

BAY AREA HOLOCAUST ORAL HISTORY
Interview with Max (Micki) Schwarz
9/1/1998

Interviewers: Lori Rice and Lynn Morris

Camera: Anne Grenn Saldinger

TAPE 1 of 1.

A: TODAY IS THE 1ST OF SEPTEMBER 1998. I'M LORI RICE, INTERVIEWING MAX SCHWARZ FOR THE HOLOCAUST ORAL HISTORY PROJECT, AND WE'RE HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO. ALSO WITH US TODAY IS LYNN MORRIS. HELLO MICKI, I WOULD LIKE TO START BY ASKING YOU WHAT IS YOUR FULL NAME PLEASE?

Q: Max Schwarz - I was born in Berlin - July 2nd 1920, to a wonderful family. Parents, four sisters and my grandmother - we lived together in one house. They were marvelous time, we lived very comfortable, very happy, until time changed. My father came 1905 from Poland to Berlin, alone. He was a [rat?] man. And after this he went into clothing business. A year later he brought my mother from Poland to Berlin - got married to her, and God gave him lucky, five children. I'm the youngest - spoilt, four sisters - of course! A big breast - a big... everybody knew Herman Schwarz. My father was well known in Berlin. He was a good businessman and a good actor. I went complete in his footsteps. I loved to be also in business, like to be also a actor and I loved soccer, till today.

So in that time, when we grew up with the family and... July, no in January 30, 1933 Hitler came to power. And that same year, I was bar-mitzvah. You know, boys, certain years get graduated certain years. And it was a big bar-mitzvah, because if you have one son, it's unbelievable. The whole town, the whole area, came to Micki Schwarz. They called me Micki because I was the shortest in the team, so they called me Micky mouse - "Let's call him Micki." My father also called me Maxie, Max and lovey. My father and me we were not only a good father... we were friends. And he had such a good connection with the children, with my mother, my grandmother - she was eighty-seven years old, she dances at my bar-mitzvah, it was beautiful, unforgettable.

But when Hitler came to power, my father, and many, many people - Jewish people, they say: "Aagh, six months one year this guy is finish. Don't worry

about it." But we were wrong. Some people left the country, but from year to year it was not too bad, in the beginning, but later on, when they start arresting people - people got scared. So I went to a Jewish school. My friends were 90% - always Jewish people; I went in Jewish school, I went in Jewish organization and clubs.

I played soccer and I was a good Zionist and I had one Christian boy, next door to us. We played always soccer in the street. His name was Paul. And I came out one day, I said: "Paul, let's play a little soccer." He came in the uniform, I knew him, twenty-five years, my parents knew him - they next door. He said: "You a dirty Jew, I don't want to play with you." I said: "What?" So I went back to my mother, I said: "Mama," - I was crying. "What's the matter?" "I asked Paul to play soccer and he don't want to play, he said I'm a 'dirty Jew.'" "Oh, come on, this is impossible. Let me go over, let me talk to Lotta." His name was Lotta, a Christian lady - very... My mother came and said: "Lotta, Paul didn't want to play with my son." "And you get out from the house too. I don't want to know you no more. We are finished." I said: "Mama, for twenty-five years..." "I don't even remember you, you no good. You Jewish people ruined our life. Hitler is right, get out from here!" My mother, Rose, she was crying. She told my father, nobody could believe it.

But, like I said, people choose that type of life. My father still - I heard was so successful that he was afraid to give it up and then move to a different country or to Israel, or Palestine at that time.

So finally, one day I said to my father: "You know dad, I will go and prepare for Israel, for Palestine." You call it [hach-sharah?]. The [hach-sharah?] is you go in the farm country - you learn farming, and then, when the time is up, they put you in a certain youth group and they send you to Palestine, in a kibbutz. A kibbutz is a settlement where Jewish kids get together, they work together, live together, and they a community. And I did that. I went for a year and a half - I went to that landscaping, and I came home, and they told me: "Micki in three, four months you get the paper and then you can go, you go to Palestine." And I was happy my father said: "Yes it was this way." But

what happened - it was November the 4th I'm supposed to get the paper. They postponed it and we get it two months later. There was too many kids. In the meantime, they started arresting - they talked about arresting people who were born in Poland, Jewish people, number one.

So one morning - nobody believed in it - one morning, on October 28, 1938, somebody knocks at our door, knocking. My father jumped out of bed: "Who is it?" "Open the god-damned door! This the Gestapo." My father - "What, what!?" He opened the door, two - six foot here, with the gun. "Herman Schwarz?" - my father's name. "Max Schwarz, ten minutes. Dress up, you can take ten mark with you." My mother fainted. And I said: "My mother. They said: "Leave the mother alone, you get ready - ten minutes!" Screaming in the house - so I wanted to get dressed up. So I found a little glass of water, so I push it on my face, up on my mother. But then she got up again. I said: "Mum, get up, get up, don't worry, we'll be back, we'll be back." We went out from the house and I lived in a neighborhood, it was more or less mixed, lot of Jewish, Christian, Catholic, Protestant. But they all got along very nicely, all the years - until the Nazi time started.

And every five blocks they put this people together - the Polish people. And it came out, my house was the one - we came downstairs, maybe already a hundred people standing there. I knew everybody. All the kids from school. And they arrested only at that time - fathers and sons. No women. I came down and I wanna talk, he said: "No talking, no talking, no talking." We had to stand in line, the father and son - I hold my father and I said: "Papa, papa," I was crying. "SShh, relax, relax. Wait, we'll be back." My father never gave up.

We came to a big, big police room, maybe we were a thousand people from the whole neighborhood in that district in Berlin, Polish people. And we waited until eleven o'clock and stage come the captain from the Nazi's and throughout: "All fathers - left, all sons - right." I said: "No, papa I not going." He said, he pulled me back, "Over here." I was standing the line and we wait another two hours. Like the windows is right here in the office, you can see - trucks come in - empty trucks, big trucks.

And they put this men on the trucks, pushed up. There were room like maybe for thirty people - they put in fifty. It was standing like sardines. And we all the young kids, but we looked and then, and I was calling, I saw my father: "Papa, papa, papa, papa." He waved me, he waved, he waved. The cart was going, going. This was the last time I saw him till today. Never saw him again. It was tough.

And then, our younger kids, they put them in another train - they sent them to Poland. I don't know what place. In the afternoon, four o'clock, they took all the young kids between twelve and eighteen, put another car, took us to the train station. Send us also to Poland. But we came to the border, on the Polish border - for some reason, we there seven hours waiting, they send us back to Berlin, only kids. The old men in Poland, in a jail - in a jail in Berlin, in police department. There was a room, I'd say about thirty and thirty feet. Room for sixty, they put in a hundred and twenty, also little benches, we were sitting there. One week, two weeks, every morning out - they called the number out - we cleaned everything. And I said "This is the last minute, looks like here - that's it..

And one morning I don't know what happened. They called out my name: "Max Schwarz!" I thought: "Oh, oh, that's it - they gonna kill me." You called out, and they took me upstairs, to the upstairs office, it was four floors, and I came to the room - he signed the paper. 'Nothing happened to you, you had a good life, we treat everybody equal and you had a wonderful time with us, the Nazi's wonderful party, Hitler is the Fuhrer, what the fuhrer is, the leader. He is the best man - you sign that and you a Jew - you said you are agreed that, you signed that.' What should I do? I said: "Should I say 'no.'" I said: "Of course." I signed it. And they called my name, and they went with two Nazi's to the main gate and they told me: "We give you four weeks, if we catch you again, you never going home again." Until today, I don't know why they called my name. Nobody knows that. I wrote letters to the Red Cross, to Switzerland. I wrote letters to Brussels, that's all organizations - nobody could find out why they called Max Schwarz. Maybe, I said, maybe God was with me. So I came out there from the police station, out on the street, and I walked about - maybe, it's forty blocks - normally nothing - in Berlin is the second biggest

city. I walked like from here to downtown, to my house. And I came to the house like where - my mother: "Maxie, where you come from?" Crying. I said: "I don't know, they let me out from jail. They gave me four weeks. Where's papa?" "Papa is not here."

All my brother-in-laws, my sisters were all married, everyone was arrested. Only one was German, he - German born, he was arrested later. But my brother-in-law, they were all arrested.

So then I said to my mother - my father was very known as a good person, he helped people and he had one good friend, he was not Jewish, but he stuck to him all his life. He was crying when he heard my father was arrested. He was not a Nazi - I mean, there was some people who were not Nazi's - some, smaller, but they were against it. But if they know they against it, they gonna shoot them. So I went to this man and he was a guy - he had people smuggled over the border from Germany to Holland, Belgium, Paris. So I went to him and I said: "Listen," Mr. [Kei?] was his name, "You know me." "Oh, Maxie, Maxie what happened?" "I have a favor to you - I have to escape from Berlin. I have no way. What can I do? Can you help me?" He said: "The only way - maybe to Holland. I give you all the information. But don't tell nobody - they gonna kill me." I said: "No." And he wrote me exactly down where to go, where to stop. I tell you exactly how it happened. And he hugged me and kissed me, and I left.

Later on, I came home. I told my mother - my mother couldn't say: "Don't go." And she hugged me again and I decided - I have another friend - I show you the picture later - we two friends in Berlin. He hid that night when the Polish were arrested - he was sleeping by a friend, it just so happened. They didn't get him. So when I came, he said: "Oh, Micki - I go with you. I trust you." He loves me. So went home, we studied everything and we decided on December the 8th 1938, eight o'clock the morning. Said to my mother: "Mama, goodbye. I try my best. I hope I'm gonna make it."

So we went out, my friend and me, we bought a swastika, a brown shirt, went to that train station he told us to go - which station, they called it [Haterbaunhof?] in Berlin. We came to the station

- there were maybe a thousand young people, they went working to on the borderline between Holland and Germany, to dig the bunkers, you know, with the shovels. And I said to my friend: "You know what? There are a lot of shovels, take a shovel too." We took the shovels over the shoulder - we went to the station there. They said: "Ticket?" "The borderline, two tickets." He said: "Where is your.. where is your paper." "Oh, my paper, I must have left it - I had the paper." "Okay, give him the ticket." He gave me the ticket, my friend ticket with the shovel. We went - it was funny. And we stand there - we had to wait for the train. The train is supposed to come 9:17 - that time. We waited for a half, forty-five minutes.

All of a sudden, we standing there and there was a 'Heil Hitler.' I said: "Heil Hitler, heil Hitler, heil Hitler." My luck was - I been a good actor.

So a woman come to me - a lady, she said: "You the son from Mr. Schwarz?" I said: "Go away from me, I want nothing to... please don't say nothing, please." "Please, do me a favor. You see these eleven children here, between six and fourteen." I said: "So what do I do?" "When you go on the train, they go on the train too. If you can hide them on the train somewhere - do it." And she left. And I was sitting there - I said to my friend: "Maurice," his name was Maurice. He said: "Alright. Let them come in. We do whatever we can do." The train came and the man told us which to take: "Take the last train, because last train - the time will come when you have to jump out." I said: "Okay, we take the last train." It was full of people, and there was like we sitting here, with Lori and Lyn and Anne on one bench. There was - the corner was open, there was no more room. And there all these kids. I told the kids; "Sit on the floor." And we are sitting there and then the train start going. Eight hours to Holland.

Before Holland came there's a bridge and a river underneath. That's before the city of Nimwegen - that's the first city, Nimwegen - English, and in Holland 'Neimwingel'. The train stops. And under the bridge is water, so nobody can escape. And we hear from the very back, on a loudspeaker: "Passport out - or ID cards! Passport out!" We had nothing. And I said to my friend: "Maurice, you know what, if they get us here and they catch us we are

finished. Our life is out." He said: "I know that. What can we do?" I said: "It came in my head - you know what I do. I gonna play stupid, dumb, the idiot, and that I know nothing." He said: "Micki, hah! You can do it." I said: "You do nothing. You just look at me like... like... like... ???? Let me see what happen." And the two Nazi's came inside towards us with a gun: "Passport? Id? Id card?" and everything. I said: "Ooh, ???? My mother is ??? ???? - incoherent and inaudible." "What!" "I don't know where ????" So he leaned over to me - that Nazi - leaned over to me and says, in German: "Good luck." He knew it! Can you imagine? This is unbelievable, you know, and my friend he hold my hands. And then he turned around and see all these little kids on the floor. He looked the kids - he looked at me, nod the head, like they belong to us too, and let us sit there. Between all the thousands of Nazi's... there was two times I was lucky - they let me out from jail - I don't know why. They let me sit in that train, and I played the dummy, the stupid, not normal - he said: "Good luck." He means this guy is pretty good - let him sit there. He left, and my friend, Maurice: "Micki, I don't know what to say." The train kept going.

Now comes the thing. About, let me say, about five, six stations before you come to the main city from Holland - that's the borderline where the people worked. They all got out with the shovels. And I had to go with the kids. I told the kids: "All come with us - come! Let's go." And the last train is the janitor. And I went to the janitor, and I said to him, in German: "Please, open the door, open the door - the door is stuck." "Can't open the door." "Please open the door. I have little children. I have to go out." "Okay, I open the door." [gestures with hands - thankful] I kissed him. And he opened the door and when the train stopped, I said: "Out! Everybody out." And we jumped out and there is about three feet down on that side. We had exactly the plan what he gave us - and every time we passed, we ??? we went out from the train, and the train turned around the border - goes back. We go - and that area where the opening was like a [arick?] three, four feet, we had to walk maybe, like a football field.

When you come up the end, you in Holland border. And there at that station, in Nimwegen. He told me: "You have to be there " Now here we are. He said:

"On that station when you come there, somebody gonna be there, he gonna ask, 'Are you refugees, refugees, refugees?'" And I told him, we see this guy there, a guy with a nice beard, and two other guys, and I called him: "Refugees, refugees." A rabbi! His name is Rabbi Solomon. Never forget him. And the priest, and the priest and two people who helped the people coming into the borderline. Sometime you lucky, sometime... we were lucky, it was ice-cold, snow and wintertime. And they said to us: "Listen, don't say nothing both ???? all the time." He went to all the stations - every control. We with him. We were dirty, the spit and sweating. The kids were crying. He took some kids, one this arm, this arm. And we walk, walk to right the stations, and under the rabbi said to me: "Just follow me. Don't talk, don't talk, don't talk." We came out from the station in Nimwegen, in that city - big bus standing there - we are in that bus. Everything was organized.

This Christian guy that helped me - I found out later, two years later, they found out and they killed him. He got killed. He helped in Berlin, nine thousand people. A goy - he was against the Nazi's and somebody told the police, there - and he got killed. But anyway, we came in that city, in Nimwegen, in the middle of the night, and they took us to the Jewish agency, that the Jewish Center. And there were maybe a hundred kids in there. And they come in and I was one of the oldest - eighteen years old. My friend also, nineteen years old. And they gave us a speech. "Listen, you all in this country here, but you are not legal. It's not easy. Well, we gonna put you in different houses. We try to make papers for you if possible."

So they put me and my friend, Maurice and me in a fantastic house, high class Jewish people. I ??? They came in there - they spoiled us, they hugged, they kissed us. Jewish people arrived from Hitler and they stayed there for two days. They say; "You don't go on the street," you lived there and you eat and drink. You eat and drink. And I couldn't get a message to my mother. I was afraid if I send a message for my mother, and they see Holland, then she is in trouble.

So one day, the Rabbi call up and tell us: "We pick you up tomorrow. You come out to the Jewish agency. We have to talk to you " We came over there " I

have papers for you. But there's a problem - the papers only till fourteen years old, not till eighteen." So what you gonna do? I said: "Rabbi, you know what, I'm a good actor. I can play fourteen years old. I can do it." He give me the paper, he sent us to a children's home to Den Haag in the capital of Holland. We came to the station. This was from the Catholic and the Jewish people. All the nuns with the big hats. We came in there and all that - little kids and me and my friend, we feel like little children. ???? So I'm bit developed child - so what? Come in.

She says: "What's your name?" "My name is Micki." "Hello Micki." Oui vay. And there is sixty kids in one bedroom, is nice and clean. She said: "Everybody shower." Oui vay, a shower. I can't take a shower here. So I met one nurse there. I went over to that nurse. I said: "Listen, I tell you a little story what happened. Can you help? I can't take a shower with the little kids. I can't do this." She understood, she said: "Go to my office." I went to the office, I came to that nurse. She was very nice to me and the only thing to take a shower, she had to come out, give me the dress, dress up with a dress so I can go in there - it was a women department you know. I dress up and went ???? take the shower and come back with a dress. Three weeks I did that. Mondays and I get to call to Berlin. I want to call this German guy. This German was still alive. And they said that I cannot go out, if they catch me be killed.

So I get all dressed up again, like a nice lady, hat, lipstick, high heels. I walked there - I walked to the telephone. I called this guy, I said: "Otto, Otto, here is Max Schwarz." "Max you okay?" "Okay." Hung up. Then he told my mother. My mother found out that I was safe there. So this was in that home.

And then another four weeks, the rabbi called again. He stayed to help me. He loved me - and my friend too. "I have new papers for you. I arrange it. You can stay long, eighteen years and older. But you go to different refugee camp, to Rotterdam." I thought - okay, I don't care. So we came to Rotterdam. And the first week in Rotterdam there were Jewish immigrants, Christian, Catholics, all different. Everybody was starting to arrive. And I met about

eleven people who got their paper from that Christian guy who helped me. That's amazing.

On one night, we had a paper - it was like a Jewish bulletin, came out there. And I read on the note there - looking for talents, actors, auditions in Amsterdam, the date so-and-so and Tuesday morning between 10 and 12. I said to my friend: "You know what, I want to go to this." I have no money to go up there. So I went to the nurses there, everybody give me a gulden. A gulden is like a half a dollar at that time. Everybody helped me. I took the train and went to Amsterdam. I had to stay overnight and I didn't know where to stay, there were five - it's interesting - I went to Holland about two years ago. Five houses away from Anne Frank.

I saw a young couple going in there, arm in... "Excuse me, can I stay one night?" "What you... ????" I said: "I'm a refugee from Germany and I have to be here tomorrow morning at a certain place. Please, let me stay one night. I don't..." "Listen, we a young couple, just got married today, and with our honeymoon." I say: "I not gonna bother you. I sleep in the corner." He said: "Okay, take him in." They took a blanket, put a blanket in between the room, and I was in the corner sleeping there - then he woke up and said: "Ah, what the hell, come we make honeymoon tomorrow. Let's talk to Micki Schwarz." So, I told him the story there till seven o'clock in the morning - no-one was sleeping. She hugged and kissed me. And I went to this place in Amsterdam. You ever been to Amsterdam? In [Reidmann Plein?] there was a big office - talent show, acting ??? - so I came in there, maybe hundred people. They all different actors. Some actors, some want to be actor. And everybody get between ten and fifteen minutes to interview - audition. And they called my name, and I went in there too. And they were in there, and after ten minutes he said: "Give me another five minutes." Fifteen... "Another two minutes." It was seventeen minutes. I was singing, I was dancing, I tell jokes. I make a imitation. I said: "Can you..." I look at the guy and I imitate him. He was laughing. He said: "You pretty good." So what happened? He said: "I let you know next week, or we let you know tonight." So I tell them: "I'll wait." I went out in the waiting room, it's eight o'clock the evening - he comes out, quiet. "We pick out fifteen names." Fifteen names

they call this name in A-B-C. This name Bordmann, Brukmann, Rosenstein, Rosenberg - "And one more - Max Schwarz." Oh boy! I was thinking.

He said to me: "You have to be here next week Thursday. You get a room with other talent show people, and we start rehearsing. We travel all over Holland - every camp, synagogues, organization and entertaining, and make money to help Jewish organization to help people who go to Israel and people who have nothing to live - to smuggle people over from Germany to Holland, and so forth." I went to the group and we start rehearsing and all my life, my father was talented. I wanted to be an actor. Two things - acting and soccer playing, and girls of course! So then I started playing in the group. We became a very good group - we entertained and we had a wonderful time. We had not much money but food, had a room to sleep, and one evening, one scene - it was excellent.

He likes it and the manager came over to me and said: "Micki, I want you to be M.C. tomorrow," he said. I said: "Me? No, that's too much." "You be the M.C." I said "Okay, I try my best." Thousand people in the room, sitting there and big - that big orchestra everything and we prepared the evening for two and a half hours. I started the evening - boy, I tell you sometime I have to invite you and give you a nice evening. So, as the evening was over and afterward, I went back to my dressing room and my manager came out and said: "Micki, a gentleman wants to talk to you." So, I thought okay. He came with me in the back, ja. "My name is Hechd, Mr. Hechd, H-E-C-H-D. I am from New York. I'm connected with the opera in New York and talent scouts. I liked your performance. Would you like to come to American and act in ????" "Of course I'd like to go." All my friends - America, America, America. So I meet him next day - we make the contract and he said it takes about three to four months, maybe five, to get the paper organized - paid the trip, paid everything completely. And in the meantime, I keep playing in that group.

But, one day, we heard that Germany - the Nazi's start occupying Czechoslovakia, Austria, they came closer and closer - and Holland was already close by. So I was thinking - what should I do? Should I go to America, should I go to Palestine? They organized a illegal trip - you know the illegal ship

- a Greek ship, they rent a Greek ship from Jewish organization and our talent group - the money we make, we help that group to make that trip from five hundred people. Thirty-five dollars a person we had to have. And I helped them too, I didn't want to go; I want to go to America and be an actor. And I was Zionist, but they said: "Such a chance, how can I miss it? It would be crazy not to - to give it up." So I decided I will go to America.

In the last week, when I heard Belgium happened something. And Denmark happened something. And all different countries - they were uplift the night - I went over to the organizer from that group of the ship, he is from the underground from Israel. Haganah - you know the haganah is the underground in Israel who did a lot of things before the war started. With Ben Gurion's time and with the English, we come, we get to that later. And I said: "You know what," - [Heid?] was his name - "I decided I go on the trip too. I go if there is still room." "Micki, for you we have a room, five hundred people." I call up my manager - I said: "I go to Palestine. I have a feeling... I..." "Micki, I understand, we gonna miss you."

We went on that Saturday night from Amsterdam, on the harbor out with five hundred people. Pregnant women, children, all of them too - this is a ship, a freighter, not a regular ship. A cruise that you go to the Caribbean - it's just a ship, you get a little sleeping berth, sleep on the bench or somewhere, cooking alone, all kinds of thing. And I went on that boat, and from there, I told you once we were on the boat, I got - I entertained the people, I do everything. And the boat went - the ship went out, maybe five hundred feet, the first bomb came to that city where we escaped. Says: "My gosh, thank ????" Can you imagine what is that - unbelievable. It's three times in my life, I was lucky, made always the right decision. I missed it, I missed it - I wanted to be an actor. I want to be this and that. And want to play soccer and I was on the ship. And Holland was occupied, when we was on the way to Palestine. Seven weeks on the water - because certain cities you cannot go - you went out and in, out and in.

And when we came finally, one night, in Palestine - there was Herz-en-leer is a little town near Tel-Aviv. We came into this and we came to the

[Herzenleer?] ?? and we see English police with the gun. "No, nobody can go out of this ship. Back." I said: "We go back, we go back to Germany, they gonna kill us." "That is the law. This the rule - nobody illegal can come." Palestine, at that time, was still under English Empire, and they was still in charge of Palestine. So from that corner to Turkey. We come to Turkey, they say you can stay three days here, but then you have to leave, back to Palestine. That happened two times. The third time we came back, the Jewish underground - the haganah, who organized the ship in Holland, in Palestine, they came that night to the harbor with a big truck, with guns, kidnapped the English police - maybe eleven, put them in one room, locked them outside. "We get the people down from that ship." And five hundred people who walked out from the ship, get out the water to here [indicates up to the chin] they carried children, pregnant women, and I only got the one suit and we walked in the water - out, on the harbor, and we came out on the beach, and they was organized. They took every two kids, two people - seven hours that night from the first city to the [Herzenleer?] to Ranahnah - I lived later on in that town. And any - we knock on the door, they knew already, open the door, take one, take one, take one person, one person. Five hundred people, well organized. The haganah did a lot - I joined the group later on. And this, and a few days later, next day - I went to Tel Aviv.

I had one aunt that was in Tel Aviv. She had a little grocery store - a little grocer store. And I went there, and I came into the store. And I said: "Tante," in German. Aunt is tante. "You remember me?" "Maxie, what are you doing here?" Hugged me, kissed me and that. I can tell the story now, I can sit there for six months. "I'm here." She said: "Wonderful - stay here." I walked out on the street, I was a week in Tel Aviv. I walked in Allenby Street, this was the main street there. All of a sudden somebody knocked on my shoulder; I turned around, English police. "ID. Card?" They knew there's a ship came down illegal. I said: "I have no card, I have nothing. I'm a refugee from Germany, from the Nazi's - I escaped." That's the law - you are illegal in this country. In that time, under the English government, only fifteen hundred people could legally come to Israel, to Palestine. They got this special paper, that was fifteen hundred. But if they get some in Palestine

they take off from that fifteen hundred people - and you lose one who want to come legal in. So what did they do with me? They put me in jail. They put me in jail, in Palestine in jail, in Jafta. I was sent for ten - first I came to the court. The judge, English judge: "Do you have a lawyer?" "A lawyer? I don't have a part to... you know - a lawyer. I'm a refugee." "Thirty days in jail, or thirty pounds punishment." So I get in jail. I still figured - my gosh, we come from Germany, through all these country and they put me in jail in Palestine. After ten days, my aunt and somebody else put the money together and paid the rest of the money - twenty pounds. They let me out. I was free.

Then I lived in Tel Aviv. Then in Tel Aviv I got - it was not a easy life. I loved it, but the first thing - right away, I joined the haganah too, the underground. I figure out this group helps people in foreign countries ??? - I know how it is. I got helped. Now I gotta help.

And one day, before they started I played in one team, soccer. It was a manager from Berlin - I knew him. And he knew me, he said: "You play in our team." The team was Hakua Tel Aviv. Ha kua is the get goer - and I played there, two games only. And one manager from another town, the neighbors around Ranahnah saw me play and came after the game and said to me: "What's your name?" I said: "Micki Schwarz." "Come play with our team." In that time, it was not professional, like here - America. But you get a good job, you get an apartment, and pretty good. So he said: "We promise you this and..." And so I decided - he arranged the papers. I transferred over to that team in [Rananah?]. And the first team - I had the first game and I had a goal, and 'Micki, Micki,' - they all wanted Micki. So I feel like [Willie?] Mace. And the first game the ??? - players running in. I said to the manager, a lot of ??? in the audience, I said to the manager: "Who's that little cute girl up there?" He said: "No girls, you go play soccer." There's a cute girl. I looked, I looked again. After the game, I said: "I like to meet that girl." And we won that game, and after the game, he came: "Here, Micki is the girl." "What's your name?" "It is Dita." "It's Dita, oh, it's Micki."

Dita, before I tell you the story, we went out for five years this girl and she is my wonderful wife

In March, we gonna be fifty-four years married. Through soccer, through acting meet a girl like this. She had nothing; I had nothing - but happy. Money is nothing, when you find the right person. I found a wonderful person. Tough times, good times, she stuck to me in the war and everything.

Then, after that, in 1947, the war broke out and all the haganah people, before it started already, were in the army. My number was twenty thousand four hundred. I remember that number - I was between the first twenty thousand soldiers in Israel. And the Israel declared - Israel by Ben Gurion, 1947, the state of Israel. And I tell you the country was dancing when they decided there's a Israel state, dancing one week on the street. People jumping for joy. And England left Palestine. And the Arabs start the war. If, in that time, the Arab and the United Nations decided - half is Israel, this is Arab. If they would declare, okay we leave that way, then there would be peace today. There'd be no problem because Israel is a peace-loving country. We love to live the Arabs together, wonderful. But then they started the war, and Israel had to fight back. Of course, and I belonged - I came in the army, and I used to belong to the tenth division, it's not a easy division. And in the first three months, in the army, a good friend of mine, was right next to me, when you sit in the bunker underneath, and you look up to check everything. Everything is okay - they gave twenty-four hours to clean up the field for wounded people, people who got killed. And he looked up from twelve, till twelve next day. He looked up and get the bullet right here [indicated forehead] in his head and for in my arm. I said: "Heinz," in Hebrew, "Heinz," and he was bleeding, and they took away to the ??? - he was dead. And his wife was a very good friend of my wife. And she was in the pregnant - eight months. And they told my wife, for the army, they give - you go ahead and give her the message. It was not easy. So she went there and knocked on the door, and said: "Zilla, Zilla," and she cried, and then she run away. Then she knew - the husband was gone. And this way, I tell you I lost a lot of good friends. I was lucky. I run between the bullets, nothing hit me. One time my finger got hurt. But a little luck I lost when we go to Israel.

My wife and me we went the last ten years, five times. Every two years, and you visit the graves. And you go there - I was wandering through the

cemetery; four or five hours. Twenty-one, twenty-three years, twenty-five, twenty-seven. And you know the parents, and you know the parents, mostly my age - and you know through the parents - these kids are dead. So this is not a easy life to be in, you know. But Israel is a wonderful country. I love it there, and beautiful and I cannot say nothing against Israel. I only hope and pray someday, there will be peace. And we only think that killing each other is no solution.

But I tell you one thing. If Israel would become - if Israel is a state like America, democracy - and our best friend for Israel is America. And many people asking me - played soccer in Israel, and I was in a small group also - a Jewish [tiera?], in Jewish, in Hebrew, in English. I speak also languages pretty good. And I entertained there three times a week, it was not much money and at day time I worked as a carpenter - that's how I became a contractor in ?? with my son.

And by the end, I met - when I met Dita, she said she has family in America. And they told her: "Whatever's left - let's be together." She lost her family too. My wife came - she was fifteen years old from Vienna to Palestine - all alone. Unbelievable. And I met her, and I gave her that much credit - a girl alone in the world. There were eight children in the family. She lost, also, her older sister and sister and brother-in-law and babies and everything. And then I show you here one picture, in my family - look at this [holds up photo] this is here forty people. Forty people, there only four left. Everybody else, concentration, Auschwitz, Treblinka, Bergen Belsen, killed, hung, shot, burnt. [Points to photo] I'm here with my father - my mother. I love her - never forget it - never! Look here - [takes out another photo] my niece and nephew, six years old, four years old, put in the oven. Her father, mother, also all wiped out. My mother, Rose, I was told from somebody I met - was hung, the army, because she said: "I want to die." They said: "We make it easy for you - we hang you." And my sister in the gas chamber.

[Takes out another photo] This was better time. Here I played soccer in Israel. This friend, next to me, he lost his - complete full thirty-one people everyone got killed. Only he was alive. He

was in Berlin, my best friend. He was arrested the same day, like me, in the Polish action. And I thought he is dead, for sure. I didn't know. And he was excellent soccer player too. So he then came to Palestine at that time, and played also for a team that I used to play. And I met him on the football field. And then we kept - I couldn't believe it, he's alive! We were crying for three days. It's unbelievable.

[Photo] This my father. A marvelous man. He helped people, charity - never took a penny. Did all the best. Raised a fantastic family. And I loved him. He's unforgettable, so good.

[Photo] This is in the team I played, in the end before I left Israel. [Another photo] And here, when I went on vacation with the army with my wife, Dita, we are in uniform. And then we got married in Israel in Rananah, and all my friends, including me and my wife, we organized the wedding all alone - hundred and fifty people, with doughnuts and cookies and tea. And we called a rabbi and put under the hoopah. Look [photo] ????. See that on the hoopah, my wife with a veil, and the rabbi - and funny on that night, we had not much money, but we had a honeymoon. We stayed one night somewhere together. So there were some English police - they were good friends with us. They stopped the bus, they arranged for the bus, they drove us to Tel Aviv. Fifty people in the bus - everybody was singing: "Mazeltov, mazeltov, mazeltov."

So then it came in my acting time, like [Tebiah?] this was me. [Tebiah?] - Micki Schwarz. [Holds up photos] It's me. And this was when I was M.C. [holds up another photo]

And here, a sad story, something sad that happened. In Holland I met a lot of refugees, when I lived there. And all the refugees, they would organize a club - maybe a hundred and fifty of them. And four of them organize it - me, my friend who escaped and another guy. And they all lived in Holland, all those people. Now this about sixty-nine people. [holds up photo] I found out after the war, they all got killed. Only me, my friend, he escaped, and this man here. All of them, all of them. All those people. And one more interesting story, from the eleven children we saved to Holland - there's one boy you see here. Jacob. He became a lawyer. And

one girl she lives in Australia. She sent me every year to the Jewish holiday - a card. Sent me. And the other kids, they call them in Holland 'kindern'. So from the six million people, as you know, a million and half were children. This kids we helped into Holland, they didn't make it out there.

And I tell you one thing, that I'm sitting here in front of you after sixty years - I'm now - I'm seventy-eight years old, seventy-eight years young, sitting here, with Lori and Lynn and Anne. I thank you so much to give me the opportunity to tell my story. It's unforgettable. Whatever happen, can not be - don't forget or don't forgive, but I'm happy. I love Israel and I love America. God bless Israel and God bless America. America was good to me. I love it here. I met wonderful people and made wonderful friends. But one thing, I have a heart split up between Israel and America.

And God, my family is wonderful. I have a wonderful wife, and two beautiful children. Interesting - I was born in Germany, my wife in Austria, my daughter in Israel, my son in America. Four ?? in my family. Live together like ??? Two marvelous grandchildren. My granddaughter just graduated from Davis. She's terrific. Lori - I love you and you Lori too. And ??? wonderful children - I cannot complain. We had tough time, rough time. But somehow, sitting here, after all these years, I made it. The only thing is, I never forget my family. My parents - mama, papa [looks upward to heaven] never forget you - never. You like to know more?

Q: I THINK WE'RE GONNA HAVE SOME QUESTIONS. I THINK WE'RE GONNA HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS FOR YOU. ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT? TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS FOR US?

A: Yeah, sure.

Q: OKAY.

A: This is actually only a part - what I told you here, this is maybe a drop in the bucket. But it - I picked out what is very important. I hoped that many people will listen to it eventually, and should see what a person can do sometime. When you in trouble - you get strong, you get stronger. When

somebody would tell me today, I would have said: "I never did that." But you did it.

Q: WELL, MICKI, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. OKAY AND I THINK LORI IS GOING TO HAVE SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT...?

A: About what?

Q: ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

A: Yeah.

Q: COULD YOU TELL US - TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT YOUR - HOW MANY SISTERS DID YOU HAVE?

A: Four.

Q: FOUR SISTERS, AND YOU ARE THE YOUNGEST?

A: I am the youngest.

Q: OKAY, WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP WITH YOUR SISTERS, DID YOU CELEBRATE JEWISH HOLIDAYS? WERE YOU VERY RELIGIOUS?

A: I was raised in a strict orthodox home - very strict orthodox. One thing I forgot to mention, this is very important to say - I was very, very strict orthodox, believe in God. When I arrived in Palestine, before Israel started, I went to a rabbi - the rabbi's name was Levi. He make me bar-mitzvah. Yeah, he was in Israel. He made it out. I went to his office, and the secretary opened the door: "Who are you?" I said: "I want to talk to the rabbi." "Do you have an appointment?" I said: "I need no appointment. I want to talk to that rabbi." She said: "Okay, okay, take it easy." She went in and said: "There's a young man like to talk to you." "What's his name?" "His name is Max Schwarz." "What? Bring him in." The rabbi hugged me. "How you made it here?" Everybody ask me that - how you make it. You cannot tell in five minutes. I said: "I'm here. But the reason I'm here - I want to tell you something, rabbi." He knew my parents, knew my family. My father is orthodox - killed. My mother - killed; grandmother - killed, mother-in-law, children - killed. Look at all my uncles, aunts - everybody killed. And I was angry with God - where is God? You know where God is? I don't even know my own God no more. When this happened - if God

listens... The rabbi gave me the answer. "I understand what you are saying, you go home though - come back in six months or a year - we talk again." I said: "Okay," I left. So during the year time, of course, then it came back to me again - the belief, there is still a God, everything has a reason - my people dying. If you a strong believer in God - and more and more and more it got into me again and I became again a believer in God. And I went back to him and told him. He said: "I expected the answer." I still believe in God. But you know, my mother when she ?? to Berlin, she was a woman, strictly family. My father, ??? family, had a lot of friends and people and like me - ??? people, left and right helping, doing things, everything. You need information, entertainment: "I'm coming," - everything. And that's the way it goes.

Q: MICKI, WHAT WERE YOUR SISTER'S NAMES?

A: What?

Q: WHAT DO YOU... WHAT WERE YOUR SISTER'S NAMES?

A: My sister's names - my oldest sister, Sarah. Sarah, and my second sister - she is still here. She is in ?? in New York. She saved her life - interesting. She was in Belgium. That's an interesting story. And she met a Christian family, Belgium was also occupied. And these people say: "We gonna save your life." They had a daughter. They put their daughter in the Catholic church, the church took the daughter. But my sister and the husband - they were the Jewish family. They built in the room a little wall, with a little hole, like for a dog to feed in, the food - lived there for fourteen months behind that little wall and they fed them through that hole. Fourteen months, till the war was over. And, she was pregnant sometime and this child was born was not normal, under the circumstances. But this Christian family saved my sister and brother-in-law's life. By the way, my brother-in-law died just three months ago, ninety years old.

END OF PART 1 OF 2

START OF PART 2 OF 2

Then, my other sister, Ellie, she lived also - escaped to Columbia, Bogota. Her husband escaped dressed up as a Nazi over the border during the war

And came to Bogota, and made it there. Then, by the end - we took them to America, still there. And from the time she left Germany, and Bogota, she became a sickness from all the drafts and excitement and she couldn't turn her head no more, the head like this. [demonstrates head to the side] Till today, her head is like this. She had four, five operations - helped her nothing. And the doctor told them: "This is from all the excitement, from nervousness - some nerve knock and never came back again." And she lives in New York.

My other sister is in Haifa - she also shipped like me. We came illegal. And she was in Germany during the war - 1942, during the war, a Jewish old lady gave her a big coat and took her under the coat, old lady, and walked with her over the border to Paris. And in Paris, they organized a ship and put her on the ship. This same people took me to Holland.. this haganah people, met her. He said: "What's your name?" "Rosa Schwarz." "Schwarz? Do you maybe have a brother Max Schwarz?" "My brother!" "I helped him come to Palestine." Can you imagine this! And she lives ??? her husband is very sick - also went through a lot in Germany. He was in the same camp with my father, but he made it out. And my brother-in-law and the other boys - they all got killed from the Polish action.

Q: WERE YOU - YOU SAID THAT - I WANT TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT AFTER HITLER CAME TO POWER. WHAT OTHER THINGS DID YOU OBSERVE? WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN BERLIN AFTER HITLER CAME TO POWER? YOU WERE THIRTEEN YEARS OLD - RIGHT? WHAT DID YOU NOTICE THAT WAS HAPPENING?

A: I noticed a lot sure, anyway. Just - I went to a Jewish school, all the time. But people who were in a non-Jewish school, they had to leave the school. They couldn't be no more - no more Jewish student allowed in school, no more college, no more universities, everything was cut off for Jewish people - completely. But what I did, then when fifteen years old, when I turned fifteen, I helped my father in business. Then I work in a Jewish agency. A Jewish agency is a Palestine office - people who go to Palestine - official, like Israel Consul. I worked in this office, till I got - till they getting ready for Palestine, the hachsharah to get... I left this place.

And people, when my father went out from the temple - I remember that was 1936, ja, - went out from the temple... There were sitting, young Christian kids, the Nazi kids, 'jeugvolk' they call it. And they spit on the people came out from the synagogue.

And one day I had friends, we were together - I was sixteen. We talked about... we went ice-skating. And we met, and some people met a group there - they always hit the Jewish people. A little, a small group. And they caught that group in nighttime, I was in it, and I went to that room - I never forget this - and threw the lights out of the people and hurt them and run away. And we never got caught. And then, one day, the rabbi told the people that if you have a chance to leave Germany - but we couldn't leave no more - everything was closed up. Where you gonna go? There was no way out, no more. So like I said, all my uncles, aunts and everybody - everybody was too late. You couldn't do it no more. They got arrested one after the other, one after the other, concentration camp. Everybody got killed. And it was tough life. But you see, some people were smart, and when it was time to leave - they left. The others thought - ooh, it's not gonna be so bad. It was bad. It got worse and worse.

I was invited here, about four, five years ago - they organized, I went one year in Israel and we had a group of German, Berlin - people from Berlin. That one class, four hundred people. There are eighteen left from the four hundred. And we organized - we wrote a letter to the German government, to Berlin - we like to organize a group, a reunion from that class, to Berlin. It was a fellow, he worked at the German Embassy from Berlin. And he said: "Let's work on it." And we went there and we passed through - they gave us eight days. All the students, from all over the world, whoever can find. "We give you hotel, eight days and with entertainment, you go to opera, this and that." And we there, and we went there in 1986. And we came there, and that night there was the ambassador from Berlin. From four hundred students, eighteen left. And that night, they gave us a speech. They told us - we are glad that you are here, and now this not gonna bring your family back, but we try the best whatever we can do. Now here's the thing. People ask me - how you feel about it? I went to Israel, er, I went to Germany twice with my wife, and in Vienna. Now when you see an old man walking there

at my age, and then you knew this man was in the time when Hitler was in power - there are still some Nazi left elements. It's not completely gone. There's some left of those people. And you cannot forget it. But today, Israel and Germany have a good political connection. You know, it's important. But, America, still is the best friend, and the most reliable friend, to Israel.

Q: IN ADDITION TO THE CLOSING OF THE SCHOOLS, AND JEWS NOT BEING ALLOWED TO GO TO UNIVERSITY, WERE THERE OTHER THINGS THAT WERE HAPPENING TO THE JEWS IN BERLIN, OR IN BERLIN THAT YOU CAN RECALL, RIGHT AFTER HITLER CAME TO POWER?

A: After Hitler? Ja, well, they organized Jewish school, like a small university for Jewish people only. But only with restrictions, you know. You just cannot do what you want to do. Everything was under law. Like, a park - let's say go in game park. There were benches says - not for Jews allowed to sit at this bench. Was especially benches for Jews to sit. Everything was special. Restaurants - no Jews allowed. And then, sometime in the beginning, when you had a store, any store, let's say your name is Lori, you have to put your name "Lori Sarah" - the main name is Sarah for women - for men, the middle name was Moses. You've heard already? Or like when it happened on the November, the 10th of November, the Crystal Night is well-known. Then in Berlin and all over Germany, they knocked out all the stores. They broke the windows, the synagogue was burning, they took the torah - rolling over the street and put fire on the torah. And Berlin was burning.

And Goebels, who was the secretary of state from Hitler, he said: "It's not the government, the people, they want to have it that way. They want to get rid of these god-damned Jews - they ruined our country. They has to be burnt out, completely. Let's forget them and let's a new country..." and that the Jewish people have to be out, not only Germany, there be a special, special country - Germany all over the world. Of course, later on, we all know what happened when America went into the war, and in the time when I was in the army, we had volunteers it could be - I don't know if I officially allowed to say - American people came to Israel, to volunteer to be in the Jewish army.

One of my... my corporal was a American boy. I became a sergeant in the army. And I talked to him, and we talked, we went out for coffee, here and there, and I asked him a question: "You live in America," he's from Cleveland, "How come you do that?" He said: "You know, I think you deserve to be helped. You're good people. And I like to be a part of it, that I can say, I was in this war." And I asked: "Nice Jewish family?" "I'm not Jewish." I said: "Here is something." "I'm idealist, I love it." And a cousin was the same thing.

And we had English policemen - they lived in Israel. When they left, they didn't want to leave. They fall in love with Jewish girls, and got married to Jewish girls, till today. I was raised in my house, in Berlin, to make... I was, say Jewish, but to make no difference Jewish or Christian or Catholic or this and that. We all can live together nicely, like America, black or white or brown. If you are human being, you are human being. You live together, and have a good time, life together. This is the way I feel, till today. I never, never forget that - my father always tell me: "You not better than somebody else. You are good as yourself." And he was right. He was a smart man.

Q: I WANT TO ASK YOU A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT WHEN YOU GOT TO PALESTINE. THE ENGLISH WERE... NOW YOU WERE ABLE TO GET OFF THE BOAT WHEN YOU GOT THERE, BECAUSE THE ENGLISH WERE LOCKED UP FOR JUST THAT ONE NIGHT?

A: Ja, when we get off - when we arrived there illegal?

Q: YES. COULD YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED?

A: No, they locked them up in a room. And when we went out...

Q: AND SO YOU WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE?

A: Ja, sure. We escaped then, like I said before, a week later they caught me in the street in Tel Aviv. And they asked for id. Card. They checked on these people - they knew there's a boat came in, with five hundred people. And they tried to catch them.

Q: SO WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL OF THOSE OTHER PEOPLE? THEY...

A: Oh, later on, everything was organized, because, later on, the English government changed anyway, under Churchill. Everything was different though. And then there was open immigration to Palestine, but you still... when Israel is established - Israel is a state till today. Every Jew who comes to Israel need no affidavit, no special paper. You come, arrive to Israel and you come out - your mother is Israeli citizen. That's for sure. And today in Israel you have a lot of non-Jewish people too. I have a very good friend - he's been there for twenty-five years. He brings German groups from Germany and changed to Christian, to Israel. Israeli students go to Germany, or Holland - exchange. It's fantastic, the idea, you know. And they are so good, and there's a very close friend of mine. And last year I was there, very close.

This man, he was my manager for the soccer team too. And he told me that this German people - the younger generation, who came to Israel, they came over three, four times already, and some people stay there. The Israeli's is not... people nowadays, it's not just a Jewish country, but it's open for the public, you know. No restriction, and the people are marvelous and it's unbelievable.

Q: DID YOU HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION?

Q: WELL, I WAS CURIOUS TO UNDERSTAND HOW YOU COMMUNICATED WHEN YOU FIRST LEFT?

A: How what?

Q: I KNOW IT WAS DIFFICULT, YOU COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR MOTHER WHEN YOU FIRST LEFT, TO TELL HER THAT YOU WERE OKAY. HOW DID YOU FINALLY END UP COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR SISTERS AND...?

A: After I lost everything?

Q: HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WHEN YOU FIRST LEFT HOME?

A: Ah, when I came to Israel? Communicate, in language - or what?

Q: DID YOU WRITE LETTERS TO THEM? WERE YOU ABLE TO...

A: Letters. I wrote letters all over the world. You know when I show you that picture before when all

those kids got killed there - from... ???? I wrote letters here to Switzerland, to Holland, to Belgium, to now, Australia and through those letters, during the year time, I found all, everyone who is killed. Some I don't know till today. But some - the majority I know. And the majority went up in Auschwitz, in Bergen-Belsen and Treblinka. They had - they got killed, you see. And it was, this is... and from the Israeli base who were killed during the war - we lost, in Israel, fifteen thousand soldiers. And then you know the parents - then you come to visit them - we come in the house, we were very good friends and then we go over together and visit my friend's son in the cemetery. This is tough. This is tough, you know.

But there comes a time like I mentioned before - you cannot forget what happened. It's tough in you. But there comes a time, you have to take life the way it is. Nothing you can do about it. And I'm lucky for one thing, I've come along on the world and I may repeat - I have a wonderful wife, two wonderful children, two grandchildren. By myself, I made the family all by myself. Nobody helped me. I never asked a penny from nobody. And thanks God, I've been successful but like you say - after every successful man you have the successful wife. Right - alone you cannot do it. So, and I have to repeat again - to meet you people here is fantastic. You know, like I met Lori and Lynn, the first time, first six weeks ago, in my house. Never met these people in my life. Fifteen minutes, they went out, I said to my wife: "Dita, you know, I like these ladies. They are terrific." She said: "Oh, you like everybody." I said: "No, they are special. If somebody from me tells things, volunteer, gives his time and all that effort to do something, there must something good. Nobody forced him to do it. Nobody get paid for that. You do it because you want to do it." And I, all my life, I always try - I have wonderful friends. Time is no good. I've had enough time in my life. Like I - again and again, like I'm sitting here, and tell you the story. I was so many times like - I'm just lucky. Lucky - but I always tried again. Never give up. Never! I'm here with you, and I love you - all of you.

Q: I WANNA ASK YOU - I WANNA ASK YOU ANOTHER QUESTION. WHEN YOU WERE ARRESTED AND...

A. In Germany?

Q: YEAH, IN GERMANY. AND YOU WERE BROUGHT, YOU SAID, TO A BIG JAIL...

A: Yeah, the jail, in a jail.

Q: AND SO EVERY DAY YOU JUST SAT IN THE JAIL? IS THAT...

A: For six weeks.

Q: FOR SIX WEEKS YOU JUST SAT IN JAIL?

A: Everyday we went out, and then we had to clean the yard there or something like that. But from that year, little by little, they sent the people to camps, different camps. And that I remember, I told in the beginning, one day they called my name and let me out.

Q: DID THEY EVER TELL YOU - DID ANYBODY EVER TELL YOU WHY YOU WERE ARRESTED? WHEN THEY CAME TO GET YOU, WHY DID THEY TELL YOU...

A: They arrested us, all the Polish immigrants who came from Poland to Germany, they never can become a German citizen. That was the rule, all over. All the Polish people they want to get out - the Polish Jews. They were number one, the Polish Jews out. But sometimes, and some Polish Jews they became German, not many. But what I was a little bit disappointed, I knew people in my neighborhood, when I came in the... that day I was arrested, in the truck, sitting - into the jailhouse. I saw a guy and I said to him, his name was Auguste - German name. I said: "I didn't know you were Jewish." There were sometime Jewish people - they didn't tell you they are Jewish. You see, this time is over, you know I'm not afraid to say I'm a Jew.

Some people won't say they Jewish, even in normal time, some - you know Lori we have people here, they happen to be in San Francisco. I have to say that. I'm in the business contracting on houses and measurement, estimate - and I came to one of the houses here in the city, a few years back, I won't mention no name, nothing. And I told this man: "You ever been to Israel?" "No." "Want to see Israel state?" "No." "Know about the holocaust?" "Listen," he said to me, like this: "I don't care for Israel, but the holocaust, I don't know, it's... and I'm American. That's it." "But you're Jewish?"

"Second." There's some - there's some people like that. I was disappointed to hear this, you know. I think - I'm proud I'm a Jew. But somebody can say: "I'm proud I'm black. I'm brown." It doesn't matter. But the time is over that you are afraid. There was in Germany - oh, you gonna hit me, you gonna hit me because I'm Jewish. Oh, better not... this time is over. Never again this happen. Never again. And I hope it will happen never again. Can you... to kill six million people. Not only six million. I think many more millions got killed too, in Russia, the Christian people. We saw it with these families too. But you ??? of the Jewish people first. And today being a Jew is no more a secret. Israel is the state of Israel. You a Jew, you can live everywhere. In America, it's the same way, you live in Israel - in a free country. I feel wonderful here. I have no problem. That's what I like.

Q: HOW DID... WHEN YOU WERE ARRESTED, HOW DID THE NAZI'S KNOW WHO WAS POLISH?

A: They know. Everybody - Polish immigrant, to come to Germany, you have to go to a police station and get a working permit. Then they ask you whether you come from Poland, where you living. Refugee... Mick Schwarz - but the interesting thing is I was born in Berlin. But I called Polish. If you have parents who are Polish, then the children are Polish too. It's ridiculous. All my sisters, everybody, was born in Berlin. My father came from Poland, and the whole family is Polish. This was the German law. In America, when you're a Mexican and they come here... the child is born here, the child is American. So people come from the China to America, the child is born here, he is American citizen. Isn't it?

Q: UH-HUH. I'VE GOT ANOTHER QUESTION ABOUT THE CHILDREN THAT WERE ON THE TRAIN WITH YOU.

A: Two are alive, the others are dead.

Q: YOU HAD SAID THAT SOMEONE CAME UP TO YOU AND SAID: "TAKE CARE OF MY CHILDREN." WHERE DID THE KIDS COME FROM?

A: I tell you. This woman - many did it - they did it many times. There was no more way to go out from Germany. And people had children. And this is heartbreaking and the mothers and sisters and

uncles and aunties live together and you have a child, a child here, whatever. "Let's take the kids to the station somewhere, put them in the train - kids, maybe they let them go." It's just what happened. They had many times they did it. Lot of kids got killed. But this woman, she came to me and said: "You the son of..." - she recognized me. So I said: "Go away." I was scared ?? "Go away from me." And I said - only I can tell you. She left crying. "This is my niece, my nephew" - this and this. Then: "Please if you can help them, do me a favor, do the best you can." We did, we had to. We helped them. I remember a little boy, a six-year-old, I carried him under the arm, and we were running to the border. It wasn't easy, you know.

And then, Holland, to the Jewish refugees was excellent. Holland and Denmark were number one. They helped quite a bit. You know what, in Denmark, they even... the king wear a yellow star. In Holland, the queen in Holland was fantastic to the Jewish people. And then they lost her, and my sister thought Belgium was okay too. But Holland they were excellent to me. If a normal life - you ever been to Holland, yeah? Did you see Anne Frank's building there? It's amazing, you know. When you go there, and she was also a very wonderful girl, this girl ???? And when they killed her, it was in the paper. In Germany we got the paper from the German underground - 'Finally we got the last Frankl too.' Last Frank too, that's what it said. So it's not... it was hard.

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED WITH THE CHILDREN, ONCE THEY GOT TO HOLLAND?

A: They got in a children's home. Homes for children - under supervision. Very nice. And they kept them there, they hoped that eventually then they also bring them... if there will be no war, they would maybe stay in Holland. But when the war broke out, they organized trips for those kids to Australia, New Zealand, Palestine. The Holland - the government of Holland helped them a lot, ja. But these kids, they couldn't make it no more. There were maybe - Holland had about twenty-seven thousand refugees came in there, you know. I was one of the... maybe ten thousand. And like I said, that one boy from Australia, he is alive. He have good business. And he writes me every year. ???? 'cause the

others, they make it - I never forget you. I love you.

Q: TAKE A BREAK.

Q: A LITTLE BIT - TO TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. YOU HAD MENTIONED THAT YOU WERE CLOSE TO SOME CHRISTIAN CHILDREN AND THEN IT SEEMED LIKE ALMOST OVERNIGHT THAT THEY STARTED CALLING YOU NAMES. AND YOU MENTIONED THAT EVEN THE PARENTS OF THE CHILDREN WOULDN'T LET THEM PLAY WITH YOU. WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS HAPPENING? WHAT - WHY DO YOU THINK THAT, THAT ATTITUDE CHANGED?

A: I tell you. When Hitler came to power - first of all in that time in Germany, there were a lot of people out of work. There were no jobs, and a lot of homeless. It was a tough time. And you know, when you have a tough time, you said: "Oh, if I come to power, and you get this and you get that." And you promise a thousand things. And this was a working ??? family. The father was a - what do you call it - sheet metal man. He worked on the job and did nothing special. Okay my father was in clothing business, was pretty well off. And he made just a living. So then when Hitler came to power, he gave his first speech in Berlin, there was every store who has a loudspeaker or a radio... everything else stopped, the whole city had to listen to this speech. Hitler was somebody. And this people was sitting next door there, the say: "You know, he is right." And then by the end he said: "And the Jewish people take all your jobs away - all their business. They take your money, they're nothing." So then to people - people didn't have much education. These people haven't gone to school and went to work. Jewish people too - like ??? "Oh my son's gonna be a doctor." And it's well known that Jewish people are people of the book. And I might ??????sister went to college, university. My father always used to say: "Without education, you are a dead duck." He always said that. Now these people next door, like you mentioned now, they hear a speech like this, then they must have said: "You see, I know that - the Schwarz's - look at them." Look at us. So then they said: "No more, I want nothing with them." Then you dead to the neighbor, another neighbor. All the Christian. Then all of a sudden they put out the flag - the Nazi flag with the swastika and on the house written in graffiti

- Jewish people, out. In German - Juden aus. In Germany - out. That mean Jewish people - out. And these people next door, whom I played with them always he played. Nice guy - when he started the Hitler Youth ??? younger generation, they started for ten years. Dressed up, uniform, the ??? and they got knife in the corner. So they came out the second day with uniform. He came with it: "Get away from me, you hurt my leader and my fuhrer." That he said "Remember ????" he say. Like on the street. When you go on the street, they all ??? the people in my street. "Jews out! Jews out! Jews out!" And then this catched up, kids like that, join more kids and kids start running around in the city against the Jewish people. And then the older generation - the old ones, ??? in ??? Look I came to American here, and I worked as a cabinetmaker in a shop, in San Francisco. And my wife, we have a little baby, my daughter, Elana, was born in Israel - two years old. And I had to make a living - cabinetmaker, I make very good money. I went to the union, somebody at the union, they help you and I passed the test. ??? came to the test, like into ??? my English was good, but not perfect. And from that ??? I passed it. I was in between, I was a newcomer. I made it. So then, I worked in a shop for fourteen years. And after five years, my wife, every Friday, when I came home, make the check, ten dollars in the bank. Every Friday. After five years, I got ?? dollar, we bought a house in Sunset, the down payment, that time was nine thousand, I bought a house - and with my last penny that I got when ?? got sick ??? I was a traveler, lucky, I was in good shape. So they guy next to me, next to my bench, tell me: "Hey Micki, tell me, how is it possible? I was born here, my parents are born here, and you ??? how can you build a house?" So, I told him: "Listen James," he's a nice guy, you know. I said: "I tell you what, on Friday I go home. My wife gets ready and the grocery store, and I can pay the bill. You go to the bar, by the time you go home - half the check is gone. So you can do the same like me." And till today, I know very well, I met him again, ????? Later on he said: "We started to late. But, you were right - thanks to you now we have a house too." So... you have to be a little bit ambitious in life. And not I'm proud of it. I'm not better than somebody else. Anybody can do it, if you want to.

Q: DID YOU GET A SENSE AT THAT TIME THAT MOST OF THE CHRISTIANS IN GERMANY HAD TURNED AGAINST THE JEWS

OR DID YOU FIND SOME PEOPLE THAT WERE SYMPATHETIC?
WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THAT?

A: Ja, I got very good experience. My father was in the business that clothing and rag business. We had a horse and buggy - big horse-drawn buggy. And the driver of the buggy was a Christian. His name, also, was Hermann Kramer. He loved my father, but only ?? my father. He treated him not like working people, but like human being. And this guy and two others who worked for my father, they cried tears when they heard my father was arrested. This man was absolutely fantastic. And that man - remember I told you how I escaped to give me which way to go, which train to take, he was a friend of this fellow who gave me the information how to get that train. And on the last day that I left, December the 8th 1938, I knew the night before that I gonna go. So I went - that driver used to be our driver, because he got the report from the Nazi party to stop working for Mr. Schwarz, right away. He couldn't work for us no more - out.

So I went to his place, on the night, in the evening and said: "Mr. Kramer I'm leaving tomorrow. Will you hug me, and wish me good luck?" And the told me: "I know already," he told me and gave me all the information.

When they caught this man, who gave me the information, that's what I was told later on from another fellow - that he told the people from this man who worked for my father, and arrested him too. They took away seven people from him - a Christian. So there was a lot of Christians too, that get locked up. A small percentage, but you have some people. Look, there was cases in Berlin, I know for sure, that the son told the party: "My father is against you." Their own son - that happened, for sure. And they arrested the father. This was family. They came so brutal that they was so occupied that Hitler, Hitler makes me big, makes me great. The uniform, and the uniform: "Heil Hitler." Do you know that anybody makes you think you somebody. They were nothing, you know. And the people in general, that was so over-bent from this party, that they said: "This is the man who make our life change for the good, forever. Because nothing communist - nothing, democratic. They all bunch of liars, and when the Jewish people are out, then... ????" Some people - I know a Jewish guy who was

during the war, hidden. All the war, with all the bombs in Berlin. He was hidden with a German family. He did made it. When the war was over, he was ???? and I was in the youth??? but he was up ???? I found out after the war, he is still in Berlin. When the war was over - three weeks later, he died. He died, because he was sick for all years. But he was hidden for all the years. He was hidden for twelve years, with a non-Jewish family - there's some, you know. Like I said, like this man who told me how to escape, so there was some - I would say for Germany, of the one hundred percent you would pick up ?? eighty percent political Nazi's. Nazi's and they hate the Jews.

Q: I HAVE A QUESTION. DO YOU REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE MAN WHO HELPED YOU ESCAPE AND HELPED MANY OTHERS ESCAPE?

A: Schondork. Mr. Schondork, and our driver from the family - Kramer - Herman, Herman Kramer. He used to say: "I'm a lucky guy, I got the same name as your father." My father's name was Herman. Herman Schwarz. And like I said, when I played soccer in the under nine league, and when I was ten years old, I was the shortest in the team. And then I got the nickname - the man said we call you Micky Mouse. And they calling me Micki - all my life they calling me Micki, Micki, Micki. When I come to New York, my sister say for me - Maxi.

Q: MICKI, WHEN YOUR FATHER WAS ARRESTED..

A: We together.

Q: RIGHT - WHO RAN YOUR FATHER'S BUSINESS, HIS CLOTHING BUSINESS, THE FAMILY'S BUSINESS?

A: They left my one sister and my mother.

Q: OKAY.

A: But that was no more good - the reason was there was something happen. The business, there was still a lot of people who owed my father money. They did n't pay the bill, and there was a certain material, you know. And about sixty, seventy percent, they were not Jewish. We did a lot of business with non-Jewish people. ???? But then, there was some people - my sister went over there and said: "Listen, the business is finish now but I wanna get the money

that my father..." Some people paid, other people said: "I'm very happy about that. Your father is not here no more. The Jewish people are finished no more, you don't need no money anymore. Get out of my house." There were thousands of marks, lot of money worth.

And then my mother had on the end, other problems, you know. In the bank was her money. When you came in there you had to get proof to get the money out - and you had to get signature. The thing has to be from a German person, not from a Polish person, you know. Your money!! And then they took off so much percentage - you get only so much, because you're Jewish. Everything was being Jewish. So it was - by the end, my poor mother was alone with my sister and the other sister was away to Belgium - illegal, 1942, like I told you, my brother-in-law, with another guy - a Christian. Nazi uniform, they at the border, "Heil Hitler." "Heil Hitler." And made it through. And my - he told my sister that he get a special certificate, on her name, under a false name, and she went through the war, and she came over Paris to Belgium. And this Christian family took her in that room, and built that wall. She was fourteen months.

But after the war - I forgot to tell you that - my niece, in Belgium, they put her in a church, Catholic Church. And Catholic is a very strong religion. After the war was over, my sister went over to the church, with my brother-in-law and said: "I'm here to pick my daughter up." They told her: "I'm sorry, your daughter is our daughter. Your daughter is Catholic. She is our religion, we saved her life. She's converted to our religion, you never get ???? daughter."

So, my sister said: "What can we do?" She went home, and nothing to do about it. It was a big church is Basel. All surrounded with security - you cannot get in there without... the nuns and everything. So they went to a lawyer - the lawyer starts on them ??? - nobody could do nothing. This niece, she is in New York now, and every year they have a celebration about it. So one day, they organize from a Jewish club, Jewish people, women, dressed up as nuns, came in there and make a big... it was Christmas. And they said: "We come from another church, we come from Paris. We like to join the Christmas party." And they came there and all the

people...???? She informed my niece, she to make a little red mark so they know who she is, and everybody was together, and praying, praying. And everything was ??? and she see this girl there, and she went over little by little, and pulled her aside, and put her the same uniform like those nuns, and ?????? And every year, in New York, they have a celebration for this girl. She lives in Flushing.

Here in San Francisco, what I did once, here. In a church here on 10th street, ??? church, I forgot the name of the church. A customer of mine sent me over there and they said: "Micki, they have some repairs ??? in the church." So I went there I came to the church, and I said: "My name is Mr. Schwarz." And she said: "I'm Sister Sullivan." ???? and this and that, and then she said: "By the way, you have a German accent." I said: "Ja, ??????" "?????????" "But, you from the holocaust?" "Yeah, I am from the holocaust. I'm a survivor." I said: "Would you like to tell us something." She said: "Not now, maybe come in one day and give us a little report." So, she said: "When can you come?" I said: "My calendar, I come maybe, next Tuesday." ???? you people. So I came there that Tuesday, about four, six, seven years ago. I came there ???? "Mr. Schwarz, I've asked all the ??????" "Aah, please come in. But let's go, not in the chapel, in the other place, in the bigger church." I came to the big church - five hundred nuns sitting there. What? "You go on top right there, right where Jesus Christ is." I said: "Well, I'm a Jewish man." I took my star, kissed my star ??? and I said: "???? On top." And I didn't tell the stories, obviously, that I told here. But I picked out some parts that would be good for the church to show that the religion, Catholics, was very helpful certain places for Jewish people - they stayed. And I talked there for an hour and a half. I was ???? and then we finished: "Can we ask some questions?" And I said: "Oh, boy." ??? and I was finished, and I came down, they ?????? and I left. And two years later, I got a check, a hundred and fifty dollars. So I must ???? a hundred dollar - I took the money and sent it back - thank you very much, I donate that money back to the church. And till today, my son has the business now - but some repair, they call B. Schwarz, my son. Isn't that interesting story? But this is really something. This is unbelievable.

Q: I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION -WITH ALL THE TURMOIL, ONCE THE NAZI'S CAME TO POWER, DID YOU, DID YOU PERCEIVE THERE WAS SOME PROBLEM - DID YOU EVER HAVE A PLAN? DID YOU EVER SAY: "IF WE GET SEPARATED, THIS IS WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO?"

A: Yes, we had.

Q: TELL US, TELL US ABOUT THAT. WHAT WAS YOUR PLAN?

A: The plan was this - one day, all my sisters, with their husbands was there in Berlin. And the brother-in-laws, all my brother-in-laws, they were so close to my father they called him 'Pappie' too - they loved him, even the grandsons. So my father said to us in 1937, the year before I escaped, ??? our place - our apartment was always meeting point for the whole family. And we were singing together and dancing together and my father said: "Let's all come together. Let's talk things over." ??? looks bad. In case something goes wrong, so everybody should say ????? everybody said that I would do this too. My father said this way. "From now on, every two weeks, we telephone, call up - 'I'm okay, and here and there.' If you suggest to go to a certain country," my sister mentioned Belgium, one mentioned Denmark, "let's try to do it together." ??? and order tickets if possible. We ordered once tickets, and the ticket was a lie. We had once ticket to go to Paris, from a German guy. We paid him and we came to the station and the ticket was no good. It was like a ??? print. Eight thousand mark.

So then they came out my father told the children: "Listen kids we don't know what will happen, we don't know what will happen. But one thing - try to stay together as much as possible." So my sister and brother-in-law and the children, they came everyday, the last year, to our house. Always together - my mother said: "If we get arrested, let's be arrested together. No matter what." But it didn't come that way. Before we tried to do it, we were arrested first and everything fell apart. ?? that you ask me that question. We had a plan, but it turned when they arrested my father and me. Turned out - it's all finished, you could do no more, nothing. And the only thing that my sister... from my brother-in-law, my second sister, he told us one night that mother-in-law is very sick. She is dying. And she went to the hospital with her

mother, in ??? hospital. And man came to her and said: "You know what - I give you papers." A Jewish guy - " You go to Paris, to Brussel with the paper," and ??/ "Why you give me the papers?" Because his wife died already, he alone don't want to escape. "Here I give you my tickets." A strange man, Jewish guy, gave to my sister. And they took the ticket, they went to Paris. You heard of this - this is unbelievable, you know. They said: "You give me the ticket - why?" He said: "My wife died. I don't want to be alone anymore. I gonna stay here and die. Please, I ??to help you." So she went with my brother-in-law and the little girl, they went illegal to Brussel, and there the Brussel family helped her.

Look, excuse me, when you asked the question... a thousand different things happened, you know. You cannot... it's impossible to pinpoint it - everything you think, you know. When I get home tonight, maybe I think: 'Oh, I forgot to tell her this and this,' you know. 'I forgot... oh, I forgot...' You know, like till today, till today, Dita and me, when we were always followed by the Nazi's and... In Austria, after one year, they did in one year so much, like they did in Germany in seven years, you know. They and till today, sometime, in nighttime, I wake up; I think somebody is with me in the head, with a gun behind me. You never forget this, because you always... "Oh, maybe they catch me today. Maybe they get me... maybe get me." You always that feeling, you know. You never get rid of this. So, you want to ask me a question.

Q: WELL, I'M REALLY VERY THANKFUL FOR HOW YOU WERE HELPED TO ESCAPE AND THE PEOPLE THAT HELPED YOU AND THAT YOU WENT TO WORK WITH THE HAGANAH. WHEN YOU WENT TO WORK WITH THE UNDERGROUND TO HELP, COULD YOU TALK MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU DID ACTUALLY TO... WHEN YOU JOINED?

A: Ja. I tell you - when you join in Israel in that time, the haganah, you be sworn in, because before we had the Israel state, everything was done illegal, of course, you know. All the shifts... there was afternoon, after hours shifts name waas [Dorah?]. After hour shift, the shift was exodus. You know the story - Exodus - this was unbelievable. Then was one shift ???? till dawn. And their own people, their own people was supposed to be target for the right wing put a bomb in their own ship

Half the people got killed, but half got saved, in Israel. You heard about it? And when I was in the Haganah - you right, they asked me always: "How did it happen in Holland, how this?" Because the Haganah was informed what was going on in Germany, and all over the country, and all over the Europe to try to help. This people ??? - these Haganah people, they risked their lives. They came to Holland, like they took our ship - they could get killed. They got killed, and when I said... when I come to Israel, I joined there too. I went before the war broke out in Israel, one year before already, I lived in a town, Rananahs. Today a big city. Every sixth night, once night a week - I went on patrol. Everybody has to go, with a gun, near ??? place. Every sixth night I went there, the evening eight o'clock till seven the morning. Once a week.

And my wife, she also was in ??? eight. Then people got helped - this and that. And one day, I got something, a little, not much, brought a little bit - somebody take my post - my wife: "Dita, what are you doing here?" She said: "I volunteered, this week is my turn." And so many thing... all my friends was in the army, and - but you see, it's when you have good friends and you lose them... you know this is so hard. And you ??? keep on finding... I was two and a half years in the army, and became a sergeant. And every year you had to go to resort. A regular soldier two weeks, but when you have rank - you take four weeks. ??? Many people ask me: "Why you going to America?" I mentioned before... I told them: "I had fantastic time - I love it, I got friends, I enjoyed it, we got ??? and we had nice parties, coffee houses - Tel Aviv is like little Paris, but after many years, when you live on the tough time, it goes a little bit on your nerves too. And there comes a time and you say: "My gosh, like a little rest. Like a little easier life." How about, maybe America is not such a bad idea. So we came here now, and then the first year was very hard - homesick to Israel - terrible. It took me two, three years to get used to the lifestyle in America. But now, I'm happy I'm here. And I'm happy when I visit Israel - I love to visit there, I enjoy it, but I love to come back here too. And I have to say, and I want to say again that the reason that ??? God bless America. America is THE country - you cannot beat it. I love it. I'm happy. And I meet people like you two, how can I be wrong?

Q: MICKI, WE'RE REALLY INTERESTED IN KNOWING - YOU KNOW, YOU'VE TOLD A VERY AMAZING STORY - IS THIS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER SAT DOWN AND REALLY TOLD THE WHOLE STORY?

A: It's the second time, but not like this. The first time I did it, my granddaughter, like I said to you, ??? they have a Holo class, a Holocaust class in Vegas. Interesting that holo class, most of them, non-Jewish kids in that class. They interested and my grand daughter especial. My grand children special ??? I tell them everything, all they years... they know exactly... And in this class there was a girl - she was in charge - everybody as a group, they to bring in stories. So my grand... "Opie, ?? can you give a tape, documentary for the class." And she love to do it - everybody has to bring something. I want her to get it - who brings the best, gets a prize. So she said: "Opie, you can get the prize. I know you can do it." So she came to my house, two years ago, I can show you the tape sometime, ??? the tape... and she came, Christian girl - and she come in - into my house, and my wife Dita, my ??? had "Come in," we make dinner, make a nice evening. We talked and she made me feel comfortable, and then I said: "Listen, you in my house. You feel like my own daughter here. I give you nice evening, not only story about holocaust, but in that one day - listen to me." We talk together, and she loved to hear the stories, and: "Oh I can hardly wait to hear you... all evening." And jokes, and she was laughing her head off, everything. And she said: "You know, I volunteered in the holocaust class, 'cause I ??? and they had eleven children." So ??/ story. "And I hope I be successful." I said: "I try my best." She went ??? and we went downstairs. She was sitting down and she opened up the tape, and I was talking there, not as much as here, but when it was finished, all she could say - she hugged me. I ??? and she sit ??? ten minutes, crying. I couldn't stop it. I couldn't stop her. "Colleen, what's the matter?" She said: "You know, we are one year in this class. We are teachers and everything. And then again, so close to me ??? tonight." ??? make you cry. She - I feel bad. And she won the prize. And I have that tape. But I was looking forward to have it on the camera. Nobody offered me that, you know - never. And I never pushed nobody. I don't believe - we are together we are friends in the years later ??? no

more. Just you cannot repeat this because it's ??? you know. So ??? and this and that... Sometime we say - oh, ??? This is today - Dita said to me: "You tell today a story, sixty years back." And ??? sixty years lifetime. So this is unbelievable. And I ??? seventy-eight, but here in my heart I feel like I start all over again.

And it means so much to me, that I have the chance and the ??? the kids, especially the high school kids. They should, especially high school, the high school is a very important age. But I used to teach Sunday School, ??? kids. ??? teacher, ??? never gotten, never. People say: "Oh, not again, the holocaust." It's not again, it should be repeated again and again, not to forget. And I get chances, especially to kids, comes sometimes, ??? and says, "You from the... a survivor." And sometimes - my son did very nicely - he ????? can tell you a little about it, Christian kids. And ??? San Francisco. I won't mention their name, and for the parents that don't believe it really happened, but the children now tell their parents. "I heard it from Mr. Schwarz." You see, you know there some people that said it never happened. You know that? Nobody - ??? but some people say: "Ooh, but it's not like this." But when you see it, it is so fascinating, that still, ??? seventeen million people, six, eleven million people left. That much, that's amazing. That is a little - it is a drop in the bucket, that is the few Jewish people. In American we are six million Jews, and two hundred and sixty-five million live in America. That this ??? they try to do their best, and we get together with the others. I run my business - I have a lot of Christian customers. I'm their friend - excellent. They love me, I love them, we are together - it comes Christmas, I send them gifts, everything. But they give gifts too, for Hanukkah. Do you know, and when I have customers, I invite them to Hanukkah, and they invite me to Christmas. There is nothing wrong with that, you know, but we live in a country where you get together with different religion, we good friends. This makes a big, big difference, you know. ???

Q: THANK YOU. THANK YOU SO MUCH. DON'T YOU HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION?

A: There is one thing I like to say, is this - I repeat one more time ?? sit here together for a ??? or so

The September 1st 1998, is a day I never, I never forget. ????? was together with you . Mention to you my story, part of the story. Let's stay friends, and when you have a chance, get together. It would be marvelous. I thank you.

Q: OH THANK YOU - THANK YOU
[interviewers all clapped]