

--look at me, will you hire me? I said, with open arms. Well, we are hiring foreigners now. So I said, OK. That was my mind made up. First, I had to do my British Army service. That was two years. Then I applied for the Merchant Marine Academy. I was accepted there. That was another two and a half years. And then, I sent the letter to them. I said, OK, I'm ready. They weren't ready for me. They didn't need me anymore because in five years, they had their own Merchant Marine Academy there. They were graduating people. And they weren't waiting for me.

So I took a job on English ships, and-- which was actually very rewarding. So about two and a half years, I spent on English ships and saved enough money to go back and study for higher professions. And there was a new course being given out on radar for radio officers. So I took that at university and graduated from them.

And then I sent them another letter. This time, they said, come to London. We will interview. So we went to London. And they hired me. It was a new ship, passenger ship, being built in Hamburg. So I said, OK. They said, don't expect to stay on that ship because everybody wants to work on that. But it'll take you to Haifa. And as soon as you get there, you'll get reassigned. I said, OK.

Well, when we were on our way, passing through the Bay of Biscay, which is known for its rough weather, next thing I knew, I got a call to go to the bridge. The radar had broken down. They said, we understand you've got some special training in this. So I set to work. And I managed to find the problem and fix it.

The captain was elated. It never happened to him that anybody on the ship could fix the radar. So he said to me, you want to stay on this ship? I said, you bet. So he said, OK. People came and went. And I was like a piece of fixture-- a furniture there. And a year later, I was promoted to chief radio officer. And that's where I met Josie.

And Josie is right there in the front row. Josie, raise your hand so people know you're there. Yeah, absolutely. I think time for us to stop. And I, unfortunately, am going to turn back. I'm going to ask Freddie to do a little more work. You're going to have to say a few more words. So we're going to turn to Freddie for his last word in just a bit. But I want to thank all of you for joining us, being part of our First Person program today. We will have programs through next Thursday. And then we'll resume again next March. So please, check the museum's website and get information about our program next year. And we hope you'll come back.

It's our tradition here at First Person that our first person gets the last word. So in just a moment, I'm going to turn back to Freddie for his last word. We didn't have a chance-- we didn't have a chance for question and answers with Freddie today. But when he's done, Freddie, you can stay behind for a few minutes?

Sure.

He'll step off stage over here. He'll step off the stage over here and be able to answer any questions that you have. Or just come up, and meet him, and shake his hand. Please, feel free to do that. When Freddie is done, I'm going to ask all of you to stand because our photographer, Joel, is going to step up on the stage. And he's going to take a photograph of Freddie with you as the background to that photograph. So we'll ask you to do that when Freddie is done. So on that note, I'd like to turn to Freddie to close our program.

OK. Well, from hearing my story, I'm alive because somebody-- in this case, the Griggs family, stood up and said they were prepared to help to do something. And I think this is the lesson I learned, that-- not to depend on others. If you see something that needs to be done, and you want to do it, do it. Depend on yourself to do that. And I'm forever grateful.

Incidentally, his family, with the Griggs family, with the exception of one daughter, they've all died since then. But I'm in touch with her. And I was talking to her just two days ago, a long conversation. She looks upon me as a family member. And it's really a good association. So thank you very much for coming.

[APPLAUSE]

All right for you? Let's get you up. Going to get your photograph taken now.

Do you want me to turn around?

Yeah. Just stand up. All right. Step back just a few paces.

Alfred, make sure you do not fall.