

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:26,770

2
00:00:26,770 --> 00:00:29,040
[INAUDIBLE] putting
the tapes in.

3
00:00:29,040 --> 00:00:30,420
[LAUGHS]

4
00:00:30,420 --> 00:00:31,282
OK.

5
00:00:31,282 --> 00:00:34,210
All right.

6
00:00:34,210 --> 00:00:37,990
At the beginning of
the Pacific War, when

7
00:00:37,990 --> 00:00:40,420
you had floods of
refugees coming in

8
00:00:40,420 --> 00:00:45,352
and stuff, what was
the mood like in Kobe?

9
00:00:45,352 --> 00:00:47,560
I mean, you already told me
that people didn't really

10
00:00:47,560 --> 00:00:50,100
want to go to Shanghai, but
they had no other option.

11
00:00:50,100 --> 00:00:52,750

12
00:00:52,750 --> 00:00:56,550
Were people panicked or--

13
00:00:56,550 --> 00:00:58,840
I don't think there
was any panic.

14
00:00:58,840 --> 00:01:00,430
We told them--

15
00:01:00,430 --> 00:01:04,209
I'm sorry, start over with "at
the beginning of the Pacific

16
00:01:04,209 --> 00:01:08,440
War" or-- you need
to place the time.

17
00:01:08,440 --> 00:01:13,750
I think it was in August of 1941
when the Japanese military was

18
00:01:13,750 --> 00:01:17,020
advancing in Indochina
and in other places.

19
00:01:17,020 --> 00:01:19,570
The military took
over the jurisdiction

20
00:01:19,570 --> 00:01:21,880
over the life in Japan.

21
00:01:21,880 --> 00:01:23,410
No more the police.

22
00:01:23,410 --> 00:01:25,960
It was the military
that took over.

23
00:01:25,960 --> 00:01:29,350
And they came to us and they
told us that-- the refugees.

24

00:01:29,350 --> 00:01:32,440
And all the residents that had
permanent visas like ourselves

25
00:01:32,440 --> 00:01:35,230
were those that had transit
visas for a few days

26
00:01:35,230 --> 00:01:37,990
only had to leave for Shanghai.

27
00:01:37,990 --> 00:01:38,960
And they gave us--

28
00:01:38,960 --> 00:01:40,660
I think it was 30 days.

29
00:01:40,660 --> 00:01:44,740
Of course, we had about 2,500,
3,000 people in those days.

30
00:01:44,740 --> 00:01:47,650
And we organized, we--

31
00:01:47,650 --> 00:01:50,110
the Joint Distribution
Committee sent the money

32
00:01:50,110 --> 00:01:52,615
to buy the tickets for
them to go to Shanghai.

33
00:01:52,615 --> 00:01:56,640

34
00:01:56,640 --> 00:01:57,820
I spoke to some of them.

35
00:01:57,820 --> 00:02:00,570
They were very,
very nervous, upset.

36

00:02:00,570 --> 00:02:03,150
They knew there were
about 20,000 refugees

37
00:02:03,150 --> 00:02:04,830
already in Shanghai.

38
00:02:04,830 --> 00:02:08,520
They knew that the climate
was not as good as in Japan.

39
00:02:08,520 --> 00:02:12,630
They didn't know where they
will be put, how they will live,

40
00:02:12,630 --> 00:02:14,190
what's going to happen to them.

41
00:02:14,190 --> 00:02:18,600
We told them, all we can
do is we send telegrams

42
00:02:18,600 --> 00:02:21,480
to the Jewish
organizations in Shanghai

43
00:02:21,480 --> 00:02:23,850
to get organized to
take care of you,

44
00:02:23,850 --> 00:02:26,940
just like we are trying
to take over here.

45
00:02:26,940 --> 00:02:29,130
The representatives of
the Joint Distribution

46
00:02:29,130 --> 00:02:31,570
and other American
Jewish organizations

47
00:02:31,570 --> 00:02:34,080

were already there in Shanghai.

48

00:02:34,080 --> 00:02:37,930

They were taking care over--

49

00:02:37,930 --> 00:02:41,280

looking after the German
and the Austrian Jews.

50

00:02:41,280 --> 00:02:45,330

Also, there was a very
strong, financially powerful

51

00:02:45,330 --> 00:02:50,310

Sephardic organization
in Shanghai, the Jews

52

00:02:50,310 --> 00:02:52,680

from Iraq, Syria, Egypt.

53

00:02:52,680 --> 00:02:54,690

And they got organized
to help the people

54

00:02:54,690 --> 00:02:56,950

in any way they could.

55

00:02:56,950 --> 00:02:59,940

And there were houses of
worship, and hospitals,

56

00:02:59,940 --> 00:03:01,980

and their life was
very well organized.

57

00:03:01,980 --> 00:03:03,810

When did you leave Japan?

58

00:03:03,810 --> 00:03:09,510

Now, as I told you before, I was
working for a Panamanian firm

59

00:03:09,510 --> 00:03:13,420
in 1941 after Pearl Harbor.

60
00:03:13,420 --> 00:03:16,290
Panama has declared
war on Japan,

61
00:03:16,290 --> 00:03:18,690
as an ally of the United States.

62
00:03:18,690 --> 00:03:23,520
Being a Panamanian firm, the
military came to my office

63
00:03:23,520 --> 00:03:26,730
and sealed it off, closed it.

64
00:03:26,730 --> 00:03:27,770
Enemy firm.

65
00:03:27,770 --> 00:03:31,590
Although, I was not an enemy
subject, but the firm was.

66
00:03:31,590 --> 00:03:36,660
And I was left without any
income, without any money.

67
00:03:36,660 --> 00:03:41,170
My wife's family
was in Shanghai.

68
00:03:41,170 --> 00:03:44,140
My own parents were in Shanghai.

69
00:03:44,140 --> 00:03:46,300
And I wrote them a letter.

70
00:03:46,300 --> 00:03:48,400
They said, you better
come to Shanghai,

71

00:03:48,400 --> 00:03:55,480
because in Japan,
strict quotas on food

72
00:03:55,480 --> 00:04:00,070
was already instituted
after December of 1941.

73
00:04:00,070 --> 00:04:02,500
Not only for us,
but for everybody.

74
00:04:02,500 --> 00:04:04,870
It was hard to get food.

75
00:04:04,870 --> 00:04:09,490
We were all rationed with
bread, and rice, and sugar,

76
00:04:09,490 --> 00:04:11,280
or whatever necessary.

77
00:04:11,280 --> 00:04:17,220
And in February
of 1942, my wife,

78
00:04:17,220 --> 00:04:19,402
my little boy who was
five then, and myself,

79
00:04:19,402 --> 00:04:20,235
we went to Shanghai.

80
00:04:20,235 --> 00:04:22,910

81
00:04:22,910 --> 00:04:24,210
They allowed me to go.

82
00:04:24,210 --> 00:04:26,480
I mean, I didn't need
any visas or anything.

83

00:04:26,480 --> 00:04:29,660

I had a Japanese
residential permit.

84

00:04:29,660 --> 00:04:31,340

And we left.

85

00:04:31,340 --> 00:04:35,890

So during the war years,
we were in Shanghai.

86

00:04:35,890 --> 00:04:37,790

And how was life
for you in Shanghai?

87

00:04:37,790 --> 00:04:38,920

[INAUDIBLE]?

88

00:04:38,920 --> 00:04:41,860

How was life for
you in Shanghai?

89

00:04:41,860 --> 00:04:42,950

Well, not so bad.

90

00:04:42,950 --> 00:04:44,650

I mean, you know, we were--

91

00:04:44,650 --> 00:04:47,860

I'm sorry, could you start
with "life in Shanghai" or--

92

00:04:47,860 --> 00:04:49,900

You see, we were not--

93

00:04:49,900 --> 00:04:52,030

I don't know if you--

94

00:04:52,030 --> 00:04:57,310

in 1941-- no, '43, I
believe, under the influence

95

00:04:57,310 --> 00:04:59,530

of the Germans, who
were Allies of Japan

96

00:04:59,530 --> 00:05:03,070

after Japan has
occupied Shanghai,

97

00:05:03,070 --> 00:05:05,260

that they should get
rid of the refugees.

98

00:05:05,260 --> 00:05:08,070

99

00:05:08,070 --> 00:05:10,460

So they came out
with a proclamation

100

00:05:10,460 --> 00:05:16,730

that anybody who came
to Shanghai after 1937

101

00:05:16,730 --> 00:05:17,823

has to be segregated.

102

00:05:17,823 --> 00:05:19,490

They have to leave
the places where they

103

00:05:19,490 --> 00:05:22,160

were in a place called Hongkou.

104

00:05:22,160 --> 00:05:25,340

Hongkou it was called,
segregated area,

105

00:05:25,340 --> 00:05:27,320

which we called it a ghetto.

106

00:05:27,320 --> 00:05:32,360

We came to Japan to live

in Shanghai before 1937,

107
00:05:32,360 --> 00:05:33,710
so we were not--

108
00:05:33,710 --> 00:05:35,180
we were the Russian Jews.

109
00:05:35,180 --> 00:05:37,610
We were not subject
to this proclamation.

110
00:05:37,610 --> 00:05:41,810
But all the others
had to go there.

111
00:05:41,810 --> 00:05:43,350
Life was not so bad.

112
00:05:43,350 --> 00:05:46,220
We lived among the
millions of Chinese.

113
00:05:46,220 --> 00:05:48,590
Business was going on.

114
00:05:48,590 --> 00:05:50,540
Food was plentiful.

115
00:05:50,540 --> 00:05:54,560
And life for the refugees
was not easy, especially

116
00:05:54,560 --> 00:05:58,010
for those that were segregated
in the so-called ghettos

117
00:05:58,010 --> 00:05:59,490
in the Hongkou.

118
00:05:59,490 --> 00:06:03,030
They were looked after by

the Jewish organizations.

119
00:06:03,030 --> 00:06:05,450
They put them into
schools, into warehousing.

120
00:06:05,450 --> 00:06:07,280
There were thousands of them.

121
00:06:07,280 --> 00:06:09,770
They had no right
to leave that area

122
00:06:09,770 --> 00:06:12,560
to come to where we lived
in the concessions--

123
00:06:12,560 --> 00:06:15,290
pre-French concession
and English international

124
00:06:15,290 --> 00:06:17,480
settlement, because
they were under

125
00:06:17,480 --> 00:06:19,520
the Japanese proclamation.

126
00:06:19,520 --> 00:06:22,700
And life was pretty
tough over there.

127
00:06:22,700 --> 00:06:23,782
Schools were organized.

128
00:06:23,782 --> 00:06:25,490
As a matter of fact,
my wife was teaching

129
00:06:25,490 --> 00:06:27,650
in one of those schools,
teaching English

130

00:06:27,650 --> 00:06:29,840
to the kids who couldn't
speak any English.

131

00:06:29,840 --> 00:06:31,430
German-speaking kids.

132

00:06:31,430 --> 00:06:34,920

133

00:06:34,920 --> 00:06:36,570
Life was organized in a way--

134

00:06:36,570 --> 00:06:38,880
we had our synagogues,
we had our hospitals.

135

00:06:38,880 --> 00:06:41,790
We had a pretty well
organized communal life.

136

00:06:41,790 --> 00:06:44,720

137

00:06:44,720 --> 00:06:48,350
What is the story behind your
leaving to come to America?

138

00:06:48,350 --> 00:06:50,352
The story of my
coming to America.

139

00:06:50,352 --> 00:06:56,160

140

00:06:56,160 --> 00:07:03,450
When I came to Shanghai
in 1932, '33, '34,

141

00:07:03,450 --> 00:07:06,007
I always was
thinking, I would like

142
00:07:06,007 --> 00:07:07,215
to go on and live in America.

143
00:07:07,215 --> 00:07:09,910
This was even before
I was married.

144
00:07:09,910 --> 00:07:10,930
And then I sort of--

145
00:07:10,930 --> 00:07:13,990
I went to the American
embassy, I applied for a visa,

146
00:07:13,990 --> 00:07:15,947
and I thought, well,
if it comes, it comes.

147
00:07:15,947 --> 00:07:17,530
If it doesn't come,
it doesn't matter.

148
00:07:17,530 --> 00:07:20,440
I have a pretty good
life in Shanghai.

149
00:07:20,440 --> 00:07:30,970
But then in 1948, when the
Chinese Communist army was

150
00:07:30,970 --> 00:07:35,103
advancing on Shanghai, we,
the Jewish community people,

151
00:07:35,103 --> 00:07:36,770
got together, and we
got organized, say,

152
00:07:36,770 --> 00:07:39,920
we cannot stay under the
Communist occupation.

153

00:07:39,920 --> 00:07:42,670

And I thought to myself,
if I want my visa

154

00:07:42,670 --> 00:07:46,510

to go to the States
to be processed upon,

155

00:07:46,510 --> 00:07:48,940

to be worked upon, I will not
stay under the Communists,

156

00:07:48,940 --> 00:07:51,070

because it was during
McCarthy times.

157

00:07:51,070 --> 00:07:54,002

It's not going to be
easy to go to America.

158

00:07:54,002 --> 00:07:55,960

And already at that time,
I had three children.

159

00:07:55,960 --> 00:07:59,920

I said, we have to give
the children education,

160

00:07:59,920 --> 00:08:02,290

a life of their own to live.

161

00:08:02,290 --> 00:08:06,130

And the only way we could
go, we could leave Shanghai

162

00:08:06,130 --> 00:08:07,720

was to Israel.

163

00:08:07,720 --> 00:08:10,930

The state of Israel
was established in '48.

164

00:08:10,930 --> 00:08:13,480
We, Jewish community
leaders, got together,

165
00:08:13,480 --> 00:08:16,360
and we sent them a
cable, telling them

166
00:08:16,360 --> 00:08:18,520
that we have a few
thousand people that

167
00:08:18,520 --> 00:08:20,530
want to go to Israel.

168
00:08:20,530 --> 00:08:22,660
And they sent a ship after us.

169
00:08:22,660 --> 00:08:26,440
And just before the Chinese
Communists occupied Shanghai,

170
00:08:26,440 --> 00:08:31,270
about three months before
that, the ship came, and we,

171
00:08:31,270 --> 00:08:33,909
about 800 of us-- that
was our first group--

172
00:08:33,909 --> 00:08:37,090
went on a ship to Israel.

173
00:08:37,090 --> 00:08:41,690
But we had to travel
around the Cape of Africa,

174
00:08:41,690 --> 00:08:44,710
around Cape Town,
because at that time,

175
00:08:44,710 --> 00:08:48,940
Israel was at war with Egypt.

176
00:08:48,940 --> 00:08:53,230
The ship could not go
via the Suez Canal.

177
00:08:53,230 --> 00:08:56,290
The ship was under
a Panamanian flag.

178
00:08:56,290 --> 00:08:58,270
The captain was a Greek.

179
00:08:58,270 --> 00:09:01,000
The crew were Italians.

180
00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:02,770
There were 800 of us.

181
00:09:02,770 --> 00:09:04,750
It was a difficult time.

182
00:09:04,750 --> 00:09:07,070
We [INAUDIBLE] over 52 days.

183
00:09:07,070 --> 00:09:09,550
We went from Shanghai to
Singapore, from Singapore

184
00:09:09,550 --> 00:09:12,850
to South Africa, then
all the way to Italy.

185
00:09:12,850 --> 00:09:18,460
In Italy, an Israeli ship
picked us up, took us to Haifa.

186
00:09:18,460 --> 00:09:19,420
I stayed there.

187
00:09:19,420 --> 00:09:21,310
I had a very difficult
time in Israel--

188
00:09:21,310 --> 00:09:23,380
to settle down, to [INAUDIBLE].

189
00:09:23,380 --> 00:09:29,650
In 1951, I got a
request, an invitation

190
00:09:29,650 --> 00:09:32,683
from my former friend
who was the president

191
00:09:32,683 --> 00:09:34,600
of the Jewish community,
Mr. [PERSONAL NAME],,

192
00:09:34,600 --> 00:09:36,580
to come to Japan if I want to.

193
00:09:36,580 --> 00:09:38,410
He had a store open in Japan.

194
00:09:38,410 --> 00:09:42,010
And since I could speak
Japanese and I knew the text--

195
00:09:42,010 --> 00:09:43,900
he was in the textile business.

196
00:09:43,900 --> 00:09:45,490
That's when I came.

197
00:09:45,490 --> 00:09:49,780
And before I left for Japan, I
went to the American embassy,

198
00:09:49,780 --> 00:09:53,320
and I told them, I
am going to Japan,

199
00:09:53,320 --> 00:09:56,950
and I have an application for

a visa for me and my family.

200
00:09:56,950 --> 00:10:01,480
Would you please transfer
my papers to Tokyo?

201
00:10:01,480 --> 00:10:03,310
And they said, OK.

202
00:10:03,310 --> 00:10:05,770
Came to Tokyo, went to
the American embassy.

203
00:10:05,770 --> 00:10:07,360
The file was there.

204
00:10:07,360 --> 00:10:09,770
I had to start
from the beginning.

205
00:10:09,770 --> 00:10:12,640
And when I came to
Japan, it's at that time

206
00:10:12,640 --> 00:10:14,590
that I met Mr. Sugihara.

207
00:10:14,590 --> 00:10:18,340
He was working in
the same store.

208
00:10:18,340 --> 00:10:22,020
They called me in to
the American embassy.

209
00:10:22,020 --> 00:10:26,850
And Ms. [? Bernard, ?] who
was in charge of my file,

210
00:10:26,850 --> 00:10:29,200
said, you still want
to go to America?

211
00:10:29,200 --> 00:10:30,210
I said, yes.

212
00:10:30,210 --> 00:10:30,960
Why?

213
00:10:30,960 --> 00:10:35,390
I said, well, I have children, I
have the future for my children

214
00:10:35,390 --> 00:10:36,565
will be there.

215
00:10:36,565 --> 00:10:38,640
A free life, a free--

216
00:10:38,640 --> 00:10:40,440
it was a good life.

217
00:10:40,440 --> 00:10:42,640
I can't stay in
Japan all my life.

218
00:10:42,640 --> 00:10:45,040
I have to go to America.

219
00:10:45,040 --> 00:10:49,930
So she kept on-- yeah,
I was Russian-speaking,

220
00:10:49,930 --> 00:10:53,337
so the first question she
asked me-- are you a communist?

221
00:10:53,337 --> 00:10:55,170
This was during the
McCarthy time, remember.

222
00:10:55,170 --> 00:10:56,580
I said no.

223

00:10:56,580 --> 00:10:58,320
So she said to
me, how do I know?

224
00:10:58,320 --> 00:11:00,120
How can you prove it to me?

225
00:11:00,120 --> 00:11:03,570
I said, Ms. [? Bernard, ?]
let's change places.

226
00:11:03,570 --> 00:11:08,960
If you were me and applying
for a visa to go to America

227
00:11:08,960 --> 00:11:11,180
and you were asked if you
were a communist or not,

228
00:11:11,180 --> 00:11:11,980
what would you say?

229
00:11:11,980 --> 00:11:14,320
Would you admit, even
if you were a communist?

230
00:11:14,320 --> 00:11:16,630
She says, you cannot
talk to me like this.

231
00:11:16,630 --> 00:11:18,640
I said, you are asking
me a stupid question.

232
00:11:18,640 --> 00:11:19,690
I'm sorry.

233
00:11:19,690 --> 00:11:25,150
But I have a lot of friends, I
come from a religious family,

234
00:11:25,150 --> 00:11:28,620
and I want to go to America.

235
00:11:28,620 --> 00:11:33,410
Then one day-- she
called me every month.

236
00:11:33,410 --> 00:11:36,290
The same question-- are you a
communist, are you a communist?

237
00:11:36,290 --> 00:11:37,945
I said, no.

238
00:11:37,945 --> 00:11:39,320
Well, how come
you speak Russian?

239
00:11:39,320 --> 00:11:42,380
I said, I was born in Russia,
I could speak Russian.

240
00:11:42,380 --> 00:11:44,300
Anyhow, we'll let you know.

241
00:11:44,300 --> 00:11:45,030
And it went on.

242
00:11:45,030 --> 00:11:48,290
And I was not in a hurry to
go to America at that time.

243
00:11:48,290 --> 00:11:50,650
Our oldest son was still--

244
00:11:50,650 --> 00:11:55,580
I need to get back
to our story, OK?

245
00:11:55,580 --> 00:11:56,477
I understand.

246
00:11:56,477 --> 00:11:59,730

247
00:11:59,730 --> 00:12:01,140
Let's see.

248
00:12:01,140 --> 00:12:02,347
Could you help for a second?

249
00:12:02,347 --> 00:12:03,321
Sure.

250
00:12:03,321 --> 00:12:04,646
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

251
00:12:04,646 --> 00:12:06,550

252
00:12:06,550 --> 00:12:09,460
When did you find out
about the Holocaust?

253
00:12:09,460 --> 00:12:11,680
I found out about the
Holocaust already when

254
00:12:11,680 --> 00:12:15,820
I was in America in 1956.

255
00:12:15,820 --> 00:12:17,160
So you didn't find out at all--

256
00:12:17,160 --> 00:12:17,660
Oh, no, no.

257
00:12:17,660 --> 00:12:18,670
I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

258
00:12:18,670 --> 00:12:19,810
Earlier, much earlier.

259
00:12:19,810 --> 00:12:22,300
In 1949, '48.

260
00:12:22,300 --> 00:12:24,340
Before we left for
Israel, we knew already

261
00:12:24,340 --> 00:12:25,940
about what was going on.

262
00:12:25,940 --> 00:12:29,200
We didn't know the enormous
situation, what happened.

263
00:12:29,200 --> 00:12:31,610
But we heard about
the Holocaust.

264
00:12:31,610 --> 00:12:32,860
You want to know what happen--

265
00:12:32,860 --> 00:12:33,820
So could you start again?

266
00:12:33,820 --> 00:12:35,800
You found out about it
while you were in Shanghai.

267
00:12:35,800 --> 00:12:36,342
That's right.

268
00:12:36,342 --> 00:12:39,910
OK, so start-- tell me that.

269
00:12:39,910 --> 00:12:43,180
News started to filter through
after the war was over,

270
00:12:43,180 --> 00:12:44,650
what was happening.

271
00:12:44,650 --> 00:12:46,890
And the refugees
at that time who

272
00:12:46,890 --> 00:12:50,020
lived in Shanghai, the
Polish refugees, most of them

273
00:12:50,020 --> 00:12:51,330
have lost their family.

274
00:12:51,330 --> 00:12:52,780
So whoever they
left behind, they

275
00:12:52,780 --> 00:12:56,170
started getting information
that they were destroyed.

276
00:12:56,170 --> 00:13:03,020
And we got together,
and we organized prayers

277
00:13:03,020 --> 00:13:06,620
in the synagogue for
the memorial of those

278
00:13:06,620 --> 00:13:10,010
that were destroyed in Europe.

279
00:13:10,010 --> 00:13:11,450
At that time, the
state of Israel

280
00:13:11,450 --> 00:13:13,100
was already established
in '48, and we

281
00:13:13,100 --> 00:13:16,520
knew that the number of
Jews who were left alive

282
00:13:16,520 --> 00:13:24,530
from the camps that were
freed from the various camps

283

00:13:24,530 --> 00:13:27,840
in Europe were on
their way to Israel.

284

00:13:27,840 --> 00:13:31,140
So that's where we
were going to go.

285

00:13:31,140 --> 00:13:31,640
OK.

286

00:13:31,640 --> 00:13:34,170

287

00:13:34,170 --> 00:13:38,280
So did you lose any close
relatives, or friends,

288

00:13:38,280 --> 00:13:41,790
or anyone in the Holocaust?

289

00:13:41,790 --> 00:13:44,850
I must have lost because
they were living in Russia

290

00:13:44,850 --> 00:13:48,000
and occupied by the Germans, but
I never was in touch with them,

291

00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:48,830
so I don't know.

292

00:13:48,830 --> 00:13:53,240

293

00:13:53,240 --> 00:13:53,990
Let's see.

294

00:13:53,990 --> 00:13:56,520

295

00:13:56,520 --> 00:14:03,140
Could you tell me about the
interview with the police

296
00:14:03,140 --> 00:14:05,810
where they asked
the question, why

297
00:14:05,810 --> 00:14:07,145
do the Germans hate the Jews?

298
00:14:07,145 --> 00:14:11,030

299
00:14:11,030 --> 00:14:12,600
In 19-- when was it?

300
00:14:12,600 --> 00:14:20,630
In 1941, I believe, we
received a telephone call

301
00:14:20,630 --> 00:14:24,770
from the Japanese
military in Tokyo.

302
00:14:24,770 --> 00:14:26,060
We were in Kobe.

303
00:14:26,060 --> 00:14:32,150
That the Japanese military wants
to talk to our representatives

304
00:14:32,150 --> 00:14:35,180
of the Jewish community,
of the Jewish refugees that

305
00:14:35,180 --> 00:14:37,190
were, at that time, in Kobe.

306
00:14:37,190 --> 00:14:38,930
So our president
who talked to him,

307

00:14:38,930 --> 00:14:41,850

he told me afterwards, he
said, what kind of people,

308

00:14:41,850 --> 00:14:42,860

we have 3,000 people?

309

00:14:42,860 --> 00:14:45,750

What kind of-- what--
what do they want?

310

00:14:45,750 --> 00:14:47,370

Who do they want to talk to?

311

00:14:47,370 --> 00:14:51,530

So the answer was, we
want to talk to the--

312

00:14:51,530 --> 00:14:54,170

send us three
people, the highest.

313

00:14:54,170 --> 00:14:56,150

What do you mean "the highest?"

314

00:14:56,150 --> 00:14:57,560

Whatever.

315

00:14:57,560 --> 00:14:59,780

He said, we have so many
different kind of people--

316

00:14:59,780 --> 00:15:02,360

teachers, rabbis,
Zionists, of all kinds.

317

00:15:02,360 --> 00:15:04,190

Send us the three
that are the highest.

318

00:15:04,190 --> 00:15:07,100

He says, I'll send

you three rabbis.

319
00:15:07,100 --> 00:15:09,590
He says, what's a rabbi?

320
00:15:09,590 --> 00:15:11,180
He said, well,
they're all teachers.

321
00:15:11,180 --> 00:15:12,680
How high are they?

322
00:15:12,680 --> 00:15:14,120
He says, they're next to God.

323
00:15:14,120 --> 00:15:15,640
That was exactly--
I was listening

324
00:15:15,640 --> 00:15:17,400
to the telephone conversation.

325
00:15:17,400 --> 00:15:18,770
And so he asked me--

326
00:15:18,770 --> 00:15:23,630
Mr. [PERSONAL NAME] asked me to
ask three rabbis to accompany

327
00:15:23,630 --> 00:15:28,760
me to go to Tokyo, and
there will be an interview--

328
00:15:28,760 --> 00:15:31,610
you may call it
interrogation, in some way,

329
00:15:31,610 --> 00:15:35,070
of the Japanese military
want to talk to you.

330
00:15:35,070 --> 00:15:38,210

I was very nervous about
it, but I went there,

331
00:15:38,210 --> 00:15:40,640
because I could only
trans-- the only one I

332
00:15:40,640 --> 00:15:44,090
could translate from the--
the rabbi spoke in Yiddish.

333
00:15:44,090 --> 00:15:47,840
And somebody had to translate
into English or Japanese.

334
00:15:47,840 --> 00:15:49,740
Some of our Japanese
friends, two of them,

335
00:15:49,740 --> 00:15:53,000
met us at the station in Tokyo.

336
00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:56,450
It was a nine-hour
trip by train.

337
00:15:56,450 --> 00:16:02,330
And they took us to a Japanese
officers' club, naval club

338
00:16:02,330 --> 00:16:03,830
in Tokyo.

339
00:16:03,830 --> 00:16:05,360
And we went there.

340
00:16:05,360 --> 00:16:07,010
They asked me-- they met us.

341
00:16:07,010 --> 00:16:08,370
They said, who are you?

342

00:16:08,370 --> 00:16:10,310

I said, I'm a
Jewish [? medic. ?]

343

00:16:10,310 --> 00:16:12,930

I came over to interpret.

344

00:16:12,930 --> 00:16:15,740

So this man said, we don't
need any interpreters.

345

00:16:15,740 --> 00:16:18,020

I said, but how
will you understand

346

00:16:18,020 --> 00:16:20,450

what they are talking--
they are talking in Yiddish.

347

00:16:20,450 --> 00:16:23,630

They said, our interpreters
know very well German,

348

00:16:23,630 --> 00:16:27,020

and they will translate,
so we don't need you.

349

00:16:27,020 --> 00:16:28,700

I quietly told the rabbi--

350

00:16:28,700 --> 00:16:32,750

I said to one of them,
Rabbi [? Kalish ?],,

351

00:16:32,750 --> 00:16:36,080

I said in Yiddish, I said,
you don't know any German,

352

00:16:36,080 --> 00:16:38,720

you know only Yiddish,
because I want to be there.

353

00:16:38,720 --> 00:16:41,650

I didn't know what
they were going to do.

354
00:16:41,650 --> 00:16:45,120
They put me in a separate
room, and I came back

355
00:16:45,120 --> 00:16:45,960
10 minutes later.

356
00:16:45,960 --> 00:16:48,480
They said, we need you,
we cannot understand.

357
00:16:48,480 --> 00:16:52,425
So I went in there, and it
was a pretty scary situation.

358
00:16:52,425 --> 00:16:55,680
There were four
Japanese admirals

359
00:16:55,680 --> 00:16:59,100
in uniform sitting there
with their shaved heads

360
00:16:59,100 --> 00:17:01,410
and their swords on the table.

361
00:17:01,410 --> 00:17:04,920
And all rabbis.

362
00:17:04,920 --> 00:17:10,020
The rabbi opens
the conversation,

363
00:17:10,020 --> 00:17:14,790
thanking them for allowing
them to come to Japan.

364
00:17:14,790 --> 00:17:17,746
And it was a very profound,
very interesting talk.

365
00:17:17,746 --> 00:17:18,829
I didn't know [INAUDIBLE].

366
00:17:18,829 --> 00:17:20,287
I translated.

367
00:17:20,287 --> 00:17:22,579
I didn't know if they understood
what they were saying,

368
00:17:22,579 --> 00:17:24,662
but anyway, whatever it
was-- finally, one of them

369
00:17:24,662 --> 00:17:28,850
said, why is it that our
Allies, the German people,

370
00:17:28,850 --> 00:17:31,160
hate you Jews so much?

371
00:17:31,160 --> 00:17:33,660
So the rabbi said, well,
they don't only hate me.

372
00:17:33,660 --> 00:17:34,880
You're next on the list.

373
00:17:34,880 --> 00:17:35,963
He says, what do you mean?

374
00:17:35,963 --> 00:17:39,080
He said, because we are also
Asiatic people like you are.

375
00:17:39,080 --> 00:17:40,770
He said, what are
you talking about?

376
00:17:40,770 --> 00:17:43,520
He says, you see,

the Germans don't

377

00:17:43,520 --> 00:17:45,680
like anybody who
is not like them,

378

00:17:45,680 --> 00:17:51,540
who is not blond, blue-eyed,
and pure of blood.

379

00:17:51,540 --> 00:17:55,680
So the general asked him,
what are you talking about?

380

00:17:55,680 --> 00:17:59,760
He says, I read in the
newspaper that in Berlin

381

00:17:59,760 --> 00:18:03,690
a Japanese employee of
the Japanese embassy

382

00:18:03,690 --> 00:18:07,350
wanted to marry a German
girl, and he was not

383

00:18:07,350 --> 00:18:12,140
permitted to do so, because he
was not blond and blue-eyed.

384

00:18:12,140 --> 00:18:15,310
And you're next on the list.

385

00:18:15,310 --> 00:18:17,320
So I don't think they
liked the answer.

386

00:18:17,320 --> 00:18:20,830
But then anyway, it went
on for a little bit more.

387

00:18:20,830 --> 00:18:22,480
And then they said,

we'll let you know.

388
00:18:22,480 --> 00:18:25,180
And it took about two hours.

389
00:18:25,180 --> 00:18:26,030
They left.

390
00:18:26,030 --> 00:18:30,420
Then they came back, and
they brought some food

391
00:18:30,420 --> 00:18:31,920
that they knew that
the rabbis could

392
00:18:31,920 --> 00:18:35,130
eat-- some fruits, some
bananas, and some tea.

393
00:18:35,130 --> 00:18:39,950
And they apologized for
having kept them for so long

394
00:18:39,950 --> 00:18:41,200
and travelled for a long time.

395
00:18:41,200 --> 00:18:43,240
They were not young
people, these rabbis.

396
00:18:43,240 --> 00:18:47,860
And they also had two Shinto
priests, Japanese priests.

397
00:18:47,860 --> 00:18:49,450
And from then on,
the conversation,

398
00:18:49,450 --> 00:18:51,070
for about three or
four hours, went

399

00:18:51,070 --> 00:18:56,750
on a Talmudic/Japanese Shintoism
conversation, the differences

400

00:18:56,750 --> 00:18:57,820
between religion.

401

00:18:57,820 --> 00:19:00,640
It was very interesting.

402

00:19:00,640 --> 00:19:03,010
After it was over, then
one of the generals

403

00:19:03,010 --> 00:19:06,170
said, go back to your home, you
have nothing to worry about.

404

00:19:06,170 --> 00:19:09,740
We will not do to
you what the Germans

405

00:19:09,740 --> 00:19:10,850
have done to your people.

406

00:19:10,850 --> 00:19:12,210
Go home and don't worry.

407

00:19:12,210 --> 00:19:14,990
That was it.

408

00:19:14,990 --> 00:19:17,170
Great.

409

00:19:17,170 --> 00:19:18,280
Why did they do it?

410

00:19:18,280 --> 00:19:19,660
I don't know.

411

00:19:19,660 --> 00:19:20,620

I cannot answer.

412
00:19:20,620 --> 00:19:24,030

413
00:19:24,030 --> 00:19:28,810
After all, they were
Allies with the Germans.

414
00:19:28,810 --> 00:19:29,513
Sorry?

415
00:19:29,513 --> 00:19:31,180
If he would take a
sip of water, please?

416
00:19:31,180 --> 00:19:32,513
Could you take a drink of water?

417
00:19:32,513 --> 00:19:33,124
Yeah.

418
00:19:33,124 --> 00:19:34,092
Thank you.

419
00:19:34,092 --> 00:19:41,360

420
00:19:41,360 --> 00:19:47,330
What role do you think luck
played in the refugees--

421
00:19:47,330 --> 00:19:48,110
Who?

422
00:19:48,110 --> 00:19:48,770
Luck.

423
00:19:48,770 --> 00:19:49,350
Luck?

424

00:19:49,350 --> 00:19:51,020
Yes.

425
00:19:51,020 --> 00:19:52,790
In saving all these people?

426
00:19:52,790 --> 00:19:55,320

427
00:19:55,320 --> 00:19:58,440
I don't know if it was luck.

428
00:19:58,440 --> 00:20:02,290
Their coming to Japan--

429
00:20:02,290 --> 00:20:05,760
this is the part I
am concerned with--

430
00:20:05,760 --> 00:20:10,710
was due to the fact that they
received the Japanese transit

431
00:20:10,710 --> 00:20:14,550
visas from the Japanese
consul in Lithuania.

432
00:20:14,550 --> 00:20:18,750
Why he gave those visas
even after we found out,

433
00:20:18,750 --> 00:20:22,350
I read about it, that he
was told not to do it,

434
00:20:22,350 --> 00:20:24,760
but he continued doing it.

435
00:20:24,760 --> 00:20:26,970
Mr. Sugihara did.

436
00:20:26,970 --> 00:20:30,790

Why he did it, I will
never know the answer.

437
00:20:30,790 --> 00:20:31,930
Political?

438
00:20:31,930 --> 00:20:33,250
Humane?

439
00:20:33,250 --> 00:20:34,070
I don't know.

440
00:20:34,070 --> 00:20:37,810
I cannot answer you this.

441
00:20:37,810 --> 00:20:39,060
I can only answer what--

442
00:20:39,060 --> 00:20:41,520
I was once asked
the same question

443
00:20:41,520 --> 00:20:46,870
by the Japanese
interview on television.

444
00:20:46,870 --> 00:20:49,697
They came to see me here
about six years ago.

445
00:20:49,697 --> 00:20:51,030
They asked me the same question.

446
00:20:51,030 --> 00:20:53,280
Why do you think it was done?

447
00:20:53,280 --> 00:20:56,040
I said, I want to talk
to you off camera.

448
00:20:56,040 --> 00:20:57,690
I said, I'm a Jew.

449
00:20:57,690 --> 00:21:01,020
I'm not a very orthodox,
religious person,

450
00:21:01,020 --> 00:21:07,370
but sometimes I think
this was the hand of God.

451
00:21:07,370 --> 00:21:08,670
What do you mean?

452
00:21:08,670 --> 00:21:11,390
I said, by doing
that, giving visas,

453
00:21:11,390 --> 00:21:19,280
over 1,500 rabbis and rabbinical
students were saved from death,

454
00:21:19,280 --> 00:21:21,860
so they could spread
all over the world

455
00:21:21,860 --> 00:21:26,390
after the war was over and
teach our people the words

456
00:21:26,390 --> 00:21:29,090
of our Torah, of our education.

457
00:21:29,090 --> 00:21:29,940
What's a Torah?

458
00:21:29,940 --> 00:21:32,390
They didn't know what it was.

459
00:21:32,390 --> 00:21:36,155
In my room, I have five
Books of Moses in English.

460
00:21:36,155 --> 00:21:38,030

I brought it to them
and I showed it to them.

461
00:21:38,030 --> 00:21:39,500
I said, this is it.

462
00:21:39,500 --> 00:21:43,580
This is the basic of
our cultural education.

463
00:21:43,580 --> 00:21:45,860
And if it wasn't
for these people,

464
00:21:45,860 --> 00:21:49,070
it wouldn't have been taught to
our people all over the world.

465
00:21:49,070 --> 00:21:50,120
But it has been.

466
00:21:50,120 --> 00:21:51,920
That is the reason,
in my opinion.

467
00:21:51,920 --> 00:21:54,860
Sometimes I think
that's the reason.

468
00:21:54,860 --> 00:21:57,800
OK, could you tell me that one
more time without referring

469
00:21:57,800 --> 00:22:01,310
to the Japanese crew or the--

470
00:22:01,310 --> 00:22:04,780
just answer the question--

471
00:22:04,780 --> 00:22:06,970
try it one more time
without telling me

472

00:22:06,970 --> 00:22:11,220

the story about the
Japanese TV crew, OK?

473

00:22:11,220 --> 00:22:12,510

I'm sorry.

474

00:22:12,510 --> 00:22:16,174

Answer, why did
Sugihara give out visas?

475

00:22:16,174 --> 00:22:18,110

Oh.

476

00:22:18,110 --> 00:22:19,190

I don't know the answer.

477

00:22:19,190 --> 00:22:20,540

I was asked--

478

00:22:20,540 --> 00:22:22,740

Start with "I don't know
why Sugihara gave them--"

479

00:22:22,740 --> 00:22:24,830

I don't know Sugihara
gave those visas.

480

00:22:24,830 --> 00:22:27,387

I read the books about it.

481

00:22:27,387 --> 00:22:28,220

There's a new book--

482

00:22:28,220 --> 00:22:29,387

I don't know if you read it.

483

00:22:29,387 --> 00:22:31,670

It's called In
Search of Sugihara.

484

00:22:31,670 --> 00:22:36,010
The man who wrote this book,
Rabbi Levine from Massachusetts

485
00:22:36,010 --> 00:22:39,140
somewhere, he's asking
the same question.

486
00:22:39,140 --> 00:22:42,690
Why did he do it?

487
00:22:42,690 --> 00:22:47,640
I think that Mr. Sugihara
wasn't able to answer

488
00:22:47,640 --> 00:22:49,830
this question if he were alive.

489
00:22:49,830 --> 00:22:51,810
But he's not alive anymore.

490
00:22:51,810 --> 00:22:55,440
And I'll tell you honestly,
not having known this man

491
00:22:55,440 --> 00:22:59,208
and read about him,
I don't think--

492
00:22:59,208 --> 00:23:00,750
whatever he would
have answered would

493
00:23:00,750 --> 00:23:01,958
have been the correct answer.

494
00:23:01,958 --> 00:23:03,120
I just don't know.

495
00:23:03,120 --> 00:23:04,830
It's a puzzle.

496

00:23:04,830 --> 00:23:07,660
I don't know why he did it.

497
00:23:07,660 --> 00:23:09,070
Political?

498
00:23:09,070 --> 00:23:11,500
He was a spy to begin with.

499
00:23:11,500 --> 00:23:14,620
He had his problems, he
had his things to do,

500
00:23:14,620 --> 00:23:16,750
and maybe that's one of
the things he had to do.

501
00:23:16,750 --> 00:23:17,560
I don't know.

502
00:23:17,560 --> 00:23:20,700

503
00:23:20,700 --> 00:23:23,850
When you worked with him in
Japan, did you ever ask him?

504
00:23:23,850 --> 00:23:26,100
I asked him a few times.

505
00:23:26,100 --> 00:23:28,020
He wouldn't want to
talk to me about it.

506
00:23:28,020 --> 00:23:30,180
He just refused to
talk to me about it.

507
00:23:30,180 --> 00:23:34,500
He was a very, how
shall I say, bitter man.

508

00:23:34,500 --> 00:23:36,300
He was very self-enclosed.

509
00:23:36,300 --> 00:23:38,280
He didn't want to
speak to anybody.

510
00:23:38,280 --> 00:23:41,550
I think he felt himself, what
they say in Japan, he lost

511
00:23:41,550 --> 00:23:45,430
face, having been working
for the Japanese government,

512
00:23:45,430 --> 00:23:49,110
a consul, and all
of a sudden, he's

513
00:23:49,110 --> 00:23:53,610
downgraded to be an employee
of an American person

514
00:23:53,610 --> 00:23:56,490
and in charge of the
Japanese employees.

515
00:23:56,490 --> 00:23:59,460
And he kept them all at--

516
00:23:59,460 --> 00:24:01,260
he wouldn't even
associate with them.

517
00:24:01,260 --> 00:24:02,550
Not that I knew of.

518
00:24:02,550 --> 00:24:04,680
A few times I asked him,
let's go and have dinner,

519
00:24:04,680 --> 00:24:05,690
we'll talk about--

520
00:24:05,690 --> 00:24:06,190
he refused.

521
00:24:06,190 --> 00:24:10,640

522
00:24:10,640 --> 00:24:13,700
Are there any stories
that I have not asked you

523
00:24:13,700 --> 00:24:15,980
about that you feel are
important about what

524
00:24:15,980 --> 00:24:20,810
it was like to have been a
refugee or your interactions

525
00:24:20,810 --> 00:24:21,590
with the refugees?

526
00:24:21,590 --> 00:24:24,150

527
00:24:24,150 --> 00:24:25,570
Let's see.

528
00:24:25,570 --> 00:24:26,975
I told you about the one--

529
00:24:26,975 --> 00:24:32,350

530
00:24:32,350 --> 00:24:37,720
it was in August or so
of 1941 when the orders

531
00:24:37,720 --> 00:24:40,430
came that they have to leave--

532

00:24:40,430 --> 00:24:43,810
the refugees had to
leave Japan for Shanghai.

533
00:24:43,810 --> 00:24:45,970
The orders came
from the military

534
00:24:45,970 --> 00:24:49,540
that the ships that would take
them-- every 10 days, there

535
00:24:49,540 --> 00:24:52,450
was a ship and about
500, 600 people

536
00:24:52,450 --> 00:24:55,870
were arranged to buy them
tickets to go to Shanghai.

537
00:24:55,870 --> 00:25:01,150
The ships would not
come to the dock.

538
00:25:01,150 --> 00:25:04,240
The ship would drop
anchor far away,

539
00:25:04,240 --> 00:25:09,730
and small boats would be
sailing towards the docks

540
00:25:09,730 --> 00:25:11,890
where they were
supposed to gather

541
00:25:11,890 --> 00:25:15,250
to go on those small docks
afterwards to be transferred

542
00:25:15,250 --> 00:25:18,640
to the big ships.

543

00:25:18,640 --> 00:25:20,110
And the orders were--

544
00:25:20,110 --> 00:25:22,690
they had baggage with
them, little suitcases,

545
00:25:22,690 --> 00:25:26,750
whatever they had, that they
had to put on the floor.

546
00:25:26,750 --> 00:25:30,230
And the Japanese customs
police or whoever it-- military

547
00:25:30,230 --> 00:25:33,990
would look at their things that
they were taking with them.

548
00:25:33,990 --> 00:25:36,200
You know, just a procedure.

549
00:25:36,200 --> 00:25:38,240
And on the floor.

550
00:25:38,240 --> 00:25:41,140
I went there a couple
times to see them often,

551
00:25:41,140 --> 00:25:43,700
especially this old
man, this old rabbi.

552
00:25:43,700 --> 00:25:45,350
And I went with him to help him.

553
00:25:45,350 --> 00:25:48,560
Of course, he didn't
speak any-- the language.

554
00:25:48,560 --> 00:25:52,720
And he's holding in his
hand a small packet.

555
00:25:52,720 --> 00:25:55,430
I said to him,
Rabbi, the orders are

556
00:25:55,430 --> 00:25:56,780
you have to put it on the floor.

557
00:25:56,780 --> 00:25:59,240
He says, I'm not
putting it on the floor.

558
00:25:59,240 --> 00:26:04,130
It is a Torah which I smuggled
from Poland to Lithuania,

559
00:26:04,130 --> 00:26:06,410
from Lithuania to
Japan, and now.

560
00:26:06,410 --> 00:26:06,958
It's a Torah.

561
00:26:06,958 --> 00:26:08,500
I'm not going to
put it on the floor.

562
00:26:08,500 --> 00:26:11,090
I said, Rabbi, you are dealing
with Japanese military.

563
00:26:11,090 --> 00:26:13,400
They don't understand
those things.

564
00:26:13,400 --> 00:26:14,400
Put it on the floor.

565
00:26:14,400 --> 00:26:15,890
He says, no.

566
00:26:15,890 --> 00:26:19,010

Let him kill me, but I'm
not putting it on the floor.

567
00:26:19,010 --> 00:26:20,420
Go and talk to him.

568
00:26:20,420 --> 00:26:24,510
I went to the officer in
charge, and I explained to him,

569
00:26:24,510 --> 00:26:26,430
and he says, tell him
to put it on the floor.

570
00:26:26,430 --> 00:26:27,730
I said he wouldn't do it.

571
00:26:27,730 --> 00:26:29,470
He says, what is it?

572
00:26:29,470 --> 00:26:33,185
I said, look, this is what
you call a sacred thing.

573
00:26:33,185 --> 00:26:34,685
It's a Torah.

574
00:26:34,685 --> 00:26:36,650
What's a Torah?

575
00:26:36,650 --> 00:26:41,180
I came to the rabbi, I said, can
you open it and show it to him?

576
00:26:41,180 --> 00:26:44,330
It was wrapped in some
towels and blanket, whatever.

577
00:26:44,330 --> 00:26:46,340
A small thing like that.

578
00:26:46,340 --> 00:26:47,300

He says, yes.

579

00:26:47,300 --> 00:26:50,093

He opened it up, and
he opened the Torah,

580

00:26:50,093 --> 00:26:51,135

and the man looked at it.

581

00:26:51,135 --> 00:26:52,010

He says, what is it?

582

00:26:52,010 --> 00:26:53,700

And I said, this is
written in Hebrew,

583

00:26:53,700 --> 00:26:58,830

and it is Jewish culture,
Jewish education.

584

00:26:58,830 --> 00:27:01,020

He says it is holy.

585

00:27:01,020 --> 00:27:02,370

He wouldn't put it on the floor.

586

00:27:02,370 --> 00:27:05,385

Shoot him, he's not going
to put it on the floor.

587

00:27:05,385 --> 00:27:07,198

He says, OK.

588

00:27:07,198 --> 00:27:08,490

And one little thing, you know?

589

00:27:08,490 --> 00:27:12,060

And don't put it on the floor.

590

00:27:12,060 --> 00:27:18,130

Then one day also, a few times
I was asked by the police

591
00:27:18,130 --> 00:27:19,690
to come.

592
00:27:19,690 --> 00:27:22,510
They couldn't
understand the language.

593
00:27:22,510 --> 00:27:24,940
They arrested some
people for little things.

594
00:27:24,940 --> 00:27:27,040
And to translate.

595
00:27:27,040 --> 00:27:28,030
One day they called me.

596
00:27:28,030 --> 00:27:31,355
I went there, and there are
two young students shivering.

597
00:27:31,355 --> 00:27:32,230
I say, what happened?

598
00:27:32,230 --> 00:27:34,360
I said, can I talk to them?

599
00:27:34,360 --> 00:27:36,280
Policeman said, yes,
we arrested them.

600
00:27:36,280 --> 00:27:37,600
I said, why?

601
00:27:37,600 --> 00:27:40,630
They were on the
top of the building

602
00:27:40,630 --> 00:27:43,060
of the [? Daimaru ?]
department store, which

603

00:27:43,060 --> 00:27:45,940

had a little zoo over
there for children.

604

00:27:45,940 --> 00:27:48,910

And one of them had a
camera, and they were

605

00:27:48,910 --> 00:27:50,530

taking pictures of each other.

606

00:27:50,530 --> 00:27:54,550

And the department store
is facing the ocean.

607

00:27:54,550 --> 00:27:56,830

And the ocean over
there, not far,

608

00:27:56,830 --> 00:28:00,660

was sailing a Japanese
military ship.

609

00:28:00,660 --> 00:28:03,000

I said, well, they don't
understand all this thing.

610

00:28:03,000 --> 00:28:06,630

I said, it was a
misunderstanding.

611

00:28:06,630 --> 00:28:07,950

Open the camera.

612

00:28:07,950 --> 00:28:10,260

I said, take the
film that's there,

613

00:28:10,260 --> 00:28:13,070

throw it away, and let them go.

614

00:28:13,070 --> 00:28:15,810
The fellas never been-- they're
from a small city in Poland.

615
00:28:15,810 --> 00:28:18,360
They've never been in an
eight-story, beautiful building

616
00:28:18,360 --> 00:28:20,670
like this department store.

617
00:28:20,670 --> 00:28:22,715
They said, OK, but
there's another problem.

618
00:28:22,715 --> 00:28:24,160
I said, what's the problem?

619
00:28:24,160 --> 00:28:27,840
He said, we searched them,
and on one of them pockets,

620
00:28:27,840 --> 00:28:32,290
we found an envelope
which contained \$10.

621
00:28:32,290 --> 00:28:36,280
Dollars are not allowed in those
days to be circulated in Japan.

622
00:28:36,280 --> 00:28:37,780
It was like a black market.

623
00:28:37,780 --> 00:28:40,720
You have to change them
into Japanese money.

624
00:28:40,720 --> 00:28:44,110
And these \$10 were
in an envelope.

625
00:28:44,110 --> 00:28:47,230
And on the envelope was a name

of a person and an address

626

00:28:47,230 --> 00:28:52,450
in English of someone who lived
in Japan, one of our residents.

627

00:28:52,450 --> 00:28:54,180
So I said, what is this?

628

00:28:54,180 --> 00:28:56,640
They said, look.

629

00:28:56,640 --> 00:29:00,440
I said, this could be serious
because dollars are not

630

00:29:00,440 --> 00:29:00,940
allowed.

631

00:29:00,940 --> 00:29:03,017
You are breaking the law.

632

00:29:03,017 --> 00:29:04,600
I said, the important
thing is they're

633

00:29:04,600 --> 00:29:07,360
going to bring that man whose
name is on the envelope,

634

00:29:07,360 --> 00:29:08,350
for sure.

635

00:29:08,350 --> 00:29:10,990
They're going to ask
him questions and you.

636

00:29:10,990 --> 00:29:14,410
And if you tell the same
story of how you got the \$10

637

00:29:14,410 --> 00:29:18,395

and how his name appeared
on the envelope, then

638
00:29:18,395 --> 00:29:19,270
it will be all right.

639
00:29:19,270 --> 00:29:21,160
But otherwise, if you
tell different stories,

640
00:29:21,160 --> 00:29:23,307
because he will be
questioned separately,

641
00:29:23,307 --> 00:29:24,640
there might be a little problem.

642
00:29:24,640 --> 00:29:27,530
Oh, they started
to cry and yell.

643
00:29:27,530 --> 00:29:31,300
If we did, we broke the
law, they might send us away

644
00:29:31,300 --> 00:29:32,500
from our school.

645
00:29:32,500 --> 00:29:34,450
I said, well, let's
see what happens.

646
00:29:34,450 --> 00:29:38,110
So just at that time,
the man was brought in,

647
00:29:38,110 --> 00:29:39,730
the local resident.

648
00:29:39,730 --> 00:29:40,540
He saw them.

649

00:29:40,540 --> 00:29:43,640
He looked at them, and
then they said, look,

650
00:29:43,640 --> 00:29:45,550
we are religious people.

651
00:29:45,550 --> 00:29:48,850
We have to pray, it's 5
o'clock in the afternoon.

652
00:29:48,850 --> 00:29:51,640
And I said to the police, is
it allowed that they pray?

653
00:29:51,640 --> 00:29:53,050
They said, yeah, let them pray.

654
00:29:53,050 --> 00:29:55,710
They came to the window, and
they started to [INAUDIBLE],,

655
00:29:55,710 --> 00:29:57,190
you know.

656
00:29:57,190 --> 00:29:58,810
And they started to yell.

657
00:29:58,810 --> 00:30:01,340
And one of the
prayers in Yiddish,

658
00:30:01,340 --> 00:30:03,147
they started to say
to this man, you

659
00:30:03,147 --> 00:30:05,230
tell him like this, because
we told him like that.

660
00:30:05,230 --> 00:30:06,772
It should be the same.

661

00:30:06,772 --> 00:30:09,240

And he understood right away.

662

00:30:09,240 --> 00:30:10,890

He said, I also want to pray.

663

00:30:10,890 --> 00:30:14,670

They gave him the permission,
and he told them what he said.

664

00:30:14,670 --> 00:30:18,420

They took them both to separate
rooms for interrogation.

665

00:30:18,420 --> 00:30:21,570

And in 10, 15 minutes, they
said, they told the same story!

666

00:30:21,570 --> 00:30:23,460

Because they
rehearsed it, you see.

667

00:30:23,460 --> 00:30:25,975

And they let them go, and
they said, that's all right,

668

00:30:25,975 --> 00:30:26,850

don't worry about it.

669

00:30:26,850 --> 00:30:29,160

Only thing is sign
the paper that you

670

00:30:29,160 --> 00:30:32,580

will change the dollars
tomorrow in the Japanese bank

671

00:30:32,580 --> 00:30:33,870

into Japanese money.

672

00:30:33,870 --> 00:30:35,220

And that was the end of it.

673
00:30:35,220 --> 00:30:37,530
It was not a serious situation.

674
00:30:37,530 --> 00:30:38,822
Great.

675
00:30:38,822 --> 00:30:39,720
Let's change tapes.

676
00:30:39,720 --> 00:30:40,220
That's it?

677
00:30:40,220 --> 00:30:41,080
We have to end.

678
00:30:41,080 --> 00:30:43,380
We're at 36, yeah.

679
00:30:43,380 --> 00:30:44,350
How much time?

680
00:30:44,350 --> 00:30:46,350
Uh-- that-- I mean, with
30 minutes, 36 seconds,

681
00:30:46,350 --> 00:30:48,500
I would-- yeah, OK.

682
00:30:48,500 --> 00:31:08,000