAY.

21 A. And this was the first children's transport ever,
22 which left, I think, on the 6th of December in 1938.

23 Q. YOU AND YOUR BROTHER?

(24 A. And -- yeah. My brother and I were there. And
25 we crossed the border with one Deutschemark, this was

1 everything we could take, and one suitcase. So we bought a
2 suitcase, and the day before --

3 Q. DID YOUR MOTHER TAKE YOU TO THE TRAIN?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. COULD YOU DESCRIBE HOW THAT WAS.

6 A. It was sad.

7 Q. WAS IT HARD?

8 A. Yes. But actually, we were very young, and we
9 thought we would be together. She said we will be
10 together.

11 Q. UH-HUH.

12 A. They were asking for visas to Shanghai.

13 Q. YOUR PARENTS?

14 A. Yes. Which they couldn't get.

15 And then they said, well, we will emigrate
16 together, and we will pick you up. Well --

17 Q. NOW, YOUR FATHER WAS STILL IN SACHSENHAUSEN?

18 A. Yes. My father was still in the camp. And my
19 mother brought us to the train. And then we crossed the
20 border and we went to Holland with other children.

21 Q. WHERE DID YOU GO?

22 A. To Amsterdam.

23 Q. UH-HUH.

24 A. And when we arrived in Amsterdam, we were put
25 into a camp near the Zuider Zee. It was December. It was

1 ice cold. And --

2 Q. WHAT KIND OF CAMP?

3 A. It was a former camp for the Army, which has not
4 been used for a long, long time.

5 Q. BARRACKS?

6 A. Barracks. So they just painted the barracks, and
7 they put us in a dormitory with 30 people. And every day
8 they came more and more and more people.

9 Q. DID THEY TREAT YOU WELL?

10 A. Yes. They were Dutch people, and they were
11 treating us well. They had educators from Germany who took
12 care of us, and --

13 Q. JEWISH?

14 A. Yes, Jewish. It was all Jewish people, Jewish
15 and displaced later on.

16 Q. OKAY.

17 A. But at the beginning it was only for Jewish
18 people who needed to go, and it was only children.

19 Q. OR UNDER 18?

20 A. Yes, or under 18.

21 And then from Amsterdam, we stayed in Amsterdam
22 about three -- no -- I think five weeks about, and then we
23 went to another camp in Rotterdam. The Rotterdam camp
24 was -- we could not work there, and it was behind barbed
25 wire, so that nobody can get out or can come in.

1 Q. SO IT WAS LIKE A PRISON?

2 A. It was like a prison, yes. But we were free
3 within the camp.

4 Q. YEAH. AND THEY DID TREAT YOU OKAY?

5 A. Yes. We sometimes visited the Spiegelbergs, we
6 had permission, and they picked us up, and it was nice to
7 go to a private family. But there was nothing that you go
8 to a private family and live there.

9 Q. YOU COULDN'T DO THAT?

10 A. No. No. No. Nobody was allowed to do this.

11 Q. DID THEY LIVE IN ROTTERDAM, THE --

12 A. No, the Spiegelbergs lived in Amsterdam.

13 Q. SO YOU SAW THEM WHILE YOU WERE IN AMSTERDAM?

14 A. No. No. No. Our first camp was in Amsterdam
15 near the Zuider Zee. And the Zuider Zee is very, very
16 cold, and this winter was ice cold. But they had
17 accommodations. It was not that cold within the barracks.
18 It was okay. It was living, yeah? It was not like a
19 concentration camp. And they told us, well, you will stay
20 here, and then you will go probably to private families.
21 But that never happened.

22 Q. IT NEVER HAPPENED?

23 A. It never happened.

24 Q. DO YOU KNOW WHY?

25 A. Well, I think the government did not want us to

1 get involved, because we didn't have a visa for Holland, we
2 had a visa for -- as refugees. I don't even know if we had
3 a visa. We had a passport with a "J" for Juden, Jew.

4 Q. UH-HUH.

5 A. And from there we were sent to another camp in
6 Rotterdam. And Rotterdam is a harbor, and we were just in
7 the harbor --

8 Q. NOW --

9 A. -- as a quarantine camp, like where the people
10 are coming in, they get into quarantine. And then we
11 stayed in Rotterdam, which was a bigger camp even.

12 Q. NOW, THAT'S THE ONE WHERE THEY WOULD COME VISIT
13 YOU AND TAKE YOU OUT?

14 A. No. No. In Rotterdam -- excuse me. Amsterdam
15 is the capital of Holland. And Rotterdam is a harbor on
16 the other side. It's about an hour.

17 Q. I WAS JUST WONDERING, WHEN THE FAMILY THAT YOU
18 KNEW THERE WOULD VISIT YOU AND --

19 A. No, they came in Amsterdam already.

20 Q. OH, I SEE.

21 A. Yeah, we could see them in Amsterdam.

22 Q. BUT WHEN YOU WERE IN ROTTERDAM, YOU COULDN'T?

23 A. Well, in Rotterdam we were in camp, and nobody
24 could take us out. This was even more secured. We had a
25 camp commander, and we saw the ships coming in and out

1 because we were just on the harbor.

2 Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE THERE?

3 A. No, I don't know. But there were thousands.

4 Q. THOUSANDS?

5 A. Yeah, thousands.

6 Q. WOULD YOU HAVE SCHOOL?

7 A. No.

8 Q. DID YOU DO ANYTHING USEFUL?

9 A. No. In -- just a minute. Later on in Amsterdam.

10 I got a permission to work in a print shop. And I was a
11 volunteer. Naturally, I didn't get paid for it. But at
12 least I could get out, and I could work there a little bit
13 part-time. And this was not so bad actually.

14 Q. NOW, THAT WAS WHEN?

15 A. This was in -- probably in March-April of 1939.

16 Q. OF '40 -- '39?

17 A. Yes, '39. And then we went, from there, we were
18 sent to Rotterdam. Rotterdam, I couldn't work.

19 Q. SO HOW DID YOU SPEND YOUR TIME THERE?

20 A. I don't know.

21 Q. HOW DO YOU REMEMBER THAT TIME IN ROTTERDAM?

22 A. It was like a prison. It was -- but you could
23 walk around and you could talk to the people, but you were
24 not incarcerated.

25 Q. UH-HUH.

(1 A. But you were in a camp with barbed wire.

2 Q. YOU WEREN'T INCARCERATED, BUT YOU WERE CONFINED?

3 A. Confined, correct, yes.

4 Q. COULD YOU COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR PARENTS?

5 A. No.

6 Q. YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING?

7 A. No. We got letters, yeah, and we wrote to them,
8 that they said, well, my dad is out now, out of the camp,
9 and they are trying to emigrate, they are trying to get
10 visas, but it wasn't easy.

11 Q. THEY KNEW WHERE YOU WERE?

(12 A. Yes, they knew where we were. And then later on,
13 from Rotterdam, a group of youngsters under the age of --
14 let's say in my age group, they were sent to a camp in
15 (Daventia). (Daventia) is in the Dutch countryside, very
16 pretty, like a resort for youngsters. And they opened it
17 up for us, and there we could walk and could do -- my
18 brother was, for instance, in a -- he got picked up by a
19 family, by a Dutch family, and they said, well, we take him
20 home, and we take care of him. And they allowed this. But
21 this was one of the lucky ones.

22 We had liberties; we could walk, we could talk,
23 and we were not confined. This was not a prison camp
24 actually.

(25 Q. UH-HUH. WHAT KIND OF RESORT? WAS IT --

(1 A. Well, it was not a resort. It was a big house,
2 and they had lots -- they made dormitories there, like a
3 camp today, I would say.

4 Q. HOW MANY PEOPLE THERE, A LOT OR A LITTLE?

5 A. I think there were about 50.

6 Q. FIFTY?

7 A. Yeah. And I took a little bit care of the people
8 who were sick, and got their medicine and bandages. And
9 one got in accident, he got electrocuted with a bad wire,
10 and he had to be bandaged every day. And I helped there a
11 little bit. We got busy and everything.

12 Q. UH-HUH. WAS IT NEAR THE OCEAN?

(13 A. No, it wasn't. No, it's in the middle of
14 Holland. It's the countryside.

15 Q. SOUTH OF AMSTERDAM?

16 A. I would say south, southwest.

17 Q. SOUTHWEST?

spelling
18 A. Yeah, I think so. It's (Daventa). I don't know
19 exactly. I never have mentioned it.

20 Q. OKAY. HOW LONG WERE YOU THERE?

(21 A. There I met this Mr. Koppel, this fellow, Alex
22 Koppel. We had other friends. We had -- we went to
23 Holland, and we got on same train with two boys from the
24 Rhineland, and their parents were on their honeymoon
25 together with my parents. So we knew each other -- let's

(1 say we didn't know each other personally, but we knew of
2 them and they knew of us.

3 Q. WERE THEY FROM BERLIN TOO?

spelling
4 A. No, they were from (Bobautal). This is Rhineland
5 area.

6 Q. OKAY.

7 A. He was also Hans Wolfgang. They named their
8 children -- he was born a few days after me or before me, I
9 don't know. They are living in the States here. And --

10 Q. NOW UP TO NOW, BEFORE YOU WENT TO THIS CAMP --

11 A. Yes?

12 Q. -- YOUR BROTHER AND YOU WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER?

(13 A. Yes.

14 Q. AND --

15 A. And in this camp we were together, but they came
16 visit us, and so I knew of him, and he knew of me, and we
17 sometimes were invited there.

18 Q. TOGETHER?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. YEAH. DID YOU FEEL AN OBLIGATION TO TAKE CARE OF
21 YOUR BROTHER?

22 A. Yeah. He was a little one. But he had it well
23 made with this -- in the company of this family. He was
24 actually better off than I was.

(25 Q. UH-HUH. DID HE ACTUALLY GET OUT OF THE CAMP AND

(1 GO LIVE WITH THEM?

2 A. Yeah, he got out of the camp and lived with them,
3 and they liked him very much.

4 Q. WAS THERE ANY TALK OF TAKING YOU TOO?

5 A. No.

6 Q. NO?

7 A. No.

8 Q. WAS THAT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO BE SEPARATED?

9 A. It wasn't that bad because they lived very close
10 together, they lived in the city next to the -- next to the
11 camp. It was not a big difference.

12 Q. OKAY.

(13 A. We had bicycles, and we could ride on bicycles,
14 and we could make excursions. I have brought some pictures
15 here from -- but very small ones. They didn't have
16 four-by-sixes at this time.

17 Q. SURE. DID YOU FEEL SAFE THERE?

18 A. Yeah. We never knew when the Germans would come
19 in.

20 Q. UH-HUH.

21 A. Because they were expanding already to
22 Czechoslovakia. They took over Austria, they took over
23 Czechoslovakia, and now they -- the easiest would be to go
24 to the west.

(25 Q. UH-HUH.

1 A. I would say to go to Holland and Belgium and
2 France and start another World War. We knew they were
3 arming themselves.

4 Q. YEAH. WERE YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?

5 A. Yes. But I was thinking they might make it. So
6 finally, they did make it. And we went on the St. Louis,
7 the Voyage of the Damned. You're familiar with this
8 probably.

9 Q. YES. HOW DID THAT GET ARRANGED?

10 A. They went on the ship in Hamburg, and we got in
11 touch with them, and my mother said to some -- to a
12 relative of ours in England, could you bring the kids over
13 to Cherbourg, where we would meet them. This is France.
14 And he said, well, it's not so easy.

15 And then they talked to me, I think we talked
16 over the phone, and she said, "Well, I have this relative.
17 He will try to take care of you."

18 I said, "Well, you don't have to, I am the
19 organizer of the trip," I told my mother.

20 And she said, "Okay, then that's all right. Then
21 you come to Cherbourg." And we got the papers and the
22 tickets.

23 Q. HOW DID YOU GO? DID YOU TRAVEL BY YOURSELF OR --

24 A. No, we traveled -- there were several youngsters
25 from the camp who were on the St. Louis.

1 Q. UH-HUH.

2 A. And my brother came, naturally, and then we took
3 the train from Holland to France, and from --

4 Q. DID YOU HAVE AN ADULT TAKING YOU?

5 A. No.

6 Q. NO?

7 A. I was 18 already. I was grown up.

8 Q. OKAY.

9 A. So I was in charge of the children transport of
10 the few kids, and we made it to Cherbourg.

11 Q. UH-HUH?

12 A. And in Cherbourg we took a little -- these small
13 vessels to go to the St. Louis. The St. Louis was out --
14 out of the harbor. And then we went to the St. Louis, and
15 we said, okay, now we emigrate to Cuba.

16 Q. UH-HUH.

17 A. And which happened to be a different story.

18 Q. TELL US ABOUT THE TRIP.

19 A. Well, it was a nice trip. We went second class,
20 which was very nice. They had three classes: First,
21 second and third. And the people on the ship were very
22 nice. And then one night somebody went overboard from the
23 crew.

24 Q. FROM THE CREW?

25 A. Yes, at night. And they couldn't find him. And

(1 we did not know that there were big Nazis on the ship who
2 wanted to sabotage it. And we only knew that we were going
3 to Cuba, and we went full speed to Cuba.

4 Q. YOU WENT TO CUBA FIRST?

5 A. We went to Cuba first. And when we arrived at
6 the harbor, the immigration people came on board, and they
7 said, "You have to fill out these forms, these forms, and
8 more forms, and then it will take a little bit until you
9 can disembark." And this little bit was eternal. We never
10 could disembark, because we were forbidden on the visas to
11 disembark. And the visa we bought for \$500, which was a
12 lot of money in 1939 --

(13 Q. FOR EACH PERSON?

14 A. For each person -- were declared invalid, because
15 the foreign minister who signed them resigned. So the
16 (Batista) government said, well, we don't honor those
17 signatures.

18 Q. HUH.

19 A. And you are illegal, and you cannot come on --
20 into the country.

21 Q. WAS THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO RESIGNED, WAS HE A
22 NAZI OR NOT A NAZI?

23 A. No, I don't think -- I don't know. I don't know.

24 Q. OKAY.

(25 A. But anyway, these visas were declared invalid,

1 and so --

2 Q. HOW LONG DID ALL THAT TAKE?

3 A. We were about five, six days in Havana, in the
4 harbor, in the middle of the harbor. It's a nice harbor.
5 And people came from all over to visit us, but not on the
6 ship. They came only in small boats. They couldn't board
7 the St. Louis.

8 So we were waiting there, and they said, well, it
9 will come out perfectly, and don't worry about it. Then
10 came a delegation of the Joint, from New York, and they
11 said, "We will take care of you," and they came to the
12 boat, give us speeches and -- that we shouldn't be
13 depressed, and everything will come out okay. But
14 unfortunately, one day, they said, well, this is the last
15 night in Cuba, tomorrow morning you will leave.

16 Q. DID YOU KNOW WHERE YOU WERE GOING?

17 A. To Germany.

18 Q. DIDN'T THEY TRY TO LAND IN NEW YORK FIRST?

19 A. No. We sent telegrams, we collected money from
20 the passengers, and we collected money and sent telegrams
21 to Roosevelt, to the City of St. Louis, to everybody.

22 Q. UH-HUH.

23 A. So nothing helped. And the captain was a very
24 fine man.

25 Q. THE CAPTAIN?

(1 A. Yeah. Captain Schroeder.

2 Q. WAS THAT AN AMERICAN SHIP?

3 A. No, it was a German ship.

4 Q. GERMAN?

5 A. With a Nazi emblem and with a Nazi flag. And he
6 got instructions from Hamburg to come back immediately to
7 Hamburg. And he denied this.

8 Q. HE WHAT?

9 A. He didn't act.

10 Q. HE DIDN'T ACT ON IT?

11 A. No. And we crossed Miami, and the Coast Guard
12 came and they said the St. Louis has to leave the
(13 territorial waters of the United States.

14 Can we stop?

15 Q. SURE.

16 A. Okay. One second.

17 (Recess taken.)

18 Q. OKAY.

19 A. So we are in Havana, and then one morning we had
20 to leave, and this was good-bye to Cuba.

21 On the way to Cuba, everything was okay, and
22 everything -- everybody thought that they would stay in
23 Cuba and then go to the United States later on, wait their
24 number, wait for their number to come up.

(25 Q. BUT THAT MUST HAVE BEEN A TERRIBLE

1 DISAPPOINTMENT.

2 A. Yeah, it was a very disappointment, because we
3 were on a German ship, and the captain had orders to go to
4 Germany. And if you go to Germany, and you once emigrated,
5 you were for sure going to be sent to the concentration
6 camp at this time. We didn't know about Theresienstadt or
7 Auschwitz yet. They were not open. But anyway,
8 concentration camp is not the nicest way of living.

9 Q. THAT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY DEPRESSING, THAT TRIP
10 BACK.

11 A. So they form committees on the ship, which sent
12 more and more and more telegrams to other people, to
13 influential people, but it was without any success.

14 And then the trip to the -- from Germany to Cuba
15 took about two weeks, and then from Cuba to Europe we were
16 there over three weeks, so we were five weeks on the ship.

17 Q. UH-HUH.

18 A. Then when we approached, we were going at slow
19 speed the whole time, waiting for somebody to take us.

20 Q. UH-HUH.

21 A. But in the last moment, the governments of
22 England, France, Holland and Belgium decided to take all
23 one quarter of the 927 people who were on board.

24 Q. SO THEY DIVIDED YOU BETWEEN THE FOUR COUNTRIES?

25 A. So this was just the last minute. The captain's

1 intention was even to consider to run the St. Louis on
2 ground before the English coast, so that --

3 Q. TO LAND WHERE?

4 A. To run the ship aground before the English coast,
5 so then we are of no way of going back to Europe, to
6 Germany.

7 Q. RIGHT.

8 A. And then we would swim to England practically.
9 But this was not published. This was what I have learned
10 later.

11 Q. UH-HUH.

12 A. He was a very, very nice man.

13 Q. SO HE WAS REALLY CONTEMPLATING SOMETHING THAT WAS
14 AGAINST ORDERS?

15 A. Definitely. And he was not a Nazi, definitely.

16 Q. UH-HUH.

17 A. He got decorated by the German government later.

18 Q. DECORATED FOR THIS ACTION?

19 A. For this action.

20 Q. FOR THIS ACTION?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. YOU MEAN AFTER THE WAR?

23 A. After the war, yes.

24 Q. DID HE GET IN TROUBLE BEFORE THE WAR, DO YOU
25 KNOW?

1 A. I think so, yes. I think he got in trouble.

2 Q. YEAH, I WOULD THINK.

3 A. I bought a film, but this film was on television,
4 so I bought it. I have seen another company -- another
5 film, the "Voyage of the Damned."

6 And then later on, 50 years later, after we
7 crossed Miami, we had a reunion in Miami from the survivors
8 of the St. Louis. And it was very nice. And I was sitting
9 next to a lady who said, "I brought some pictures from the
10 St. Louis." I said, "I too. I also brought some
11 pictures." And she give to me the little picture, and I
12 said, "Sorry, I have the original." That's --

13 Q. THEY WERE YOUR PICTURES?

14 A. Yeah. They are pictures which I took from her 50
15 years ago. So we were sitting next to each other in Miami.

16 Q. WHEN WAS THAT REUNION, HANS?

17 A. This was in June of 1989, 50 years.

18 Q. HOW MANY SURVIVORS WERE THERE?

19 A. I don't know. There were about perhaps 80.

20 Q. EIGHTY?

21 A. Eighty which came there with their families. My
22 daughters, two daughters were with me, and my wife was with
23 me over there. And it was very, very nice, but very, very
24 touching reunion.

25 Q. WERE THERE PEOPLE THERE THAT YOU REMEMBERED?

1 A. Yes. Well, the lady was sitting next to me, I
2 knew her, how she looked like, I said, "That's you?" But I
3 didn't recognize her after 50 years. It was a little bit
4 difficult.

5 Q. YES. SO WHEN THEY DIVIDED THESE FAMILIES UP IN
6 THESE FOUR COUNTRIES, WHERE DID YOU GO?

7 A. We went to Holland because they said, "Well, you
8 were in Holland, come back to us." And I knew the
9 gentleman, Mr. Kaminsky, from the -- from the Dutch
10 Commission, because I knew him from before, so he said, "We
11 take you back." And then from --

12 Q. NOW ALL FOUR OF YOU CAME TO --

13 A. All four of us now.

14 Q. YEAH.

15 A. So we came back, and we were sent to the same
16 camp, first in Rotterdam, and from there we went to
17 Amsterdam, to the same camp I was at the first.

18 Q. BUT THIS TIME AS A FAMILY?

19 A. But this time as a family. And they had changed
20 a lot.

21 Q. AND WHAT MONTH WAS THIS NOW, JANUARY?

22 A. No, we are talking July of 1939.

23 Q. OKAY.

24 A. And we were there until October, end of October.

25 Q. FROM JULY TO OCTOBER?

1 A. Yes, when the war started already, when the
2 Germans invaded Poland.

3 Q. UH-HUH.

4 A. And then in October we finally got a visa for
5 Chile, and we could emigrate to Chile. We got visa from --

6 Q. HOW DID YOU GET THAT?

7 A. We had a relative, distant relative.

8 Q. IN CHILE?

9 A. Yeah. And we asked them if they can give us --
10 sell us -- send us a visa. And they said, "Okay, yeah, we
11 could." So then we got a visa, and we could emigrate
12 during the war.

13 Q. NOW, WHAT WAS IT LIKE IN THAT CAMP FROM THE TIME
14 YOU CAME BACK ON THE ST. LOUIS UNTIL THE TIME YOU LEFT?

15 A. Well, there was big fear that if the Nazis would
16 go to Poland, tomorrow they can come to Holland, which
17 actually happened the next year.

18 Q. UH-HUH.

19 A. So we were afraid. Everybody wanted to get out.
20 They wanted to get out to England or to France, or they
21 felt a little bit safer than in the small nation of
22 Holland. But it was all the same. So some people --

23 Q. THEY WEREN'T LETTING PEOPLE IN?

24 A. No. No. No.

25 Q. WHO WAS THE RELATIVE IN CHILE RELATED TO, YOUR

1 MOTHER OR YOUR FATHER?

2 A. It was from my mother's side, yes.

3 Q. ON YOUR MOTHER'S SIDE. THIS WAS SOMEONE WHO HAD
4 LEFT A LONG TIME AGO OR --

5 A. They left a year, two years earlier.

6 Q. SO '37?

7 A. They left in early '38, and they lived in Chile
8 already.

9 Q. DID YOU KNOW THAT PERSON?

10 A. Yes. I knew -- the fellow who gave us a visa,
11 no. But his sister we knew very well.

12 Q. UH-HUH. SO YOU KNEW THE SISTER IN GERMANY?

13 A. Yes. And the sister was living also in Chile at
14 that time.

15 Q. DID THEY HAVE TROUBLE GETTING THAT VISA TO CHILE?

16 A. No, it was not so difficult. Chile was a country
17 which admitted immigrants.

18 Q. UH-HUH.

19 A. They also admitted a lot of Nazis, which were all
20 settled in the southern part of Chile. And they were
21 celebrating each victory tremendously of the Germans. But
22 we had a Jewish community in Santiago, and we were very
23 close.

24 Q. IS THAT WHERE YOU WENT, TO SANTIAGO?

25 A. Yes, we went to Santiago.

1 Q. AND YOU WENT THERE IN NOVEMBER OF '39?

2 A. November of '39.

3 Q. HOW LONG DID THAT TRIP TAKE?

4 A. We went with a small Dutch ship which was
5 supposed to cross the channel only, the channel between
6 Holland and England. And it's -- hour trip, let's say, ten
7 hours or something like this, or five hours. And when we
8 took the ship, and -- there were 187 passengers. And the
9 ship was not made for this kind of people; they were for
10 about eighty to a hundred people.

11 Q. UH-HUH.

12 A. Good living quarters. So we were sleeping. My
13 bed was in the front of the ship. When it would go up and
14 down, I felt everything. So we went from Holland to Cadiz,
15 which is southern Spain.

16 And in the docks, the docks were called -- the
17 part of England where they inspected the ships. If they
18 had German people on board or something, it was during the
19 war already, so there was a German blockade of the -- an
20 English blockade against the Germans, yeah. And we docked
21 there for three-four days.

22 And of course November, and November is not a
23 very nice time to cross a channel in England; it's very
24 stormy. And then finally we got free. And it was a small
25 ship with much too much passengers, without cargo, so the

1 ship was very high in the water, and every movement was
2 very, very severe. Up to this point then everybody was sea
3 sick.

4 Q. DID YOU GET SEA SICK?

5 A. No, I didn't get sea sick. Our whole family
6 didn't get sea sick. We were the only ones at the dining
7 table --

8 Q. WHO COULD STILL EAT, HUH?

9 A. -- who could still eat. And then everybody was
10 sick. No, they couldn't move from their quarters. And
11 then we had a training for in case of emergency, and nobody
12 came because they were all sea sick.

13 Q. UH-HUH.

14 A. But then we crossed Lisbon, on the way to Spain,
15 and there were a very, very heavy storm, and it was a very
16 modern ship, and the two engine screws, let's say, which --
17 the propellers came out of the water, because there was not
18 enough load on the ship, and the ship stopped in a second,
19 and all the machinery stopped. And we were -- we could see
20 Lisbon on the side. And immediately everybody got healthy,
21 they could walk again, of anguish. And they came on board,
22 they came out of their cabins, and they said, "What's
23 happening? What's happening?"

24 So then after a while all the dinnerware fell out
25 of the shelves because of the big movement. And then after

(1 a certain amount of time the engines got started again and
2 we made it to Cadiz.

3 Q. HOW DID THEY GET THE SHIP TO GO DOWN MORE?

4 A. No, the ship came up, in a big storm, when the
5 front went down, and the later part came up.

6 Q. AND THAT'S ALL IT TOOK TO STOP THE MOTORS, HUH?

7 A. Yes. It was an emergency situation, and they
8 stopped automatically.

9 Q. NOW, WHEN YOU WENT TO CADIZ, DID YOU ACTUALLY SEE
10 A BLOCKADE? WERE THE ENGLISH BLOCKADING THE HARBOR?

(11 A. No, no, no, excuse me, this is a
12 misunderstanding. The blockade was against the English
13 territory. They blocked their territory against the German
14 submarines.

15 So when we came to Cadiz, Cadiz was in Spain,
16 this was not blocked. They were not in war yet. Franco
17 was still there, and he was a sympathizer, a sympathizer of
18 Nazi Germany. And so we came into Cadiz, and with military
19 escorts, we had to go to the (Oratzio), which was the ship
20 which took us from there to Chile. And it was their last
21 trip, because on the next trip, the ship burned down. It
22 was in very bad shape. And it was an Italian luxury liner,
23 but nothing compared to today's luxury liners. It was a
24 ship which had several classes of accommodations, and --

(25 Q. SO YOU CHANGED FROM THE DUTCH SHIP TO AN ITALIAN

1 SHIP?

2 A. To an Italian ship. And we had to go on land in
3 order to go to the other pier, where the ship was laying,
4 and --

5 Q. IN THE SAME HARBOR?

6 A. In the same harbor, yes. And we were escorted in
7 small groups by military, Spanish military police. And
8 they took us over there so that we wouldn't go on land.

9 Q. UH-HUH. GOD FORBID, HUH?

10 A. God forbid, yeah, that the Jews would come in.

11 Q. YEAH. SO THIS WAS A BIGGER SHIP THAN THE DUTCH
12 SHIP?

13 A. Yeah, it was a bigger ship. It was about 10,000
14 tons.

15 Q. OKAY.

16 A. And the Dutch ship was 4,500 tons. So it was a
17 small one, but very pretty, but not meant to be for 187
18 passengers.

19 Q. RIGHT.

20 A. And meant to be for cargo. There was no cargo
21 involved, just human cargo. And that doesn't make up for
22 the weight.

23 Q. UH-HUH. SO WHAT WAS THE TRIP LIKE THEN ON THE
24 ITALIAN SHIP?

25 A. Well, we had third-class accommodations.

(1 Q. THIRD?

2 A. Third, which was in -- yes, way down, and -- but
3 it was okay. We got immigration, and we could start a new
4 life.

5 Q. WHERE DID YOU LAND?

spelling
6 A. We land the first time in (Antafagusta), and then
7 in Valparaiso. And from Valparaiso we went to the
8 lady's -- she had a pension for people, and we were there
9 for five days, and --

10 Q. SO YOU WENT THROUGH THE PANAMA CANAL?

spelling
11 A. We went through the Panama Canal, and we landed
12 in (Biakeel) and bought for one dollar a whole bunch of
(13 bananas, which was great. And then we went on land, and --

14 Q. ON TRAIN?

spelling
15 A. No. No. We went to (Viniadamar), which is next
16 to Valparaiso, and they picked us up, and they invited us
17 to their house. And we stayed five days, and then we took
18 a train to Santiago, with all our luggages, what was left,
19 because our main belongings were shipped to Cuba, but to an
20 address of a bank. And the bank said, "Okay, we don't have
21 safe so big that we can accommodate a household." So they
22 sold it, and we never saw anything back, no pictures, no
23 nothing. So we just took our few suitcases which we had,
24 and took --

(25 Q. DID YOU EVER GET THE LUGGAGE FROM CUBA?

1 A. No, never.

2 Q. NEVER?

3 A. Never, no. It was lost. It was auctioned to pay
4 for the storage over there.

5 So then we went to Santiago, and in Santiago we
6 started a new life.

7 Q. WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?

8 A. It was a free country. It was nice to live
9 there. We lived -- my parents and my brother and myself
10 lived in one room. And the next day I started working. I
11 applied for a job. And we got the Chilean sickness, which
12 is when you go to a country like Chile, you get stomach
13 sick immediately.

14 Q. UH-HUH.

15 A. It's --

16 Q. DO YOU GET OVER IT?

17 A. Yeah, we got over it, and then we got used to it.

18 Q. WHAT KIND OF JOB DID YOU GET?

19 A. I made -- well, I didn't get a job at this time.
20 I applied for -- I knew something of drawings, so I went to
21 stores and I said, "Don't you need a sign for your store?"
22 And they said yes, sometimes they need sign. And I offered
23 this. And I could make signs at home on the floor.

24 Q. DID YOU SPEAK SPANISH?

25 A. We learned, yes. We spoke a little, but very

1 little. We learned "express Spanish." So it was a
2 thousand words of Spanish.

3 Q. HOW COULD YOU COMMUNICATE TO THEM "I WANT TO MAKE
4 SIGNS"?

5 A. Well, there were Jewish people also where you
6 went, and they spoke German. But --

7 Q. I SEE.

8 A. But then I went to a photo shop, and they did
9 photos, and this was another Jewish company, and they
10 enlarged the photos, make big, big pictures out of -- this
11 was typical for Chilean people, they wanted to hang their
12 whole family in the rooms. And I touched some up, and then
13 I did another.

14 I applied with a friend of ours who we got
15 acquainted on the ship, and he had a photo shop, and I
16 worked for him then.

17 And later on I got to an import business, as
18 employee, and I worked myself up. And then I became
19 acquainted of my wife, and we got married, and I went to
20 the --

21 Q. WHERE WAS SHE FROM?

22 A. She was from Spandau, which is Berlin
23 practically. And she went to the same school with my
24 brother.

25 Q. DID YOU KNOW HER THEN?

(1 A. No, I didn't know her. I didn't know of her
2 existence.

3 Q. UH-HUH.

4 A. And once we went to the south of Chile, and this
5 was a very nice train, we went on vacation, my brother and
6 I, and in the same train, the same apartment, was a couple
7 who said who is the guy with the blond hair? I was blond
8 before. And my wife was standing outside, and she said, "I
9 don't know him, but I know the other guy, and he is (Gelt)
10 Philippi." And they said "Well" -- so we traveled with
11 them, not knowing them, to the south of Chile, and --

12 Q. WHERE EVERYONE WAS GOING ON VACATION?

(13 A. Yeah, everybody was going on vacation. And then
14 later on I met my wife, and we got married pretty soon.

15 Q. HOW SOON?

16 A. Well, actually, we went on a trip in January, my
17 brother and I, and my now wife, Ursula, and her girlfriend,
18 and other people, and we went to the same hotel in the
19 southern part of Chile. This was in January.

20 Q. JANUARY OF --

21 A. Of 1946.

22 Q. UH-HUH.

23 A. And in November we became married. In September
24 we got engaged.

(25 Q. SO YOU WERE WORKING IN A PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO?

1 A. Yeah. And then I was working in the import of
2 steel.

3 Q. OF WHAT?

4 A. Steel.

5 Q. STEEL?

6 A. Steel.

7 Q. HOW DID YOU GET INTO THAT?

8 A. We knew of -- well, it was not -- the photography
9 was not at all -- was not a very lucrative business. I
10 didn't earn much money. So we knew of somebody who had an
11 import company, and I applied, and I said, "Well, I think I
12 can do it." So I did it. And I --

13 Q. NO EXPERIENCE?

14 A. No experience, but lots of guts.

15 Q. WHAT DID YOU DO?

16 A. He was importing in the war steel from the United
17 States, and this was on a quota basis. And I was dealing
18 with the authorities to get the quotas for the customers,
19 and to get the import, and to order the merchandise. And I
20 got quite involved with this. So I became the first man,
21 actually he had only a few employees, but he traveled
22 abroad, and he could leave the business to me.

23 Q. UH-HUH. SO YOU REALLY MANAGED THE BUSINESS?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. YES.

1 A. And then when we got married, just before we got
2 married, my father-in-law offered me the representation of
3 an oil company of industrial oils, to visit the customers,
4 and I did this, and I made a living.

5 And then we had later on, when -- after eight
6 years with my father-in-law, then we decided it's time to
7 move on. And I bought a very small company of buttons,
8 mother of pearl buttons, and we did mother of pearl
9 buttons, and then plastic buttons, until 1964, when the
10 communists were in big demand of getting to the power in
11 Chile.

12 Q. UH-HUH.

13 A. And in '64 we applied for visa to the United
14 States, with a little bit of money, and we got a visa and
15 could emigrate.

16 Q. TELL ME HOW YOUR PARENTS ADAPTED TO CHILE.

17 A. They were very happy. It was a nice living over
18 there.

19 Q. YEAH.

20 A. My mother worked in a -- a shop for cutting
21 bathing suits, and then she had a library.

22 Q. A LIBRARY?

23 A. A rental -- rental books. And my father was
24 doing a little bit of money with selling notions, but very
25 small scale.

1 Q. UH-HUH. IN SANTIAGO?

2 A. In Santiago, yes.

3 Q. SO HE WASN'T TRAVELING LIKE HE USED TO?

4 A. No, he wasn't traveling, he was just visiting a
5 few customers in Santiago.

6 Q. WAS YOUR MOTHER'S BUSINESS SUCCESSFUL?

7 A. Yes, they made a living, and Adenauer helped
8 them. You know what I mean by that?

9 Q. SAY THAT AGAIN?

10 A. Adenauer, which was the German president who gave
11 the wieder gutmachung, the restitution, they helped to live
12 there. So it helped.

13 Q. DID THEY PAY HIM FOR THE BUSINESS HE LOST?

14 A. Yeah, he got -- yes. He got a little --

15 (Brief interruption.)

16 Q. I WAS ASKING ABOUT YOUR PARENTS AND THEIR
17 ADAPTATION TO CHILE. DID THEY LEARN SPANISH?

18 A. Badly.

19 Q. BADLY?

20 A. Badly. They spoke Spanish, but -- they knew the
21 language a little bit. But whenever my mother wanted to
22 learn Spanish, she got asleep. It was a perfect sleeping
23 medicine.

24 Q. HOW ABOUT YOU?

25 A. Well, I had to learn Spanish, definitely, yes.

1 Q. UH-HUH.

2 A. And I learned it, to speak quite well.

3 Q. UH-HUH. NOW, WHEN YOU CAME TO CHILE, DID YOU
4 INTEND TO STAY, OR DID YOU INTEND TO EMIGRATE?

5 A. Yes -- no, we intended to stay.

6 Q. UH-HUH.

7 A. And just due to the -- I made my decision to
8 emigrate to the States only in January -- in March of 1964.

9 Q. WHEN ALLENDE CAME IN?

10 A. No, Allende didn't come in at this time, but we
11 had a political commentary on the radio, which I heard
12 every second day, and he said it's time to pack, because
13 the communists made a big advance in the election, the
14 municipal election in March of 1964. And between 19 --
15 between March and July, I had to liquidate my factory,
16 which nobody wanted to buy because of the uncertainty,
17 and --

18 Q. YOU LIQUIDATED IT BECAUSE YOU WERE GOING TO
19 LEAVE?

20 A. Yes. And I was preparing for leaving. At this
21 time I was definitely decided I don't want to run again, I
22 want to walk away.

23 Q. UH-HUH.

24 A. From communism and totalitarianism.

25 Q. YOU WANTED TO GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN?

1 A. Yeah. So, therefore, we did it.

2 Q. NOW, AT THAT TIME WHEN YOU WERE IN THE COUNTRY,
3 DID YOU FEEL LIKE THIS WAS MY COUNTRY, CHILE?

4 A. We never became Chilean citizen. My brother
5 became Chilean citizen, very touched with the country. But
6 we applied for citizenship in Chile, and the bureaucracy is
7 incredible. It was at this time. Whenever you presented a
8 paper to become Chilean, they said, "Oh, yes, but the paper
9 you presented before, which showed this and this, is
10 already out of date, so you have to apply again." And this
11 went on and on. And so I said after the war, forget it,
12 and we get the German passport back, and we were living in
13 Chile, comfortable, with a German passport. We made money,
14 and we could live comfortably.

15 Q. NOW, THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY RESTRICTIONS AGAINST
16 GERMAN NATIONALS WORKING IN CHILE?

17 A. No way, no.

18 Q. NO?

19 A. No.

20 Q. SO YOU COULD JUST STAY THERE AS LONG AS YOU
21 WANTED?

22 A. Yes. I had an indefinitely allowance to stay in
23 the country.

24 Q. AND YOUR PARENTS ALSO?

25 A. Yes. And my children were Chilean. They were

1 born in Chile.

2 Q. DOES THAT MAKE THEM CITIZENS?

3 A. Yes. They became citizens immediately.

4 Q. UH-HUH.

5 A. But they became also citizen of Germany, because
6 we were German.

7 Q. YEAH.

8 A. We became German citizen. And then they applied
9 for the -- we could apply for the German citizenship for
10 the children as well. But they were both nationalities.

11 Q. UH-HUH.

12 A. They were Chilean and German at the same time.

13 Q. UH-HUH. AND NEITHER COUNTRY HAD A RESTRICTION
14 AGAINST BEING A CITIZEN OF ANOTHER COUNTRY?

15 A. No. No.

16 Q. SO DID YOU GET OUT IN TIME?

17 A. Yes. Yes, we got out in time.

18 Q. HOW LONG DID IT TAKE TO --

19 A. Prepare everything?

20 Q. NO, TO APPLY FOR ENTRANCE INTO AMERICA, UNTIL YOU
21 GOT THE OKAY?

22 A. I think we applied probably in April. And in
23 July we had the visas.

24 Q. THAT WAS QUICK.

25 A. This was very quick, yes. At this time it was

1 very quick. Half a year later, it was much more difficult.

2 Q. BECAUSE SO MANY MORE PEOPLE WANTED TO GET OUT?

3 A. No, because of more restrictions in the United
4 States.

5 Q. SO YOU WERE LUCKY?

6 A. At this time we were very lucky, yes.

7 Q. DID YOU HAVE A SPONSOR --

8 A. No.

9 Q. -- HERE?

10 A. No, we don't need a sponsor.

11 Q. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HAVE ONE?

12 A. No. We didn't need a sponsor.

13 Q. I WONDER WHY. DO YOU KNOW?

14 A. Well, we had a little bit of money, not much, but
15 a little bit, enough to survive for the first year.

16 Q. YOU HAD ENOUGH FOR THEM TO FEEL THAT IT WAS OKAY,
17 YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE A BURDEN ON US?

18 A. Yes. The consul was also, was decent. I would
19 say he was honest.

20 Q. AND YOUR PARENTS WERE GOING TO COME TOO?

21 A. No, my parents wanted to stay there. My brother
22 wanted to stay there. They didn't want to emigrate again.
23 And then they came to visit us, and my father got sick, and
24 so they stayed. And we became American citizens. But they
25 came much later. They came in 1970.

(
1 So Allende didn't come to power. In 1964 he had
2 a much bigger chance, but the social democrats came. And
3 this was under (Fraine), it was still a free country. So
4 Allende came to power in 1970, six years later, in the next
5 election. And then everybody left, ran, until they came
6 back. And lots of people came back. Excuse me.

7 Q. THEY CAME BACK WHEN?

8 A. They went back to Chile.

9 Q. AFTER HE WAS TOPPLED?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. SO YOU CAME IN '64?

12 A. I came in '64.

(
13 Q. YOUR BROTHER AND YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER STAYED?

14 A. Yes. And they came to visit us in '70-'71.

15 Q. FIRST TIME?

16 A. Yes. And they stayed here.

17 Q. THEY STAYED?

18 A. They stayed. They had a visa for visitation, and
19 then we became American citizens, and we applied for their
20 visa to stay in the States, and we got this.

21 Q. NOW, YOU SAY WHEN YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER CAME,
22 YOUR FATHER GOT SICK?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. WHAT KIND OF SICK?

(
25 A. Heart trouble.

1 Q. HEART?

2 A. Yes. Then they went back again, and then they --
3 they visit us before. And then when he became sick, he
4 stayed then. They couldn't travel again.

5 Q. UH-HUH.

6 A. And he died pretty soon after.

7 Q. AFTER COMING HERE?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. YOUR BROTHER, DID YOU --

10 A. My brother living here?

11 Q. NO, HE WAS STILL IN CHILE?

12 A. He was still in Chile. But then he came also.
13 He said, well, what should I do there? I come and stay
14 with them.

15 Q. WHEN DID HE COME, ALSO IN '70?

16 A. About '70 or '71, yes.

17 Q. OKAY.

18 A. '71 probably.

19 Q. UH-HUH?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. TELL ME WHAT IT WAS LIKE WHEN YOU CAME TO
22 AMERICA.

23 A. Well, it's a free country.

24 Q. WELL, CHILE WAS A FREE COUNTRY TOO; RIGHT?

25 A. It was a free country, but it was becoming a

1 dictatorship.

2 Q. OKAY.

3 A. And I didn't want to be in a dictatorship
4 country.

5 Q. YOU HAD ENOUGH?

6 A. I had enough --

7 Q. UH-HUH.

8 A. -- from the experience with Nazis, so, therefore,
9 we were very, very happy that we could come here. And when
10 people said they pay so much taxes, I said hopefully there
11 is one day when we can pay enough taxes that --

12 Q. IT WILL BE A PLEASURE?

13 A. It will be a pleasure, yes.

14 Q. WAS THIS COUNTRY WHAT YOU HOPED IT TO BE?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. YEAH?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. WHAT KIND OF IDEA HAD YOU HAD ABOUT AMERICA
19 BEFORE YOU CAME?

20 A. Well, we were informed that don't be -- be
21 employed. Don't make a business of your own, because you
22 cannot survive with the big companies. But this is wrong.
23 This was wrong in 1964. You could establish yourself as a
24 small company and make a good living.

25 Q. WHAT DID YOU DO?

1 A. I did a lot of things in the first two years. I
2 had -- I worked for an export company and made a trip to
3 Africa and Asia and -- with lots of difficulties, because I
4 had a German passport at this time.

5 And I went to Arab countries, and at this time
6 Germany accepted the -- Germany established relations with
7 Israel. And at this -- in 1965, all the Arab countries
8 broke with Germany because of this reason. And we had the
9 sanction from the Arab countries, and I was at this moment
10 in Addis Ababa. And then I had a German passport.

11 Q. DID YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE IN ETHIOPIA WITH A
12 GERMAN PASSPORT?

13 A. No. But at this moment all the Arab countries
14 broke relations with Germany.

15 Q. UH-HUH.

16 A. So my next stop was Beirut, and in Beirut I went
17 through the custom, and they said, "Oh, that's funny, he is
18 a German guy. Do we put him in prison or no?" I said,
19 "Well, I will stay only two days here. I have just an
20 appointment, and then please let me go."

21 And then I got a FAX -- a Telex, there was no
22 FAXs at this time -- from my employer. And he said, "Well,
23 please go to Baghdad, and we have some relations there."

24 Q. GO WHERE?

25 A. Baghdad.

1 Q. OH, BAGHDAD?

2 A. Baghdad.

3 Q. UH-HUH.

4 A. And I went to the Iraqi Consulate and asked for a
5 passport or for a visa, and they said, "Sorry, I can't give
6 you a visa because your passport has no empty pages any
7 more. So get a new passport and we will do it."

8 And I called the Germany Embassy, and there was a
9 tape, "It's closed. The French Embassy will take care of
10 our dealings."

11 So I went to the French and they said, "Yeah, the
12 next time we will get German passports will be in about six
13 to eight weeks. So if you would like to wait that time, we
14 can issue a new passport."

15 Q. SO YOU WERE IN A BUNCH OF RED TAPE?

16 A. Yes. So finally they stamped the visa on the
17 front page of the passport, which was not allowed, but
18 anyway, they did it. And then when we made the trip from
19 Tehran to Israel, the planes had to circle over the
20 Mediterranean and go this way, instead of going this way,
21 because they were forbidden countries.

22 Q. COULDN'T EVEN FLY OVER IT?

23 A. They couldn't fly over it.

24 But then I got a franchise in window tinting for
25 San Francisco, which is a very nice area, because they

1 never have sun. I didn't get it for San Mateo County. And
2 then I got a small company of imports of cups and saucers,
3 and I started this one, until we went a little bit bigger.

4 Q. WHERE DID THEY IMPORT THEM FROM?

5 A. From England. And then I went to Germany and
6 imported from Germany, and now we are 32 years in business.

7 Q. THIRTY-TWO?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. YOU'RE STILL IN BUSINESS?

10 A. Yes, I'm still working.

11 Q. STILL CUPS AND SAUCERS?

12 A. No, cups and saucers and crystal.

13 Q. SO YOU GOT BIGGER?

14 A. Yeah, got bigger.

15 Q. WHERE DO THE CRYSTALS COME FROM?

16 A. From Poland, from the Czech Republic, which was
17 formerly Czechoslovakia. We got tremendous amount from
18 East Germany.

19 Q. THEY MAKE FINE CRYSTALS?

20 A. Pardon?

21 Q. THEY MAKE FINE CRYSTALS?

22 A. Yeah, very nice. Very nice crystal.

23 Q. WHEN DID YOU BECOME A CITIZEN?

24 A. I think in 19 -- just a moment -- '69 or '70
25 probably.

1 Q. OKAY. THAT WAS AS EARLY AS YOU COULD DO IT?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. YEAH?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. WAS IT CLEAR TO YOU THAT YOU WANTED TO BECOME A
6 CITIZEN?

7 A. Yes. I wanted to stay here. Once you're in
8 California, you're spoiled for your life. You don't want
9 to live anywhere else.

10 Q. YOUR CHILDREN, WHERE WERE THEY BORN?

11 A. In Santiago. And they are Chilean, but they are
12 all American. And they like it here. And my daughter was
13 five years old when she came to America. She speaks
14 Spanish like a foreigner.

15 Q. STILL?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. UH-HUH. WERE THEY HAPPY TO COME HERE OR SAD?

18 A. They didn't have any opinion.

19 Q. UH-HUH.

20 A. The little one was five years, didn't have any
21 opinion. But the big -- the big ones --

22 Q. SHE HAD --

23 A. -- they said it's fine that we go to America.

24 Q. DO THEY FEEL THIS IS THEIR COUNTRY?

25 A. Yes, definitely. They don't want to move

(1 anywhere else.

2 Q. DO THEY WANT TO GO BACK TO CHILE?

3 A. No. Now, they go back to Chile to visit, to
4 visit the relatives, but not for living there.

5 Q. HAVE YOU BEEN BACK THERE?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. DOES IT HAVE A TIE FOR YOU, THAT COUNTRY?

8 A. We were always the foreigners in Chile. I never
9 felt like a Chilean in Chile. I still -- I felt like a
10 person living in Chile, with a different passport.

11 Q. UH-HUH.

(12 A. It was nice living there, and it was very
13 comfortable.

14 Q. BUT YOU NEVER REALLY BONDED WITH THEM?

15 A. I am more bonded here than I was bonded in Chile.

16 Q. HOW ABOUT GERMANY, HAVE YOU GONE BACK? _____

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. WHEN DID YOU GO?

19 A. We went the first time in 1961 with mixed
20 feelings.

21 Q. WHO WENT?

22 A. Pardon?

23 Q. WHO WENT?

(24 A. My wife and myself. And we went on a visitor
25 trip. And I went even to the fair to buy new machinery for

1 the button factory. And when we crossed the border the
2 first time from Germany to Switzerland, it was, okay, now
3 we are out of Germany.

4 Q. HOW LONG WERE YOU IN GERMANY?

5 A. Perhaps three weeks.

6 Q. DID YOU GO TO BERLIN?

7 A. At this time we didn't, no. We went later. And
8 then when we came back from our tour through Italy and
9 Switzerland and France, we came back to Germany, it didn't
10 feel any different. So --

11 Q. WHERE WERE --

12 A. We were not anxious to go out again because these
13 people, they were not all Nazis. Most of them declared
14 they were Swiss, when they spoke to you in a foreign
15 country, and nobody was German because they were ashamed of
16 it. But later on they became German, and they have a
17 growing economy, which is actually, until they got in
18 trouble in 1990, when they adopted -- when Germany became
19 one, the East Germans and the West Germans, then they had
20 trouble because it cost a lot of money, and these people
21 are educated for 50 years in a different way of doing their
22 living and of the opinion which they have.

23 Q. UH-HUH. UH-HUH. SO YOU WENT BACK FIRST IN 1961?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. AND IT WAS A BUSINESS TRIP?

1 A. No, it was a pleasure trip.

2 Q. A PLEASURE TRIP?

3 A. Pleasure trip, coupled with the buying of some
4 merchandise, of some machinery for the button factory. But
5 we went on a pleasure trip.

6 Q. AND WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE THERE THEN? HOW DID
7 YOU FEEL?

8 A. Well, we felt the first accident which we had was
9 a very nice one. We left the British plane in Hanover, and
10 my wife said "I am feeling great, and it's strange to come
11 back." And there was somebody calling, somebody left a
12 suitcase, a bag in the airplane, and it was a German guy,
13 and he brought the hat bag of my wife back. We were not
14 expert travelers at this time. We traveled in Chile, but
15 not worldwide.

16 Q. SO THAT WAS A GOOD EXPERIENCE?

17 A. That was a good experience already. And then we
18 went to a -- we took a taxi. And the taxi driver told us,
19 "I have saved several Jews from Germany with the taxi, to
20 bring them to Holland." And we didn't believe him because
21 everybody can tell those stories.

22 Q. UH-HUH.

23 A. But we found out that these people lived really
24 in Chile, and this was true.

25 Q. HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?

(spelling 1 A. Because he gave us a name. And they said they
2 lived in Chile, in (Deva), and we talked to the people, and
3 this was true.

4 Q. HOW DID HE HAPPEN TO TELL YOU THAT STORY?

5 A. Because he asked us, when you -- first of all, it
6 was Messe, as it means fair time. And in Germany at this
7 time in the fair in Hanover, you didn't get a hotel. There
8 were only a few hotels, and there were thousands of
9 thousands of visitors; was one of the biggest fairs in the
10 world, the Hanover fair. And we took a taxi, and we got
11 allocation in an impossible district of the city. And he
12 said, "I will not bring you in here. Where are you coming
13 from?"

(14 And then he asked questions, we asked questions,
15 and there came a very, very nice dialogue of this, and very
16 nice conversation. Every morning he brought us to the
17 fair, which is unheard of. And then when we left, he gave
18 us a little gift, and I had a little gift prepared for him
19 because he was a nice guy. But you learn of German people
20 who can always be very nice.

21 Naturally there were lots of Nazis when we were
22 there, but later on, some of them have died, and the
23 Germans are different today.

24 Q. HOW DO YOU MEAN?

(25 A. They are not so much Nazis, let's say. They have

1 a small percentage of Naziism, I think, in Germany still.
2 And especially when they have unemployment in Eastern
3 Germany, all these things appear.

4 The same in Russia, where they have -- this guy
5 who makes anti-Jewish propaganda, (Jarwanitz), I don't
6 remember his name, but he was just in the news today when
7 he made bad remarks about Clinton when he was visiting.

8 So Nazis you can find -- whenever there is
9 problem in the economy, they grow up.

10 Q. UH-HUH.

11 A. And we have them here in the States as well.

12 Q. SO HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN BACK TO GERMANY?

13 A. Very, very often.

14 Q. VERY OFTEN?

15 A. Because yes, we went even to East Germany every
16 year, and I went up to twice a year.

17 Q. TO EAST GERMANY?

18 A. To East Germany, to the former East Germany,
19 because we bought merchandise there.

20 Q. BECAUSE WHAT?

21 A. We bought merchandise, we bought crystal there.
22 They made very, very fine crystal at ridiculous low prices,
23 and nobody could beat them because they got subsidized.

24 Q. AS AN AMERICAN YOU WERE ALLOWED INTO EAST
25 GERMANY?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. BECAUSE YOU DID BUSINESS WITH THEM?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. UH-HUH.

5 A. We had the police going after us, I know this,
6 several times, but --

7 Q. TO MAKE SURE YOU WEREN'T A SPY?

8 A. Yes. They asked me to be a spy, but I refused.

9 Q. YOU HAD A JOB ALREADY?

10 A. I had a job, yes.

11 Q. HOW DID IT FEEL TO YOU TO BE BACK IN GERMANY WHEN
12 YOU WOULD GO?

13 A. Well, you get used to it.

14 Q. UH-HUH.

15 A. Later on you get used to it, if you go for
16 business. And naturally you have a certain feeling against
17 them.

18 Q. YEAH.

19 A. But in the long run you deal today, we are 50
20 years later, 60 years later, and you are dealing with young
21 people. They were not even born when -- when I was there.

22 Q. SO THAT FEELS DIFFERENT TO YOU?

23 A. It's different, yes.

24 Q. YEAH. DID THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT EVER INVITE YOU
25 BACK FORMALLY?

1 A. No, I didn't apply for it. I went so often that
2 I couldn't accept, "if you want to visit Germany, you be
3 our guest."

4 Q. OKAY.

5 A. Yeah, I visited all, I visited Berlin, and I
6 showed it to my daughters.

7 Q. I WANT TO ASK ABOUT BERLIN. WHEN DID YOU FIRST
8 GO TO BERLIN?

9 A. Just a minute. The first time in Berlin I was
10 about 1971, roughly.

11 Q. WITH YOUR WIFE?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. WAS SHE FROM BERLIN TOO?

14 A. Spandau is a suburb of Berlin.

15 Q. OKAY.

16 A. It's like San Francisco and San Mateo.

17 Q. YES, OKAY. SPANDAU IS WHERE THEY KEPT ALL THE --

18 A. The prisoners.

19 Q. -- THE PRISONERS?

20 A. Yes, Rudolf Hess and -- yeah, they were.

21 Q. WHAT WAS THAT LIKE FOR YOU TO GO BACK TO BERLIN?

22 A. It was a complete different city because it has
23 been bombed, it has been rebuilt, and it was international.

24 Q. UH-HUH.

25 A. I liked it better than today, to be honest.

1 Q. BETTER THAN TODAY?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. YOU MEAN YOU LIKE IT WHEN YOU GO BACK TODAY?

4 A. Yes. Well, we have seen Nazis in the streets
5 over there, and they shout "Juden aus." That's "Jews get
6 out."

7 Q. SAME OLD STUFF?

8 A. Same old stuff. But these are very, very tiny
9 amount of people.

10 Q. BUT THEY MAKE A LOT OF NOISE?

11 A. Sometimes they make a lot of noise.

12 Q. YEAH.

13 A. But we have this all over the world.

14 Q. YEAH.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. OF COURSE HITLER STARTED LIKE THAT TOO, SMALL?

17 A. Yes, very small. But here you have the Aryan
18 movement in the States.

19 Q. YEAH.

20 A. What do you think about this?

21 Q. DID YOU TRY TO GO BACK TO NEIGHBORHOODS WHERE YOU
22 HAD GROWN UP?

23 A. Yes. My wife even went to the house where they
24 lived, and they said, "Why you haven't been here so long?"
25 No, my parents -- in-laws, they went back in 1960 to

1 Germany, and they went to their house, and they lived in an
2 apartment house also, and they said the florist on the
3 bottom floor said, "Why are you -- I haven't seen you for
4 such a long time. Where have you been?" (Indicating.)

5 Q. LIKE YOU HAD BEEN ON VACATION?

6 A. Right, yeah, vacation for 50 years.

7 Q. YEAH.

8 A. Or 30.

9 Q. DID IT FEEL NOSTALGIC FOR YOU TO GO BACK TO
10 BERLIN?

11 A. Not any more.

12 Q. BUT WHEN YOU FIRST WENT?

13 A. Well, the first time it was strange, but it was a
14 growing country, and it was -- they did a lot of -- they
15 had a lot of laws against the Nazis and --

16 Q. UH-HUH. THE APARTMENT WHERE YOU LIVED WHEN YOU
17 GREW UP, WAS THAT STILL INTACT?

18 A. It was still intact, yes.

19 Q. DID YOU GO THERE?

20 A. Yeah, I didn't go to the same apartment, but the
21 rabbi, who was in Chile, emigrated to Berlin. And when we
22 met in the hotel, I said, "Well, I bring you home," because
23 I had a rental car over there. And he said, "No, no, no, I
24 am living in a neighborhood, which is very nice, but I can
25 take a bus also." So he told me the street, and he was

1 living just across the street where I was growing up, in
2 the same street.

3 Q. NOW, THIS IS A RABBI FROM GERMANY, WHO EMIGRATED
4 TO CHILE, WHO THEN WENT BACK TO GERMANY?

5 A. To Chile, who went back to Germany, who lived in
6 Breslau. And from Breslau he went to Chile, and there he
7 went to Berlin to retire.

8 Q. UH-HUH. UH-HUH.

9 A. He was active in the Jewish community, but --

10 Q. THE SYNAGOGUE THAT YOU HAD GONE TO AS A YOUNG
11 MAN, WAS THAT BURNED DOWN AT THAT TIME?

12 A. This was burned down. And they made a very
13 nice -- they left the walls of the entrance intact. And
14 this was a very impressive view, when you come into this,
15 and this is a Fasanenstrasse Berlin. And it's famous.

16 Q. DID THEY BUILD ANOTHER SYNAGOGUE?

17 A. Yeah, they built the synagogue in the back, but
18 they left the first wall as an entrance. And then they had
19 a picture, which is beautiful, a Jewish man sitting with a
20 Torah and bending down and thinking.

21 We were so impressed, we made a donation. We
22 wanted to make a donation. So we asked the man who was
23 there can we make a donation. He said, "Yes, yes,
24 definitely. Lots of people do this."

25 And then we took a hundred dollar bill out and

1 made a donation. He put it in his pocket. End of story.
2 This was our donation. (Laughing.) But it's okay. Let
3 him be happy.

4 (End Tape 1, begin Tape 2.)

5 A. Today's meeting or --

6 Q. NO, NO, NO, THE EMIGRATION FROM GERMANY, AND THEN
7 GOING TO CHILE, AND THEN FINALLY COMING HERE.

8 A. Well, it's a Jewish life. If you are born
9 Jewish, and you don't convert, you --

10 Q. YOU MOVE?

11 A. You still might be persecuted here and there, and
12 wherever it comes. It's I think a way of life.

13 Q. WHAT EFFECT DO YOU THINK IT'S HAD ON YOU?

14 A. I would have grown up in Germany, let's say like
15 I felt as a youngster, and I would have felt as a German of
16 Jewish religion.

17 Q. UH-HUH.

18 A. When Hitler came, he branded us as Jews living in
19 Germany, which is a big difference. Now here I feel as
20 American citizen of Jewish religion.

21 Q. UH-HUH. THAT'S THE WAY YOU WOULD HAVE WANTED IT
22 IN GERMANY?

23 A. Yes. Definitely.

24 Q. WERE YOU PROUD TO BE GERMAN WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG?
25 CAN YOU REMEMBER?

(1 A. Yes, I think so.

2 Q. UH-HUH. WAS THAT A DISILLUSIONMENT FOR YOU THEN
3 TO HAVE THAT TORN AWAY FROM YOU?

4 A. Yeah. Definitely.

5 Q. DID IT MAKE YOU BITTER ABOUT PEOPLE THEN, DO YOU
6 THINK?

7 A. I was bitter about the German people, definitely.

8 Q. UH-HUH.

9 A. And I think I had good reason for it. They put
10 my father in a concentration camp. They didn't allow me to
11 work. Why? Just because of I have a different religion?
12 I don't think it makes sense.

(13 Q. UH-HUH. HAVE YOU EVER REGRETTED BEING A JEW?

14 A. No.

15 Q. DO YOU THINK SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN
16 AGAIN IN THE WORLD?

17 A. It's possible, if the economic situation in the
18 certain country could be worsen very big -- very
19 substantially. They always have to find somebody for whom
20 to blame, and the Jewish are the -- I don't know if you're
21 familiar with the word "(kaporahinshun)"? That's a
22 German -- Jewish expression that they need -- they need
23 somebody to hit.

24 Q. THEY NEED A VICTIM?

(25 A. They need a victim, yes, to blame.

1 Q. WAS THAT EXPRESSION BEFORE HITLER, OR IS THAT AN
2 OLD GERMAN EXPRESSION, OR JUST SINCE HITLER?

3 A. (Kaporahinshun)?

4 Q. YEAH.

5 A. I think it's a Yiddish expression.

6 Q. UH-HUH.

7 A. Of -- it stems from the (Pesa), from the
8 (Chitten), from the -- which you blame, yeah, which you --

9 Q. UH-HUH. WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM ALL OF THIS?

10 A. Be not on the forefront of everything.

11 Q. BE NOT ON THE FOREFRONT?

12 A. No. Keep a little bit of distance perhaps.

13 Q. STAY BACK?

14 A. Perhaps stay back. But on the other hand, you
15 have a lot of Jewish people in government today, and you
16 can be proud of them because they have the knowledge. I
17 think we still do have a little bit of more knowledge and
18 more understanding, so that we succeed in business and
19 politics and money matters and all over.

20 I think the assimilation will go forward, the
21 intermarriage, because you grow up in a society where you
22 are not only together with Jewish people, if you don't go
23 to a Jewish school, and you have only Jewish friends. But
24 if you have other friends, if you grow up in a society,
25 then it's -- in today's world, this is so fast moving, I

1 see that intermarriage will become a major contributor to
2 interface.

3 Q. INTERMARRIAGE?

4 A. Intermarriage, yes.

5 Q. YES.

6 A. That's my personal opinion because we have three
7 children, and they are also married to non-Jewish people.

8 Q. ALL THREE?

9 A. No, not all, two only.

10 Q. TWO? TWO OUT OF THREE?

11 A. Two. That's 66 percent.

12 Q. UH-HUH. DO YOU SUPPORT ASSIMILATION?

13 A. Assimilation, yes. But going away from Judaism,
14 I don't think so.

15 Q. OKAY. YOU WANT TO HOLD ON TO THAT?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. AND YOU HOPE YOUR CHILDREN HOLD ON TO THAT?

18 A. Yes. It's difficult for them. I have even a son
19 who became of a different religion because he needed
20 somebody in Vietnam, when he was serving in Vietnam, in the
21 American Navy. And there was no rabbi there, so he went to
22 somebody, and he converted him. And since then, he has
23 been a Christian.

24 Q. A CHRISTIAN?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. PROTESTANT?

2 A. No, Baptist.

3 Q. BAPTIST?

4 A. Which is very -- which was very, very hard for us
5 to swallow.

6 Q. UH-HUH.

7 A. But --

8 Q. WAS THAT THE FIRST CHILD?

9 A. That was the first, yes. Well, the others didn't
10 become of different religion. My two daughters still go to
11 temple, and my other -- the bigger daughter is very active
12 in Jewish life also.

13 Q. UH-HUH.

14 A. And she has a "converted Christian to Judaism
15 before they got married" as husband.

16 Q. ARE YOU CLOSE TO YOUR BROTHER?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. DO YOU SEE HIM OFTEN?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. THE FAMILIES ARE CLOSE?

21 A. Families are close, yes. We speak twice a day at
22 least.

23 Q. UH-HUH. HOW LONG DO YOU WANT TO WORK?

24 A. Very short time.

25 Q. VERY SHORT TIME?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. ARE YOU GETTING CLOSE TO THE END?

3 A. Yeah, I am in conversations with somebody.

4 Q. UH-HUH. WHAT THEN?

5 A. Then I don't know.

6 Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS OR THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT YOU
7 WANT TO DO?

8 A. Well, I have an eye ailment, and this -- the eye,
9 in San Francisco, is bad for me. And Tahoe there is much
10 better. So therefore we have another place in Tahoe, and I
11 intend to spend much more time over there.

12 Q. THE ALTITUDE?

13 A. No, it's a different situation. But in one eye I
14 am blind, so I don't know when the second one comes,
15 because I have macular degeneration.

16 Q. BECAUSE WHAT?

17 A. I have macular degeneration, which does -- it's
18 first "inheritory," and second it goes from one eye to the
19 next. It's very possible that the second eye would be
20 affected.

21 Q. HAS THE HEARING BEEN A HANDICAP FOR YOU IN YOUR
22 LIFE?

23 A. Well, I got operated and I have only hearing on
24 one ear.

25 Q. YEAH, YOU SAID THAT YOU LOST YOUR HEARING FROM AN

1 INFECTION?

2 A. Yeah, when I was six years old.

3 Q. YEAH. DID THAT PROVE TO BE A HANDICAP?

4 A. No, I got used to it. I can hear probably more
5 than other people.

6 Q. OKAY.

7 A. Because I got used to having only one ear.

8 Q. UH-HUH. YEAH. DO YOU WATCH PEOPLE SPEAK WHEN
9 THEY TALK? DOES THAT HELP?

10 A. Not always.

11 Q. OR YOU DON'T NEED TO?

12 A. No, I don't need to.

13 MR. RYAN: WELL, DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS YOU
14 WOULD LIKE TO ASK HIM?

15 MS. SALDINGER: ONE THING. I WAS WONDERING ABOUT
16 YOUR FAMILY, "PHILIPPI" IS A --

17 A. It's a German name. It's a German name, yeah.
18 It comes from the Greek, actually. Philippi is a city in
19 Greece. But it's a German name actually. We had relatives
20 in Germany who were Jewish, and we have nonrelatives in
21 Chile who are Philippi, also the same, but they are not
22 relatives. And one was foreign minister once, and I took
23 advantage sometimes of mentioning the name, and then they
24 said, "Oh, yes, yes, yes." But this goes well.

25 MS. SALDINGER: AND I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT

1 COMING HERE TODAY TO TELL US YOUR STORY.

2 A. Yes.

3 MS. SALDINGER: IS THIS THE FIRST TIME THAT YOU
4 HAVE TOLD YOUR STORY IN THIS KIND OF WAY?

5 A. This kind of way perhaps. I was called by a
6 school in, I think it was, Santa Barbara, they asked me
7 about the St. Louis, because they made a program for their
8 final examination on this. So I gave information, and I
9 wrote a little bit of my impression from the voyage. But I
10 gave this to the people who helped us come out of Germany,
11 because the daughter was a journalist with German, and then
12 with American newspaper. And this got lost actually.

13 So I brought a few photos from the St. Louis.
14 But they were very small, and not very -- of very big
15 importance, actually.

16 At this time I didn't have so much interest of --
17 I was -- I liked photography, so I came and made photos of
18 the beautiful waves and the ocean and the ship actually as
19 a way to Cuba was quite nice. Everybody felt we are out of
20 Germany, we go to a new continent.

21 Q. DID YOU ACTUALLY GO TO SANTA BARBARA TO --

22 A. No, it was over the phone.

23 Q. YOU JUST SENT THEM INFORMATION?

24 A. It was over the phone, and was speakers, and was
25 loud speakers was there. And I told them what I knew about

1 the trip.

2 Q. HAVE YOUR CHILDREN EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN YOUR
3 LIFE BEFORE?

4 A. Yes. We took them to Miami also to the reunion
5 of the 50 years of the St. Louis.

6 MS. SALDINGER: SO YOUR CHILDREN WENT WITH YOU?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. DID THEY KNOW YOU WERE DOING THIS INTERVIEW?

9 A. My daughter -- yeah, both know, because my one
10 daughter works with me, and the other daughter is very
11 close to us, so they live in Burlingame, and they know what
12 I am doing.

13 Q. UH-HUH. WERE THEY SUPPORTIVE OF YOU?

14 A. Yeah, definitely.

15 Q. YEAH.

16 MS. SALDINGER: SO YOU HAVE ALWAYS TALKED TO THEM
17 ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES?

18 A. Yes, they know about it.

19 MS. SALDINGER: UH-HUH.

20 A. And they know quite a bit. I have gone with my
21 youngest daughter, who is working with us, to the sites
22 where we lived in Berlin. And the other daughter knows
23 where we lived, and it is no secret. I don't hide
24 anything.

25 Q. WHICH ONE MARRIED THE RYAN?

1 A. The older one, who became married for the second
2 time now to a Jewish guy.

3 Q. OKAY. IS SHE THE OLDEST OF THE CHILDREN?

4 A. No, she is in between.

5 Q. SO SHE IS THE OLDEST GIRL?

6 A. Of the girl, yes. The son is the oldest.

7 Q. RIGHT.

8 A. And he got us disappointed when he became
9 Baptist. And he was a big believer, unfortunately. He
10 became so religious he became a pastor.

11 Q. A PASTOR?

12 A. Yeah, but not any more. He was so radical, so
13 convinced of this that he didn't want to speak to us until
14 we accept the Baptist religion.

15 Q. OOH.

16 A. Until he convinced us that all the good was only
17 in baptism.

18 Q. SO THAT WAS A HARD --

19 A. That was a hard time. But in the meantime, he is
20 on a very other different occupation, and he came down to
21 earth.

22 Q. WHAT DOES HE DO NOW?

23 A. Management consulting.

24 Q. UH-HUH.

25 A. He has his own company.

1 Q. SO THEY ARE COMING BACK?

2 A. Oh, they are all back, yes, yes, (Gancha) and
3 everybody is back.

4 Q. YOU WAIT LONG ENOUGH AND THEY COME BACK?

5 A. Well, it was not a long time, yeah, but it was a
6 certain amount of time that it was very difficult.

7 Q. UH-HUH.

8 MS. SALDINGER: DO YOU HAVE GRANDCHILDREN AS
9 WELL?

10 A. We have eight grandchildren and two great
11 grandchildren. Great grandchildren is a nice expression.
12 It lets you feel like a godfather. But my son, the
13 grandfather, is different, yeah?

14 MS. SALDINGER: HAVE YOUR GRANDCHILDREN EXPRESSED
15 AN INTEREST IN YOUR HISTORY?

16 A. A little bit. They live in Chicago. Yeah, the
17 other grandchildren live here, the two daughters live here,
18 and my son lives in Chicago. So, therefore, we do come
19 together, but not so often, yeah? We phone constantly, but
20 the phone is not the same thing as watching them grow up.

21 Q. MAYBE SOON WE WILL HAVE A TELEVISION WHILE YOU
22 TALK?

23 A. I don't know what to expect next. Okay.

24 Q. HANS, ON BEHALF OF THE HOLOCAUST ORAL HISTORY
25 PROJECT, I WANT TO THANK YOU TREMENDOUSLY FOR COMING

1 TODAY --

2 A. That's not necessary because --

3 Q. -- FOR SHARING YOUR STORY.

4 A. Yes. I don't know if I give you enough,
5 contribute -- contribute enough. Perhaps we should have
6 gone in more detail to this, but I think it's --

7 Q. IT WAS ENOUGH.

8 A. It's okay?

9 Q. I THANK YOU.

10 MS. SALDINGER: IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO HEAR YOUR
11 STORY. THANK YOU.

12 A. All right. Very good. Thank you.

13 (Brief recess.)

14 A. These are my parents, Mr. Ernst and Mrs.
15 Margarita Philippi.

16 Q. WHAT WERE THEIR FIRST NAME?

17 A. Ernst Philippi, Ernst, Ernst Philippi, and
18 Margarita Philippi.

19 This is our complete family: Parents; and my
20 brother (Gelt); myself, Wolfgang Philippi.

21 MS. SALDINGER: DO WE KNOW WHERE THAT WAS TAKEN?

22 A. This was taken 1938.

23 The famous ship of the Voyage of the Damned,
24 which was supposed to bring us from Hamburg to Cuba, and
25 then go back empty-handed to New York to make pleasure

(1 trips for the Hapag Line.

2 Q. AND IT WAS A GERMAN SHIP, HANS?

3 A. It was a German ship. And we had to pay
4 passages, tickets, for the way to Cuba; and, in addition to
5 this, a third class ticket on the way back from Cuba to
6 Hamburg because it was supposed to be without cargo. So
7 actually our cruise back was paid already.

8 That's a picture of myself on the steering wheel
9 of the St. Louis. Gustav here. This is the captain of the
10 St. Louis, Captain Gustav Schroeder, who was a really nice
11 and pleasant man. And he did not accept the orders of the
12 German government to just bring us back at high speed. He
13 delayed the trip as soon as -- as much as he could, and
14 made a promise that he will not bring us back to Germany.

spelling
spelling
15 The top shows the camp, the (Flocklingen) camp of
16 Jewish German youngsters who were accepted in (Davenda), in
17 Holland, for a stay until they were re-emigrating.

18 MS. SALDINGER: AND THE SECOND ROW OF PICTURES,
19 DO YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN?

20 A. Second then here you see the sleeping rooms, the
21 dormitories of the camp. And on the other one it shows
22 where we had lunch, in the open air on a very good day, on
23 nice days.

24 MS. SALDINGER: UH-HUH.

(25 A. The first picture shows me with two friends from

1 the camp. Unfortunately, I don't know the name any more.
2 And here we see more pictures of people, of group pictures
3 which I took at the camp, and where I give the pictures to
4 the other people who were living there, the other
5 youngsters.

6 This is a whole bunch of secret papers from the
7 American State Department to the consuls, and how to deal
8 with the passengers of the St. Louis, which was not very
9 favorable. The Americans did not want to give us visas to
10 come to America, so "please keep out" was their order.

11 (Thereupon, the videotape concluded.)

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