

1 PART II

2 Date: October 25, 1989

3

4 A: There are certain aspects of risk to it, yes,
5 but I would think because of that -- you see, it always has
6 two sides -- because of that, very few people would have
7 suspected that the Franks were in their own building, so
8 that's the other part of it.

9 For instance, I know of two families that
10 were a mixed marriage, where the husband was Jewish and
11 the wives were not. So when they saw this tremendous
12 problem coming up that the husband probably would be
13 deported, they divorced. They went through all the
14 divorce proceedings. And what really happened is the
15 husband hid in his own home. The wife hid him in the
16 house. You see, many people after the war were amazed to
17 find out this man was home all the time. He never left
18 his own home.

19 Q: SO THEY SURVIVED THAT?

20 A: Yes, they survived. So sometimes it was a
21 very obvious solution, and most people didn't think about it
22 that way. Of course once these women were divorced, they made
23 sure the story spread that they didn't want to live with the
24 Jew anymore, so no one had any suspicions these husbands were
25 home. And of course after the war they had to remarry.

1 Q: BUT I DO SEE YOUR POINT THAT FINDING A FAMILY
2 AND LIVING WITH A FAMILY YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW MAKES YOU FEEL
3 DEPENDENT.

4 A: The other thing that I really wanted to spend
5 a little time on, to stick with this topic. You know,
6 Holland had a population of about eight million people in
7 1940. Of them, 140,000 were Jews. Probably, if we would
8 say, to a large family, so only, say, out of the eight
9 million, the one-million family units.

10 For one million families it would have been
11 fairly easy to hide 140,000, and that really didn't
12 happen. In fact, if the statistics are correct -- and, of
13 course, it's very different to have very good data on
14 this -- but the Institute of War Documentation in Holland
15 estimates that there were 20,000 Jews in hiding in
16 Holland, of which half were later on found by the
17 Germans. Also the people who were hiding them were, of
18 course, penalized. But it showed there was only a small
19 part of the population that really got involved in hiding
20 Jews. And the point that I'm trying to make is that these
21 people were extremely unique.

22 Holland has a reputation of being a very
23 tolerant country, but when you really come down to it, it
24 was a very small segment of the population that really
25 stood out as being so willing to risk their own lives to

1 help others, and I feel that that's not often enough
2 mentioned.

3 When the people are recognized by the Yapla
4 Sherman Memorial Institute in Israel as righteous
5 gentiles, I feel when it comes to Holland, they are very
6 deserving because there were really few among the many.
7 We know that Denmark did an outstanding job in helping the
8 people, but it was a large segment of the Danish
9 population that cooperated in this.

10 Q: HOW DO YOU THINK THESE FIGURES COMPARED TO
11 OTHER COUNTRIES? I MEAN MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW, BUT --

12 A: For Holland it's the worst. It's the worst
13 for Western Europe. You see, in France, for instance, I heard
14 the other day to my amazement that about, I believe, 75
15 percent of the French Jews did survive in France, and I
16 believe 65 percent of the non-French Jews -- so there were
17 Jews from Germany and Poland who had moved to France --
18 they survived.

19 And the French situation is a very confusing
20 one, and I can't say I can talk about it with a lot of
21 understanding, but one thing I understood is that what the
22 Germans did first is they played off the non-French Jews
23 against the French Jews, saying, "We won't take the French
24 Jews. We'll take the foreigners." But still, if you look
25 at the statistics, they were much, much better than in

1 Holland.

2 Q: BECAUSE YOU THINK MANY MORE FRENCH PEOPLE
3 PARTICIPATED IN HIDING AND/OR SAVING THE JEWS IN SOME OTHER
4 WAY?

5 A: Yes. And there were different circumstances
6 in France, too. There was a section in France that was for a
7 long time occupied by the Italians, and the Italians really
8 didn't want to participate in the extermination of the Jews.
9 So that made it possible for a lot of people to find safety
10 almost independently, without the help of anyone else. But
11 the statistics for Holland are really not that good.

12 Q: AND STILL, YOU SAY, THE COUNTRY HAS A
13 REPUTATION FOR TOLERANCE.

14 A: That's right. Yes.

15 Another item that I skipped over the last
16 time and I really would like to talk about is that during
17 the war there was a lot of deception as far as the Germans
18 were concerned. The office that dealt with the
19 deportation, really sending people to their death, was
20 supposedly called the office that dealt with the
21 resettlement to the East.

22 And so in the beginning the story was spread
23 by the Germans, of course, that the young people should go
24 first and set up the facilities, and these were imaginary,
25 I would think, villages in Poland so the people would be

1 resettled.

2 And so, as I said, here in the United States
3 we have an organization called Women's American ORT.
4 Well, in Europe it was known as just ORT, the Organization
5 for Rehabilitation and Training. They were very active in
6 Holland in 1941, for instance, in retraining people in
7 preparation for the resettlement.

8 My parents were storekeepers, so basically
9 they had no craft or they had no trade, and my father took
10 courses as a shoemaker which were organized by ORT. And
11 the Germans, of course, allowed these kinds of courses to
12 be given in order to help them in the really deceptive
13 practices that they had started of making people think
14 that it really was necessary to have some kind of trade
15 before they would be resettled somewhere else.

16 I always have felt that, you know, ORT was
17 there. It's unfortunate that when we look back on it they
18 really, maybe, played a little bit into the hands of what
19 the Germans had intended. I don't think it was done with
20 any kind of malicious intent.

21 Q: YOU THINK THEY WERE UNAWARE?

22 A: The were absolutely unaware, innocently
23 unaware. But it still gave hope to people. "Well, here's an
24 organization that's coming through for us and doing this."

25 Of course after the war, ORT was there, too.

1 It's one organization that I really felt deserves
2 mentioning because they were helpful in retraining after
3 the war, but they also took a very positive step during
4 the war in trying to help people prepare for
5 deportation -- well, for resettlement, really, as it was
6 mentioned at the time. Of course, once the deportation
7 started, everybody realized that this was just a smoke
8 screen.

9 Q: WELL, YOU DID MENTION THE DATE 1941. DID YOU
10 THINK THAT ORT BY 1941 OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN MORE SUSPICIOUS?

11 A: No, I don't think so. You see, taking it
12 back, almost, to the question you asked in the first
13 interview, had my parents or had the Jews in Holland
14 generally thought about leaving Holland, and they hadn't
15 because they felt very much at home. They were very much
16 accepted in the country itself. They had their tradesmen.
17 They had some people who made very significant
18 contributions to the culture, to the universities, and so
19 on, so they felt at home.

20 So I think that no one, but absolutely no
21 one, expected at that time that this was going to be just
22 plain murder. And so ORT itself also felt that it was
23 doing something in helping to ameliorate that situation a
24 little bit.

25 Q: I DON'T KNOW WHAT OTHER SPECIFIC THINGS YOU

1 HAVE IN MIND TO TALK ABOUT.

2 A: I have a few. I wanted to talk a little more
3 about some of the righteous gentiles that I was in contact
4 with and some of the consequences after the war of this.

5 First of all, two gentlemen, which I think
6 were really very outstanding, their name was Al
7 Kabostr(?) and Short Wiesla(?). These are both Frisian
8 names; they were both Frisians. And they lived --

9 Q: WHAT'S FRISIAN?

10 A: Frisia is a province in Holland which at one
11 time -- well, going back to the Dutch history, they used to
12 have their seven united provinces, and so on, which eventually
13 formed the country of Holland itself. And Friesland was one
14 of those provinces, which for a long time remained
15 independent. They actually have their own language, a
16 language which has its own grammar. They were a very
17 freedom-loving people historically, and they have always
18 remained that kind of people.

19 That was the section of the country where I
20 eventually ended up in hiding where many Jewish children
21 were hidden.

22 But these two men, one had a very large,
23 commercial laundry, Viesma(?), and Botsa(?) traded in
24 spices and coffee and tea, which used to come from the
25 colonies in Indonesia. And the two of them used to go to

1 Amsterdam once the raids started where the Jews were being
2 taken away and searched the houses for children because
3 parents sometimes would send the children up on the roof
4 or hide them in closets, and so on, and find these
5 children and bring them to their area, and that's how they
6 started their organization, their underground network to
7 help Jewish children.

8 One of the other things was that when many
9 Jews who were picked up in Amsterdam were taken to the
10 Jewish theater, that became the gathering place from where
11 the Germans would send them to the railroad station.

12 Now, the Jewish Council, the Judenraad(?)
13 really, had set up a playground for the children there.
14 That playground adjoined the playground of a school. And
15 so these two men went to the school and arranged with the
16 principal of that school that they would move kids from
17 the theater to the playground -- through the fence and
18 onto the playground -- mix them with the other kids, and
19 then they would take them away.

20 So that was also one of the reasons why
21 eventually there were many kids that survived the war
22 without the parents.

23 They were two very outstanding men. Bonsa
24 eventually was executed by the Germans. I stayed at his
25 home. Of course I didn't know the whole story until after

1 the war about how deeply this man was involved with this
2 and what a great humanitarian he was.

3 Viesma survived, and as the end of the war
4 became in sight -- and this was in February 1945 -- they
5 became concerned that -- in some cases they had actually
6 taken the children from the parents. They had said to the
7 parents, "Let me have your child, and we'll take care of
8 it. Don't worry." And so they knew these parents might
9 not come back, and they had thousands of these children
10 under their supervision, in a way.

11 And they sent a note to the Dutch government,
12 which was in England, and said, "You must be prepared for
13 dealing with these children because when the war is
14 over" -- and from what they knew at the time, most people
15 were being murdered -- "we are going to have a lot of
16 orphans. We took responsibility with the parents, but we
17 certainly can't take care of a thousand children."

18 So they then became involved with the
19 government. The government, under the Department of
20 Social Affairs, set up a special organization, a committee
21 to deal with these children, and we had become a member of
22 that, and a very long, drawn-out battle started after the
23 war over these children in terms of whether they should go
24 back to relatives or stay with people they were hiding
25 with, and so on, and that became kind of an ugly scene.

1 But I felt that probably the background of
2 this is important to talk about. Here were people who
3 really had the best intentions and felt very responsible
4 for having promised the parents that they would take care
5 of these children.

6 Q: HOW WERE THE CHILDREN CARED FOR?

7 A: Well, they found hiding places for them. You
8 know, I don't know how you keep track of a thousand children,
9 but they knew most of them and knew exactly how they were
10 doing and whether they were getting along all right and
11 whether they were safe and whether the families treated them
12 well. They took that job very seriously.

13 Q: SO OBVIOUSLY THEY WERE WORKING WITH THE
14 UNDERGROUND.

15 A: They were really the leaders of the
16 underground. They were the ones who said to other people,
17 "You must help us. We have these children. We have to
18 find places for them."

19 Q: BUT YOU SAID YOU STAYED IN THE HOME OF
20 BONSTRA?

21 A: Right.

22 Q: DID YOU HAVE TO LEAVE THERE BECAUSE THEY WERE
23 GETTING ON TO YOU AT THAT TIME?

24 A: No. It was kind of a holding situation. That
25 was the central point from where the distribution took place

1 of people. So I stayed there at Christmas time in 1943
2 because during Christmas holidays they just weren't able to
3 keep moving the children around. Many families were not
4 prepared that day to have someone join them. So that's when I
5 stayed. Actually it was Christmas and New Years at his home.

6 He had two children himself, as a matter of
7 fact. He was a widower. But he was deeply involved and
8 was a very great humanitarian.

9 Q: SOUNDS LIKE.

10 A: Yes. Absolutely.

11 Q: THIS STRUGGLE YOU SPEAK OF ABOUT WHO SHOULD
12 RAISE THE CHILDREN AFTER THE WAR, THAT SOUNDS SIMILAR TO YOUR
13 SITUATION PERSONALLY.

14 A: Yes, in a way, but like I said at the time we
15 talked about it, I was much more aware of what I wanted and I
16 was older. It was really the younger children that was a lot
17 of struggle about.

18 But it started, really, with very good
19 intentions; and as it often happens when you create a
20 committee, you get people on the committee who really
21 weren't involved with their heart. They are the
22 administrators and the bureaucrats, and the thing gets out
23 of hand.

24 Q: WELL, AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THE CHILDREN WERE
25 SAVED.

1 A: Absolutely. The children were saved. That's
2 true.

3 Q: YOU WERE SAYING YOU WANTED TO ALSO TALK MORE
4 ABOUT AFTER THE WAR.

5 A: Yes.

6 Well, one of the things I wanted to talk
7 about after the war, besides my own situation -- really
8 it's part of my own situation -- is that I had one cousin
9 who survived Auschwitz and who came back to Holland, but
10 he was repatriated to Holland in 1945. She was a young
11 woman, about 19 years old then, but she had tuberculosis.
12 She was quite ill, and she was hospitalized for about five
13 years, and then she passed away.

14 There was a lot of in and out of the
15 hospital. There was a lot of surgery, and so on; and when
16 we used to even ask a doctor what the prognosis was, the
17 doctor used to say, "There's no medical response to her
18 condition. It's a will to live that keeps you alive."
19 That, of course, affected me quite a bit.

20 I used to visit her almost every weekend,
21 certainly every other weekend. It was kind of a rallying
22 point for those in the family who had survived, and we
23 were very concerned with her situation.

24 It's probably, I should say, the closest I
25 have been to a survivor who suffered very severely of the

1 incarceration, and so on, being in the camp, and who
2 wanted to live. She was a very courageous young woman.
3 She even got engaged. She had all the hope that she would
4 completely recover and would be able to marry, and so on.
5 And that was a very trying time for all of us, knowing
6 that probably if she would live, she would only live in
7 hospitals.

8 Q: DID SHE SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT HER EXPERIENCES?

9 A: Very little. Very little. She was a
10 remarkable person in that she spoke more about the future,
11 looking ahead, what you should do in order to be on your
12 own two feet, and so on, and to make progress, to make a
13 life for yourself. She was much more concerned about
14 that.

15 She really spoke very little about her camp
16 experiences, but what we know about her experiences was
17 from her camp mates, who stayed very close with her. As a
18 matter of fact, she was at the death march, the evacuation
19 from Auschwitz, and of course those who couldn't really
20 make it physically were shot, and so her friends dragged
21 her to keep her alive. And they were, of course, very
22 close friends who stayed very close with her also after
23 the liberation.

24 I know that at one point she told me they
25 came to a place where they found a steam locomotive from a

1 train, and they drank the water. It was so impossible
2 because they weren't being fed, and so on.

3 They were liberated by the Russians, and some
4 of the women were raped by the Russians. I mean it was
5 her very first experience right after liberation. She had
6 talked about that a little bit, and the fact that then
7 they dragged themselves through Germany to get to the
8 American zone; and once they got there, of course then
9 they got medical care and were eventually transferred back
10 to Holland.

11 But she spoke very little about the camp.
12 She did tell me that she worked in the Union factory, it
13 was called -- they made hand grenades there -- and that
14 there were also Dutch males who worked there, and so by
15 being in the factory she could talk to other people. So
16 she knew pretty much what was happening to other males.

17 She knew the time my mother and my sister arrived
18 and my father arrived in Auschwitz. She knew they were
19 there. She knew when they died. She knew about her own
20 mother, her own sister, and so on. So she had pretty much
21 kept track of the family members or relatives who had
22 arrived in Auschwitz. She told me that that. That was,
23 apparently, very well possible if you worked.

24 Q: SO SHE GIVE YOU A LOT OF VALUABLE INFORMATION.

25 A: Yes. She gave us a lot of information. In

1 fact, after the war her two brothers also had been evacuated
2 and were liberated -- I don't know whether it was in
3 Buchenwald -- but they were liberated by American troops.
4 And the first time as troops came in -- they were very
5 unfamiliar with the whole situation; it was a shock to them,
6 too -- they were given Spam, and of course they couldn't
7 digest that, and they actually died from that -- not
8 exactly from the Spam but from the food that they couldn't
9 handle. She knew that, too.

10 And so as an information source, she had a
11 network. That's what I was trying to bring out. We talk
12 about networking now, but that was done also in the camps
13 very much. And so as far as the Dutch people were
14 concerned, they knew from each other who was there and who
15 survived.

16 Q: WHAT ABOUT YOURSELF AFTER THE WAR?

17 A: Well, I think I talked about some of it. I
18 went to high school right after the liberation. The family
19 that had hidden me enrolled me in high school. That didn't
20 work out very well because I didn't have a good educational
21 foundation. For a while I was tutored -- I think I spoke
22 about that -- and then went back to the Jewish high school in
23 Amsterdam, where I went for a while, and went to Israel, where
24 I volunteered in 1948. I don't know if I mentioned that.

25 Q: YES. YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU VOLUNTEERED.

1 A: Yes. And when I came back, I went back to
2 school and finished up that year, and I took a job and went
3 through all the paperwork for emigration to the United
4 States.

5 When I came to the States, I had met a fellow
6 in Holland in the summer of 1950 who lived in New York. I
7 didn't know him before that, and I told him I was in the
8 process of trying to emigrate to the United States, and he
9 had told me, "When you get to New York, look me up." And
10 so I did.

11 But I also had a young man with whom I had
12 spent about two days while I was in hiding at one time,
13 and I had to leave one of my hiding places, and I happened
14 to come to the hiding place where he was, and we shared
15 the bed. And so I found out that he had gone to the
16 United States, and so I got in touch with him when I came
17 to New York after I was a little bit settled here. I'm
18 still good friends with him, even though he lives on the
19 East Coast now.

20 But these two people were important in
21 getting me going here in the States because I didn't know
22 anyone here, so getting acquainted with life in the United
23 States and getting some direction and having some people
24 to start a social life with.

25 Q: HOW WAS YOUR LIVING SITUATION?

1 A: Well, I came to the United States to Hoboken.
2 You know the ships don't pull into New York; they pull into
3 Hoboken. And an acquaintance of my uncle, a gentleman who
4 must have been in his sixties at the time, came to meet me. I
5 had never met this man. And he took me to Manhattan, where he
6 had to reserve the hotel room for me, not far from where he
7 lived, and he had offered to help me with directions, and so
8 on.

9 That was on a Saturday afternoon when I
10 arrived, and so by Sunday morning I talked to the desk
11 clerk and I found out what the cost of hotel room was, and
12 I told him, "I won't stay very long at that price."

13 And the desk clerk said, "Why don't you try
14 the Y.M.C.A.?" So I moved to the Y.M.C.A: and stayed there
15 for about a week. There I got some help, too, in finding out
16 how you find rooms, and so on, and so I learned how to read
17 the classified ads in the New York Times and found myself a
18 room in a rooming house in New York, and I had found a job at
19 the time also through the Y.M.C.A:

20 I don't know if I discussed that. This is
21 really, I think, of interest to talk about. I had some
22 traveler's checks, so when the weekend came -- it was my
23 second weekend, really, in the United States -- I was out
24 of money. It was very hard to get people to accept
25 traveler's checks, especially from someone who didn't

1 speak English very well.

2 So I went to the cashier at the Y.M.C.A, a
3 young woman, and I asked her would she cash one of the
4 checks for me. It was a \$10 check. And she said, "No.
5 I'm not allowed to do that." This was what I was
6 encountering everywhere.

7 And I said, "Well, I have to eat. I didn't
8 know the banks were closed." I didn't know the banks were
9 closed on Saturday; that's what it was. So this was on a
10 Sunday afternoon.

11 And so she said to me, "Well, you know, I
12 will cash it for you with my personal money."

13 I said, "Fine." So then she didn't have \$10,
14 and she decided she had said yes so she should go through with
15 it, so she cashed the traveler's check from the cash from the
16 Y.M.C.A:

17 And when I got back to my room that evening
18 and looked at how much money I had in my pocket, I had an
19 additional \$10 and was sure that she had made a mistake
20 and given me 20 instead of 10. So I called down to the
21 cashier and said, "Are you out \$10?" And they were very
22 surprised, of course. They didn't expect it, certainly
23 not in New York.

24 And then I explained the situation and said,
25 "Well, the cashier was there and cashed this traveler's

1 check for me, and I think she gave me too much money."

2 So they said, "Why don't you go down to the
3 office tomorrow morning because they would know."

4 So I went down to the office and innocently
5 said, "I have this extra \$10, and I wouldn't want her to
6 get into trouble because," I said, "first of all she
7 wasn't allowed to do this, and she helped me out." Well,
8 they were so amazed that I would come and bring the \$10
9 back to them that they got interested in me, and they
10 asked me what my situation was. And I said, "I'm looking
11 for job, and I've been to some employment agencies."

12 "We have our own employment agency. We will
13 call them and ask them to help you, and we won't charge
14 you a fee." And that's how I found my first job.

15 Q: GREAT. WHAT WAS THE JOB?

16 A: That was as a shipping clerk with a company in
17 downtown, all the way downtown, New York that specialized in
18 educational materials for handicapped people, so for the blind
19 and other types of handicaps. They had very special
20 materials.

21 This was around Thanksgiving. And they
22 talked to the company -- I guess the company must have been an
23 organization that was closely connected with the Y.M.C.A: --
24 and so they talked to them, and they actually said, "Look,
25 even if you don't need him right now, you can use him when

1 inventory time comes."

2 So that's where I started, and I worked there
3 for a few weeks. I had a lot of problems finding the
4 place because the downtown subway network is very
5 complicated, and I used to get out on a different exit
6 every day and didn't know where I was, and then I used to
7 call. Nobody had time to tell me where to go there. So I
8 would call the place and say, "I am now on this corner.
9 How do I get over to you?"

10 So they decided that the trick is to get
11 always on to the last car or the first car so at least you
12 get out on the same exit and then you learn to find your
13 way around. That place was located on Beekman Street in
14 New York. I worked there for a few weeks.

15 And then one Sunday afternoon I went to a
16 small luncheonette in the area where I lived on Broadway
17 and 71st Street, and I was going to call this fellow whom
18 I had met when I was in hiding. And I was waiting. There
19 was a phone booth inside this luncheonette, and I was
20 waiting, and there was a lady making a phone call, and she
21 spoke Dutch, and she was cursing really very badly, and so
22 on.

23 And when she came out of the phone booth, I
24 said to her in Dutch, I said, "Lady, you can't just say
25 everything that comes to your mind." And she was terribly

1 embarrassed and asked me who I was, and so on. And then
2 when I got to talk to her, it turned out that she had been
3 in the States for about two months visiting her sons, who
4 were going to college here, but I had seen her husband
5 just a few weeks before. I happened to have known her
6 husband. So she got more interested, and then she offered
7 for me to go with her to an apartment of a friend of hers
8 where she used to make meals for her sons on the weekends.

9 Q: WASN'T THIS AN EXTRAORDINARY COINCIDENCE?

10 A: Yes. I'm telling you a coincidence now. Yes.

11 So she said, "You can meet my boys. Don't
12 eat here in this place. I'm going to make a nice meal.
13 Come and eat with us."

14 I said, "Fine." So I went over there. In the
15 meantime my winter coat had been stolen at the Y.M.C.A., so
16 she gave me a coat from her son. And we ate there, and then
17 her friend came home, which she hadn't expected, really,
18 because this lady used to make this place available to her.

19 So she introduced me, and this lady said to
20 me, "What are you doing?"

21 And I said, "I'm a schlepper in an
22 educational-material company." This lady had a travel
23 agency.

24 She said, "Now, I have a client who is
25 looking for someone, is also a Dutchman," and she said,

1 "I'll talk to him tomorrow. I'll call him and talk to
2 him, and you call me, and maybe he will be interested in
3 talking to you."

4 I said, "Fine." So I went back to work on
5 Monday morning, and in the evening I called her.

6 And she said, "Yes, he wants to talk to you."
7 So I called him.

8 He said, "Come on over for an interview."
9 And he had an export company. He exported mainly to the
10 Dutch West Indies, like Aruba and Curacao, and he had a
11 young man working there who was being drafted, so he
12 needed a replacement. He was a Dutchman.

13 And I started working there as a shipping
14 clerk, or export documents -- or whatever you want to call
15 it -- and I learned all the documentations required for
16 export. In fact, when he had shipments and he would order
17 stuff from companies, then we would make arrangements for
18 space on the boats, and then a freight forwarder would go
19 to this company, pick it up, and take it to the dock. We
20 didn't see the merchandise ourselves. So I learned all
21 this.

22 And we had a freight forwarder who would come
23 every morning, a young man, to find out how much we had
24 that needed to be taken away so they would know how many
25 trucks they required. This man would come into our office

1 sometimes to use our phone. We had two rooms; the office
2 consisted of two rooms. And I was in the other room when
3 he said, "Can we use your phone?"

4 I said, "Fine." So I heard him go through my
5 desk and take the petty cash. And it was about \$100 in
6 the petty cash which was mainly in coins, so I could hear
7 the rattle. And I didn't know what to do. I was very
8 new. So I called the police.

9 So the police thought there was a hold-up.
10 They came with the photographer, looking for the blood,
11 and so on. And here I was trying to express myself as
12 well as I could in English about my petty cash having
13 disappeared. And I told him who it was.

14 And of course they went through the building.
15 And this man was there every day, and they talked to him,
16 and he denied it. And so by that time my boss came in,
17 and he couldn't understand what was going, what was all
18 these police sitting there in his office.

19 So they found the petty cash. It was hidden
20 in the bathroom, in the men's room there. So they took me
21 down to the police station and questioned me quite a lot,
22 but they let me go. And then when I came back, my boss
23 said to me, he said, "Look," he said, "you accused this
24 man of having taken your petty cash. You have no way to
25 prove it. He's a married guy. He has a family. He has

1 worked in this building for more than ten years. He has a
2 good reputation. And the police doesn't believe a word of
3 what you say, and they are questioning me because I don't
4 know you from a hole in the head and nobody knows you in
5 the United States. You have no references, and they
6 suspect you. But I told them I won't press any charges,
7 so they let you go." That's what the situation was.

8 "But," he said, "who are you? Do you have
9 any references here in New York?"

10 I said, "Well, there's one man who picked me
11 up from the boat. You can talk to him, but all he did was
12 pick me up from the boat." And of course the \$10-story from
13 the Y.M.C.A. might help me out.

14 And so he said, "Don't you have any surviving
15 relatives?"

16 I said, "Yeah. I have an uncle in Holland
17 who survived the war, and he had helped me out and helped
18 me get to the States, and so on."

19 He said, "Well, who is it? Who is this
20 uncle, and where does he live?" So when I gave him the
21 name and address, he said, "Why the hell didn't you tell
22 me that the day you walked in here for the interview?" He
23 said, "That's an old friend of mine."

24 And so by that time it was like, "Come home
25 with me and have dinner with us," and so on. And I spent

1 the Seder at his home in 1951. So that was another
2 coincidence of meeting people.

3 Q: SO WAS YOUR SOCIAL LIFE EXPANDING MORE?

4 A: My social life was expanding. And then I was
5 drafted. He had hired me to replace somebody. No one
6 expected that I would be drafted that soon, but while I
7 lived at the Y.M.C.A., while they were very helpful in
8 finding me a job, they were also helpful in notifying the
9 draft board. I guess they figured I didn't know I had to
10 register because I was in the age group where you had to
11 register, although my understanding now is that I didn't
12 have to do it for the first six months that I was in this
13 country. But they registered me immediately.

14 So in May 1951 I was drafted. I was really
15 going to go in in March, but I had just started this job.
16 So this man went to the draft board and said, "What are
17 you doing? You took one guy. I hire somebody else. You
18 take him. You have to give me some time." So they gave
19 him about six weeks, and then I was drafted.

20 So I went into the army and eventually ended
21 up in Germany. That's where I went.

22 Q: WHAT WERE YOUR FEELINGS WHEN YOU GOT TO
23 GERMANY?

24 A: They were very mixed. They were very mixed.
25 First of all, we went to Germany to Bremerhaven, and then by

1 train overnight we went to Frankfurt, and then in the morning
2 from Frankfurt we went on to the place where we were going to
3 be stationed.

4 And we passed through mines, and the train
5 was held up -- these were military trains -- and I saw
6 houses with just grass growing on the window sills, the
7 windows knocked out and part of the walls, and I really
8 felt good about it. And I said that. And so one of the
9 officers reprimanded me for being a very bitter person to
10 talk that way. And they just had no understanding
11 whatsoever about this.

12 And then when I was eventually stationed at
13 our base, I became an interpreter for them. It was like
14 in the land of the blind, one eye is king. So I could say
15 more in German than the rest of the people, so I became an
16 interpreter. So I had direct contact with the Germans
17 because of this.

18 And it really was very, very difficult
19 sometimes. I remember one particular time -- which was
20 very enjoyable for me, actually -- a German came in on a
21 Saturday afternoon, and they called me to talk to him. He
22 came into my office, and he was furious. It was on a
23 Sunday morning. He was furious because two soldiers had
24 gotten drunk and slept in his chicken coop and let all the
25 chickens out. And he wanted payment immediately.

1 And he was banging his fist on the desk,
2 which was the last thing he should be doing when he talked
3 to me, and I had him locked up. So on Monday morning when
4 the normal staff came in, of course they wanted to know
5 why this man was sitting there, why I had had somebody
6 locked up. So I told them. I said, "He tried to attack
7 me, and I wasn't going to stand for that. And he wanted
8 money," and everything.

9 They let it go. I mean the officer I worked
10 for had a little more understanding than some of the
11 others. I said, "Look, the time has passed to yell at
12 me. I said I don't yell at you, and you don't yell at
13 me. That time has passed."

14 Q: WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS FOR GERMANY TODAY?

15 A: I try to stay away from it. I avoid it. I
16 wouldn't go and visit it. I still have a bias against German
17 products. I will avoid them as much as possible.

18 I try to rationalize the fact that the younger generation,
19 of course, has absolutely nothing to do with what happened
20 during the war, but it's sometimes different. The German
21 language -- if I here Germans talk, it turns me off, it
22 bothers me, upsets me.

23 Like I may have mentioned, I lived in Europe
24 for a while after I came to the States. When I saw German
25 tourists, it just bothered me terribly.

1 Q: WHERE IN EUROPE WERE YOU?

2 A: I lived in Paris for a while. I worked in
3 Paris for a while.

4 And even the younger people, I just got very
5 uncomfortable with the German language, just hearing it.

6 I have had lengthy discussions with my
7 children about that, who have challenged me on this
8 repeatedly because they grew up during the civil rights
9 period here in the States and knew that I felt that
10 discrimination was terrible, and then saying, "You
11 discriminate against the Germans." But it's more
12 psychological than rational and an emotional separation, I
13 guess.

14 Q: SPEAKING OF YOUR FAMILY, I HAD HEARD THAT --
15 AND UNDERSTANDABLY -- THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO, AFTER
16 SURVIVING THE WAR, WERE ANXIOUS TO GET MARRIED, ANXIOUS TO
17 HAVE A FAMILY, ESPECIALLY PEOPLE, AS IN YOUR CASE, WHO HAD
18 SO FEW OR NO RELATIVES. WAS THAT YOUR SITUATION?

19 A: You know, that's an interesting question,
20 really, because I was not specifically looking to get married
21 at the time when I met my wife, but I was, of course, very
22 lonely. I was going to college then.

23 And once I met her, my whole life changed.
24 It was just like having your own home or having your own
25 family, even though it was just the two of us, it was a

1 kind of rebuilding.

2 There had been this period of being on your
3 own, lonely -- sometimes loneliness, although I had met
4 some friends, which I want to talk about a little bit also
5 since we're talking about coincidences.

6 But I just saw my whole life change. It was
7 just like a totally new beginning. My wife was American.
8 And I'm glad you asked about that because I think it's
9 interesting to talk about it a little bit.

10 She's an American. Her mother was born in
11 the States, but her father had come from Poland; and, of
12 course, all his family was killed except for one brother,
13 who survived Auschwitz and who lives in France now. So
14 basically her father was in kind of a similar situation
15 that I was, although he came as a young boy, but he never
16 saw his parents or his sisters and brothers again.

17 But my wife had, of course, had a very tough
18 task because she replaced my family, she replaced my
19 relatives, and she had to be my wife at the same time, and
20 she had to be the mother of the children. So the task for
21 the spouse of a survivor really isn't that easy.

22 She is in that respect a very remarkable
23 person in having shared my emotions on that. So I'm glad
24 that you mentioned it because it does deserve talking
25 about it.

1 I have a friend whom I befriended in this
2 orphanage where I lived after the war who also lost all
3 his relatives except a younger brother, and he lives in
4 Holland. He got married in Holland, and his marriage
5 ended up in divorce. And he married a Jewish woman who
6 also had been in hiding but had survived with her whole
7 family, her parents and her brother and I don't know if
8 there were maybe aunts and uncles, too, but certainly her
9 immediate family.

10 And when I talked to him -- I was not in
11 touch with him for a long time; as a matter of fact he
12 visited me last summer and the year before that I visited
13 with him in Europe -- and when we talked about these
14 things, he actually said that he divorced because his
15 wife, his first wife, could just not share with him his
16 grief and his emotional needs by having lost his whole
17 family because she hadn't.

18 Q: IT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFICULT.

19 A: Yes.

20 Q: HAVE YOU TALKED WITH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT ALL
21 YOUR EXPERIENCES?

22 A: I have talked with my children about all my
23 experiences. I had a tremendous urge as soon as the war was
24 over to try to document what had happened to be able to talk
25 about it later on and to talk to my children about it, if I

1 would have a family, as well as being able to do something
2 more with it.

3 So I had bought documentary materials that
4 were being published pretty soon after the war. Some of
5 the horror pictures from the camps, and so on, were in
6 there. And I always kept that book with me. And so when
7 my boys were relatively young -- when I look back on it
8 now I have some different thoughts about this -- when my
9 kids were relatively young, they knew what had happened to
10 me. Of course they knew there were no grandparents on my
11 side and that they'd lost an aunt.

12 And distant relatives I spoke about were
13 people who had been scarred. So they grew up with that.
14 But then when I was fairly young I also showed them the
15 booklet, which must have been a horrible experience for a
16 child when I think about it now, but it was very important
17 for me personally to share this with them, to tell them
18 this.

19 And for a long time I was not aware what this
20 must have done to these two young boys. But in 1965, when
21 my oldest son was six years old, I was invited to attend a
22 wedding in Holland of the son of a distant relative of
23 mine. And so the groom's mother got in touch with me and
24 invited me because I would be the only living relative of
25 the groom's father to attend the wedding, and she felt

1 that was important.

2 So the whole family went over for the
3 wedding. This was in Amsterdam. And as I have said
4 before, when I am in Amsterdam the place that really pulls
5 me is where my parents were hiding. So I went over to the
6 area, and I pointed out to my sons, "This is where I
7 hiding for a while with my parents, and when I left them,
8 the last time I saw them."

9 And so when we came back to the States -- he
10 was in first grade then, the oldest one -- the teacher
11 told him he should write up about his experiences going to
12 Europe. So he wrote a few sentences, like, "I went on an
13 airplane." And they let him go to the cockpit, so he saw
14 some of the instruments there. And then his last sentence
15 was, "I was very lucky that my father wasn't killed during
16 the war," which was just a thought that he had carried
17 with him from this trip, and so on, which I didn't realize
18 till much later how that already stuck with him when he
19 was six years old.

20 Q: AND AS THEY WERE GROWING UP, WERE THEY TALKING
21 WITH YOU ABOUT THESE EXPERIENCES?

22 A: They did for a while. They were very
23 interested. Of course they met the family with whom I was
24 hiding. That family visited me here in the States; we
25 visited them in Europe. As a matter of fact, I don't know

1 if I mentioned it, in 1971 I went with them to Europe and
2 we actually visited some of the houses in which I had been
3 hiding.

4 So they asked about it. They know a lot of
5 my personal stories, and so on, and experiences. But as
6 they got older, they found it too painful to talk about
7 it. They just can't deal with the subject. I almost feel
8 that the minute I would say something that they would like
9 to leave the room because it's very painful for them,
10 very, very painful.

11 As a matter of fact in 1982, when my oldest
12 son was 23 years old, my brother-in-law got married, and
13 my wife's uncle, the one who survived and lives in France,
14 attended the wedding. It was in Virginia. It was quite
15 warm, and he was walking around in short sleeves, and he
16 of course had a number on his arm. And my oldest son knew
17 that this man had been in Auschwitz, but when he saw the
18 number he broke down. It was the first time that he came
19 face to face with someone who had been marked that way,
20 and he was very upset by this.

21 Q: YES. I UNDERSTAND.

22 A: So the scars have been ongoing.

23 One other thing that I had wanted to talk to
24 you about I don't know if I told you: We had an Austrian
25 girl who stayed with us and came to Holland in 1939, I

1 believe. Actually they came with a whole group of
2 children. And my parents decided to take her in, and her
3 brother stayed with friends of my parents. This was also
4 already the early part of being exposed to the
5 discrimination that was taking place against the Jews in
6 Germany and Austria.

7 She had mentioned a little bit of what -- she
8 was Viennese -- of what had happened in Vienna. She was
9 about 17 years old, I guess, when she came. And my
10 understanding is that she did survive the war and she
11 lives in Israel now. I don't know where. I have never
12 even made a strong effort to locate her.

13 But she stayed with us for a number of years.
14 Also when the war broke out, she was with us when we tried
15 to leave the country. And then somewhere in 1942, I
16 believe, she left us. There was some German kind of
17 notice that said that these children, since they were
18 Austrians -- the Austrians now were Germans -- would be
19 treated well versus the Dutch Jews, who were going to be
20 resettled.

21 So it was felt that it was better for her not
22 to stay with us. So she moved to a home for these
23 children. Apparently the underground then got involved
24 and took care of hiding these people, and that's how she
25 survived.

1 But I often think about this, how already as
2 a young child I was very much exposed to this uprooting of
3 young people and being taken away from their immediate
4 families, and so on, and finding surrogate families.

5 Q: I WAS WONDERING -- THIS IS PROBABLY A HARD
6 QUESTION TO ANSWER -- BUT HOW DO YOU THINK ALL OF THAT HAS HAD
7 A LONG-TERM EFFECT IN YOUR LIFE VERSUS ANY OTHER LIFE?

8 A: How all of this has?

9 Q: YES. YOUR EXPERIENCES AS BEING A SURVIVOR OF
10 THE WAR.

11 A: Well, it changes over time, really. I would
12 say that during the years immediately after the war I really
13 had to find my own way and was too busy to deal with emotions.
14 And then when I got to the point where I could deal with
15 emotions, I was very angry, extremely angry, and that showed
16 in many of my relationships, with people at work, my children.

17
18 I have, of course, a very strong feeling of
19 justice, more so than is realistic in a world that is not
20 perfect. But as time has gone on, I have learned to deal
21 with this anger, let's say, to let it subside and be more
22 relaxed, and I really don't get very excited about things
23 anymore. I used to, and they sometimes were very
24 insignificant. Well, the significant things really didn't
25 bother me because much worse things had happened to me.

1 While on the job, for instance, I had a
2 conflict with one of my bosses, and so the conflict
3 escalated to a higher level, and then somebody said to me,
4 "Well, you know, if you really push this," because I felt
5 it was really an injustice, "if you really push this, you
6 may lose your job."

7 And I told these people, I said, "You really
8 don't scare me because there was once a whole army that
9 was looking for me, and they were going to kill me. If
10 the worst thing you can do to me is make me look for
11 another job, big deal." And this attitude was not
12 understood. These were American people. But they
13 realized that I was going to get justice regardless, and
14 so they decided it may be better to appease me than to
15 really pursue this whole thing. But I wouldn't do that
16 anymore.

17 Q: DID YOU GET JUSTICE IN THAT INSTANCE?

18 A: Yes, I did -- I mean I was not interested
19 whether anybody else was going to get penalized or punished,
20 but I was interested in the fact that I was not going to
21 continue associating with these people and be dealt with the
22 way they did because that was really a tremendous injustice,
23 and that's what I wanted and that's what I got.

24 Q: WE HAVEN'T TALKED ABOUT IT BEFORE, BUT I WAS
25 WONDERING HOW YOU THINK ABOUT THE QUESTION OF SURVIVOR GUILT.

1 THAT COMES UP A LOT, TOO.

2 A: You know, I often thought that I had no
3 guilt -- I'll put it differently: I have often thought that I
4 didn't suffer and so I had no survivor guilt and was very
5 sorry for other people. And then I came to the realization
6 that what I would call frustration really is survivor guilt.

7 When I started watching my frustration, for
8 instance I would enjoy certain things, scenery or travel,
9 I would feel terribly frustrated that I never could share
10 this with my sister or that maybe she might have been more
11 appreciative than me. And I realized later on that that
12 really is guilt, not frustration.

13 The fact that I wasn't able to share things
14 with my parents, certainly the growing up of my children,
15 and so on, or even my wife, my parents never met my wife.
16 And so a lot of that was interpreted by me as being
17 terribly frustrated, but essentially it's being very
18 guilty.

19 I could not really make big parties. I just
20 can't. Neither one of my sons is married, and I keep
21 saying to myself when they get married that is going to be
22 a big festivity for them, and I will have to participate
23 in that. But I have to keep telling myself that I have to
24 do this. I still can't be very joyful and participatory
25 in these kinds of things. It's just not possible for me.

1 Q: THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T MAKE A PARTY OR A FESTIVE
2 EVENT?

3 A: Yes.

4 Neither one of my children had a bar mitzvah,
5 which is kind of a bone of contention still within the
6 family. But the way I saw it -- and this was my defense
7 at the time before I really realized what the true reasons
8 were -- was that first of all, I'm not a religious
9 person. I felt that if there was a God, lots of innocent
10 people wouldn't have been slaughtered the way they were,
11 and there's still a lot of this going on. So it has
12 shaken my belief in God.

13 So to go through a religious ceremony and to
14 pray to God, and so on, to me was a terrible hypocrisy.
15 That's one thing I have come away with from the war, that
16 I'm not a hypocrite and sometimes very blunt on taking
17 that position on issues.

18 Then there was the fact that bar mitzvahs are
19 very big, festive affairs for the parents and their
20 friends. It's not for the children. I mean the child has
21 the bar mitzvah, but the parents have the party, and I
22 just couldn't do that. That was totally out of the
23 question for me.

24 I realize now it was not fair to the
25 children, it wasn't fair to my wife, it wasn't fair to my

1 in-laws; but instead I decided, while my oldest son was
2 about 13 years old, to take the whole family to Israel,
3 and we traveled through Europe. And that, to me, was more
4 meaningful in terms of if the money has to be spent to do
5 it that way instead of having a big party.

6 Q: WELL, IT CERTAINLY SOUNDS LIKE YOU PROSPERED
7 WHILE YOU WERE HERE, TOO.

8 A: Yes. I was fortunate in that respect. I was
9 drafted, like I said, and I got the GI bill and the chance to
10 go to college and then really move on, and I found some very
11 exciting jobs.

12 But I have to give credit where credit is
13 due: If there was no GI bill, I might have still be a
14 shipping clerk somewhere. That was very important for me.

15 But now especially I often think about this
16 that basically we lived in poverty, and we had to find our
17 own ways in Holland right after the war, and had I stayed
18 in Holland, I don't know what would have happened because
19 none of these opportunities existed.

20 I think that the Dutch government failed
21 terribly in not making stipends available for us to study
22 if we qualified. As a matter of fact, in a discussion I
23 had with one of the fellows who had been in the orphanage,
24 we realized that -- some things happened that you really
25 didn't understand exactly -- that when we came to the

1 orphanage in Amsterdam, we went through aptitude testing
2 to decide whether we should go to high school or whether
3 we should learn a craft and go to work.

4 So at that very early stage, already, the
5 government was trying to minimize its involvement in your
6 future, which, when I think about it now, was really very
7 unfair because how can you do aptitude testing on somebody
8 who has been essentially in a closet for two years or so
9 with no normal development. And certainly as far as
10 education was concerned, we were behind a few years.

11 So that was very bad, really, and like I
12 said, probably one of the best things I ever did was to
13 come to the United States. And in that respect I was
14 offered opportunities, and certainly the GI bill was a
15 very helpful thing for me.

16 Q: WHAT KIND OF WORK DID YOU DO THERE?

17 A: I studied economics. And while I was still in
18 college, I started working in economic research. It was an
19 educational institute. And from there they just didn't have
20 the money to pay me. My oldest son was born, and I had a
21 tough time making ends meet, so I moved on and worked for
22 Chase Manhattan Bank.

23 And it's very interesting what happened
24 there: The supervisor I worked for, the first day that I
25 met him -- because he had nothing to do with the interview

1 and the hiring -- I walked down the hall with him, and he
2 looked at my resume, and he saw I have a master's degree
3 in economics, and he said to me, "What the hell are you
4 doing here?" He said, "In this bank you are going to
5 die."

6 So I said, "Well, I need another job, and
7 this was available."

8 He said, "Well, you shouldn't stay any longer
9 than six months." And so at that time Chase Manhattan
10 Bank was considering getting computers. I'm talking now
11 about 1960. I think it was 1960, maybe 1959. They were
12 getting computers.

13 They were going to get the computers to do
14 all their work, but it had been recommended to them to get
15 one computer to do the payroll in order to start building
16 a staff that would be familiar with computers.

17 And so it was an I.B.M. computer they had
18 there, and the I.B.M. representative -- it was not the
19 salesman; it was the man who helped them really run the
20 computers themselves -- had become very friendly with the
21 supervisor. And so the supervisor went to him, and he
22 said, "Here's a guy that I.B.M. should be interested in."

23 And so I stayed there for about six months
24 and wanted to leave, and I talked to this fellow from
25 I.B.M., and he talked to his boss. And there was an

1 opening there, but there was a good customer who had a
2 child who needed a job so I didn't get it.

3 So I went to work for Remington Rand. At
4 that time they had the Univac division, which had
5 computers, and I worked there for a few months and got
6 laid off because they weren't really in a position to hire
7 people at the time that they hired me.

8 So I contacted this man from I.B.M. again and
9 said, "Look, now I'm out on the street." And he felt that
10 with my background and the little bit of work I had done
11 at Chase Manhattan Bank I was familiar with was sufficient
12 for him to be able to recommend me. And he got me a job
13 at I.B.M., and that's where I stayed for 27 years and went
14 from one thing to the next.

15 I had two assignments overseas. I went to
16 France in 1974, to Paris, and stayed there three years,
17 and I went back in 1981 and stayed there for five years.
18 So I really can't complain.

19 But for a while it was, of course, a very
20 strange environment for me, the American corporate
21 environment. I had no familiarity with it. First of all,
22 I had no exposure to it. When I came to the United
23 States, I was in the army, and from the army I went to
24 college. I lived in isolation in a way and then came to
25 the American corporation. I had never heard about all the

1 various conventions that were in the corporation itself.

2 So I had to learn, but eventually I met
3 management there who took an interest who realized that
4 there was a way to give me exposure to that. So I became
5 an American.

6 Q: YES, YOU DID.

7 A: Yes.

8 The one thing I wanted to mention that I
9 skipped over a little bit was that when my service period
10 in Germany ended and we went back to the United States, of
11 course we went by boat, and some of the fellows got
12 terribly seasick. And there was one fellow there that I
13 had seen at the base where I had been stationed a number
14 of times, and he was very ill, and I used to bring him the
15 Saltine crackers because he couldn't get out of his bunk.

16 I told him, "You have to get up on deck and
17 get fresh air." And he did, and he got over his
18 seasickness.

19 And I got to talk to him, and he said, "When
20 you get to New York, stay in touch with me." And so I
21 did, and he introduced me to a young fellow he knew, not
22 very well. He was a law student, and he was interested in
23 my background, this law student.

24 As a matter of fact, I was applying then to
25 Columbia University for admission, and I had no idea about

1 college. I didn't know what a credit was, or anything.
2 And he started to explain it to me, and so on, and then I
3 had to write an essay as to why I wanted to study
4 economics, and I didn't even know where to start. And he
5 wrote my admission essay, filled out all my papers.

6 And so I became friends with him, and he
7 introduced me to some of his other friends, and so that
8 built up a bit of a social life for me. One of his other
9 friends also was a law student, and there was one fellow
10 very much involved in journalism and was writing for
11 newspapers. And it was through these three fellows that I
12 met my wife.

13 So I did have some social life. We used to
14 go to the movies. We were students, so we studied hard,
15 and then at two o'clock in the morning we would meet and
16 eat something somewhere. And one of the fellows came from
17 a quite well-to-do family, and we used to go over to his
18 house and watch television, and so on.

19 So that was part of my social life when I was
20 in college. So these were not fellows going to the same
21 school I was, but it was through them that I met my wife.

22 Q: WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON WHAT IF SUCH A THING
23 COULD HAPPEN AGAIN?

24 A: Not only can it happen again, I think it has
25 happened already. I think Cambodia and even in Central

1 America there's murder of people. You know, human life
2 doesn't count. And I think the holocaust has very much
3 contributed to this kind of feeling. For instance, this
4 gun business. Everybody has a gun and shoots when he is
5 upset or doesn't like something. To me, it's all related
6 to the fact that the value of human life has been reduced
7 so enormously.

8 Q: SO YOU FEEL LIKE WE DON'T LEARN FROM HISTORY?

9 A: No. No way. At least I don't see that very
10 much, not even among the survivors. I'm sometimes very
11 disturbed about the ethics and morals.

12 I would have thought that after having
13 experienced such enormous discrimination -- I mean the
14 meaningless discrimination -- that the Jewish community
15 certainly would not participate in any kind of
16 discrimination, or whatever you call it, racism, but it
17 exists. It's just to the point where -- not the whole
18 community, but I feel that no Jew possibly could do this.

19 Well, in 1948, when I came to Israel, I was
20 terribly disturbed about the discrimination in Israel:
21 Discrimination against the Yemenites. We were a group of
22 about 35 Dutch fellows. They made a company out of us,
23 also because of the language. But we had a sergeant who
24 was a Yemenite, a very, very fine person, and some of the
25 Israelis would say, "How can you take commands from him?"

1 They are cowards," and so on. He was a very courageous
2 man, a very brave soldier. So that was very upsetting to
3 me.

4 And also this classification, "Well, you're
5 Polack," or, "you're Yaka," or, "you're Frank," and so
6 on. It was language I had never known, I had never heard
7 of.

8 Q: SO WE'RE LIKE ALL OTHER HUMANS.

9 A: We certainly are. Yes, we certainly are. We
10 have suffered a little more, but I don't think we have learned
11 much more.

12 Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER THOUGHTS THAT COME TO
13 MIND?

14 A: No, not really. I think that I have pretty
15 much expressed all the things I wanted to talk about.

16 The one thing that comes to mind that I feel
17 cannot be said often enough is that the people who really
18 extended themselves saving Jews, especially in Holland
19 which were few and far between, were very unique and very
20 outstanding people. And when you talk about guilt
21 feelings, I certainly am aware every day that I owe my
22 life to these type of people. You see, I call myself a
23 product of the righteous gentile.

24 Q: WELL, YOU HAVE NAMED SOME OF THEM.

25 A: Yes.

1 Q: WELL, THANK YOU AGAIN.

2 A: Thank you.

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