

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:41,183

2
00:00:41,183 --> 00:00:42,600
Could you tell us
how old you were

3
00:00:42,600 --> 00:00:45,450
during this period of time?

4
00:00:45,450 --> 00:00:49,540
And does it seem like an
entirely different lifetime?

5
00:00:49,540 --> 00:00:54,060
I mean can you get
philosophical about it?

6
00:00:54,060 --> 00:01:00,540
I was 27 years old,
and I was in Kobe

7
00:01:00,540 --> 00:01:03,360
during that period of time.

8
00:01:03,360 --> 00:01:07,170
Philosophical about it-- now, as
years went by, and I'm getting

9
00:01:07,170 --> 00:01:13,565
to be an ancient old man,
having read about it--

10
00:01:13,565 --> 00:01:16,380
and having read a lot
about the Holocaust,

11
00:01:16,380 --> 00:01:20,140
I feel good about the fact
that I was in some way

12

00:01:20,140 --> 00:01:24,540
responsible, not responsible,
but involved in helping people

13
00:01:24,540 --> 00:01:26,250
to save their lives.

14
00:01:26,250 --> 00:01:28,450
And that makes me feel good.

15
00:01:28,450 --> 00:01:31,150
I tell this to my children
and grandchildren.

16
00:01:31,150 --> 00:01:33,655
And that's it.

17
00:01:33,655 --> 00:01:34,530
That's all I can say.

18
00:01:34,530 --> 00:01:35,760
I'm glad I'm in America.

19
00:01:35,760 --> 00:01:37,650
I'm glad that my family is here.

20
00:01:37,650 --> 00:01:41,400
My children were able to go
to good schools, universities.

21
00:01:41,400 --> 00:01:44,520
My grandchildren, great
grandchildren are here.

22
00:01:44,520 --> 00:01:48,600
The only anything I have
a great regret and sorrow

23
00:01:48,600 --> 00:01:51,600
that my wife left
me, 10 years ago.

24

00:01:51,600 --> 00:01:54,510
She died of cancer.

25
00:01:54,510 --> 00:01:56,760
I'm grateful.

26
00:01:56,760 --> 00:02:04,380
Did you-- in your
early 20s, mid 20s,

27
00:02:04,380 --> 00:02:08,490
when you were like meeting
with the rabbis and stuff--

28
00:02:08,490 --> 00:02:12,430
Yes, from 20-- I was 25 to
27, that's the period of time.

29
00:02:12,430 --> 00:02:16,890

30
00:02:16,890 --> 00:02:18,780
Did you feel you
had good judgment

31
00:02:18,780 --> 00:02:20,940
or did you feel honored?

32
00:02:20,940 --> 00:02:23,130
I mean, did you feel
like you were very young?

33
00:02:23,130 --> 00:02:27,020

34
00:02:27,020 --> 00:02:29,510
I felt that I was very
young, but I must tell you

35
00:02:29,510 --> 00:02:34,280
that the president of our
community and other associates

36

00:02:34,280 --> 00:02:36,380

that I worked with,
especially the president,

37

00:02:36,380 --> 00:02:40,660

was a very great, fine
leader, dedicated man,

38

00:02:40,660 --> 00:02:42,680

and I was his secretary.

39

00:02:42,680 --> 00:02:46,580

And I was very glad that I was
able to learn a lot of things

40

00:02:46,580 --> 00:02:49,340

from him, and help him in
this great work that he did.

41

00:02:49,340 --> 00:02:52,010

I give all the credit to
him and to my other friends.

42

00:02:52,010 --> 00:02:54,890

Unfortunately, they're
not there anymore.

43

00:02:54,890 --> 00:02:58,910

Were the refugees that
you helped grateful?

44

00:02:58,910 --> 00:03:00,140

Have you heard from them?

45

00:03:00,140 --> 00:03:02,550

Yes, I've heard from them.

46

00:03:02,550 --> 00:03:05,115

They would come and talk to me.

47

00:03:05,115 --> 00:03:06,365

Answer in a complete sentence.

48
00:03:06,365 --> 00:03:09,470

49
00:03:09,470 --> 00:03:12,710
Even lately, when I meet
some of them, ah, Mr. Hannon,

50
00:03:12,710 --> 00:03:15,320
you are the one that
was in Kobe, Japan.

51
00:03:15,320 --> 00:03:18,400
I got letters from Australia and
from America, and some of them

52
00:03:18,400 --> 00:03:20,000
I met in Israel.

53
00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:20,840
They were grateful.

54
00:03:20,840 --> 00:03:23,480
And they said, you helped us a
lot, and we are very grateful.

55
00:03:23,480 --> 00:03:24,590
That's all.

56
00:03:24,590 --> 00:03:33,830
Nobody ever-- as a matter of
fact, there was a time in 1950

57
00:03:33,830 --> 00:03:36,390
or so, I had a very
difficult time in Israel.

58
00:03:36,390 --> 00:03:39,780
I lost my job and
it was difficult.

59
00:03:39,780 --> 00:03:42,380

And I don't know how
those refugees that

60
00:03:42,380 --> 00:03:46,490
were spread all over the world,
America, Canada, Australia,

61
00:03:46,490 --> 00:03:48,740
they found out that I
had a difficult time.

62
00:03:48,740 --> 00:03:50,570
I had a family of
three children.

63
00:03:50,570 --> 00:03:55,740
I started getting care
packages, 10, 15, 20

64
00:03:55,740 --> 00:03:58,040
came from all over
from these people.

65
00:03:58,040 --> 00:03:59,843
And I was very, very
grateful to them.

66
00:03:59,843 --> 00:04:01,010
I didn't know who they were.

67
00:04:01,010 --> 00:04:02,750
There were no names from--

68
00:04:02,750 --> 00:04:06,480
on the labels, but that's
the way they paid me back.

69
00:04:06,480 --> 00:04:07,580
Amazing.

70
00:04:07,580 --> 00:04:08,460
It was good.

71
00:04:08,460 --> 00:04:08,990
It was good.

72
00:04:08,990 --> 00:04:09,532
I'm grateful.

73
00:04:09,532 --> 00:04:18,410

74
00:04:18,410 --> 00:04:22,190
What happened to the rest
of your family in Russia?

75
00:04:22,190 --> 00:04:22,900
I don't know.

76
00:04:22,900 --> 00:04:23,570
You don't know.

77
00:04:23,570 --> 00:04:26,090
I left when I was
three years old.

78
00:04:26,090 --> 00:04:27,500
My parents took me out.

79
00:04:27,500 --> 00:04:28,820
They didn't correspond.

80
00:04:28,820 --> 00:04:30,710
They didn't contact each other.

81
00:04:30,710 --> 00:04:34,460
So I never knew where they were.

82
00:04:34,460 --> 00:04:36,840
My father never
corresponded with them.

83
00:04:36,840 --> 00:04:41,690
I know that time took its own.

84
00:04:41,690 --> 00:04:44,150
That's all.

85
00:04:44,150 --> 00:04:50,780
Do you have any final
statements or feelings

86
00:04:50,780 --> 00:04:56,000
about why you were
involved, or was it

87
00:04:56,000 --> 00:04:59,480
fate, was it the hand of God?

88
00:04:59,480 --> 00:05:04,490
I always feel that,
and I say to my friends

89
00:05:04,490 --> 00:05:07,550
and whoever asks me this
question, that I'm glad

90
00:05:07,550 --> 00:05:10,610
I was in the right
place at the right time

91
00:05:10,610 --> 00:05:13,620
to be able to take
part in that work.

92
00:05:13,620 --> 00:05:16,820
I'm grateful for my
associates in the JEWCOM,

93
00:05:16,820 --> 00:05:20,120
especially the president,
Mr. Ponve, the ladies,

94
00:05:20,120 --> 00:05:21,920
the wives who were helping.

95

00:05:21,920 --> 00:05:26,130
Everybody works, works really
hard to help these people who

96
00:05:26,130 --> 00:05:27,880
were really strangers.

97
00:05:27,880 --> 00:05:29,540
They were different
people from ours.

98
00:05:29,540 --> 00:05:30,980
We were Russians.

99
00:05:30,980 --> 00:05:34,340
They were Polish, Jews,
Orthodox, and so forth.

100
00:05:34,340 --> 00:05:39,722
And I'm grateful that
I was able to do it.

101
00:05:39,722 --> 00:05:41,580
OK.

102
00:05:41,580 --> 00:05:44,400
And anything that
I didn't ask about

103
00:05:44,400 --> 00:05:47,700
that you feel we should know?

104
00:05:47,700 --> 00:05:50,730
I just want to
underline once again

105
00:05:50,730 --> 00:05:55,710
that there's one person that
was very, very responsible,

106
00:05:55,710 --> 00:05:59,310
and to whom I owe this luck
of being his secretary, Mr.

107
00:05:59,310 --> 00:06:04,630
Ponve, who passed away
in 1969 in Los Angeles.

108
00:06:04,630 --> 00:06:10,080
He was the one who requested
me to help him in his work.

109
00:06:10,080 --> 00:06:11,160
And he was the one--

110
00:06:11,160 --> 00:06:14,460
he was, at that time already,
not a very strong man.

111
00:06:14,460 --> 00:06:15,810
He was a sick man.

112
00:06:15,810 --> 00:06:19,573
But his work, his energy--

113
00:06:19,573 --> 00:06:21,990
there was a lot of things that
probably were not even told

114
00:06:21,990 --> 00:06:24,030
to us by the Japanese.

115
00:06:24,030 --> 00:06:26,310
He was very well-respected.

116
00:06:26,310 --> 00:06:30,330
And I want his name
to be forever known,

117
00:06:30,330 --> 00:06:31,630
if it's possible.

118
00:06:31,630 --> 00:06:33,010
OK.

119

00:06:33,010 --> 00:06:35,940

And one last technical question again.

120

00:06:35,940 --> 00:06:39,270

Where did the name JEWCAM come from?

121

00:06:39,270 --> 00:06:45,960

Jewish Community of Kobe, Ashkenazi, in brackets.

122

00:06:45,960 --> 00:06:49,870

In the telegram office, for the purpose of sending telegrams,

123

00:06:49,870 --> 00:06:52,632

it was shortened, instead of Jewish Community,

124

00:06:52,632 --> 00:06:54,090

got a long, long, long description,

125

00:06:54,090 --> 00:06:56,820

JEWCAM, that's how its done.

126

00:06:56,820 --> 00:06:59,260

The Polish Jews couldn't pronounce JEWCAM.

127

00:06:59,260 --> 00:07:03,090

They called it YEFAM, because for them, J was not a--

128

00:07:03,090 --> 00:07:05,250

they didn't use the letter J in their language,

129

00:07:05,250 --> 00:07:07,140

in Yiddish or in Polish.

130

00:07:07,140 --> 00:07:10,050
So it was easier for them to
talk to each other, JEWCOM,

131
00:07:10,050 --> 00:07:11,490
JEWCOM, YEFCOM, YEFCOM.

132
00:07:11,490 --> 00:07:13,275
It's a Jewish
Community of Japan.

133
00:07:13,275 --> 00:07:14,850
It was too long.

134
00:07:14,850 --> 00:07:16,560
And that's how it started.

135
00:07:16,560 --> 00:07:20,040
And how it went on.

136
00:07:20,040 --> 00:07:21,150
Great.

137
00:07:21,150 --> 00:07:23,220
Thank you.

138
00:07:23,220 --> 00:07:26,130
Now quiet for 30
seconds for the editor.

139
00:07:26,130 --> 00:07:29,710

140
00:07:29,710 --> 00:07:32,290
This is 30 seconds room
tone, 30 seconds room tone.

141
00:07:32,290 --> 00:07:33,472
Can I drink?

142
00:07:33,472 --> 00:07:35,932
[SILENCE]

143

00:07:35,932 --> 00:08:04,520

144

00:08:04,520 --> 00:08:05,420

OK.

145

00:08:05,420 --> 00:08:07,040

End room tone.

146

00:08:07,040 --> 00:08:08,290

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

147

00:08:08,290 --> 00:10:14,251