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**Interview Transcript Title Page**

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**REFUGEE VOICES**

**Interview No.** RV270

**NAME:**  Lili Todes

**DATE**: 11 July 2022

**LOCATION:** London

**INTERVIEWER**: Dr. Bea Lewkowicz

**[00:00:00]** *Today’s the 11th of July 2022. We’re conducting an interview with Mrs Lili Todes. My name is Bea Lewkowicz and we are in London. What is your name please?*

Lili Todes.

*And where and when were you born?*

In Bamberg, Bavaria in Germany.

*Lili, thank you so much for talking to us and agreeing to give an interview for the AJR Refugee Voices Archive.*

Pleasure.

*Can you tell us a little bit about your family background please?*

Well, we lived in Bavaria for generations in a lovely house with a family of hop merchants whose establishment was in the back of the house [inaudible] and yes, we lived there for three generations, I think. We lived in the top part of the house and the bottom part was rented out to the brother of the Duke of Bavaria, so there was a lot of pomp and [inaudible].

*What was the address?*

The address? Hainstraße. It was the one avenue that when Jews were allowed, in the 1860s were allowed in Bamberg, they very quickly became prosperous, started manufacturing. And the street we lived in, Hainstraße was full of very elegant and prosperous homes.

*Describe it a little bit for us.*

Well, nothing to describe. Each house was different, they were family homes. Opposite us lived the Lord Mayor, I don’t know what you call it –

*Bürgermeister?*

*Bürgermeister* lived opposite us and in later years the head of the Gestapo which had a profound effect on my childhood because everything had an effect on my childhood. **[00:02:02]** I was born three years into Hitler and things started getting very uncomfortable then. My parents had a very false sense of security because my father’s business was international and brought a lot of foreign currency, and they couldn’t believe that anything could go very wrong until 193- – very early into Hitler’s reign, Jewish families were not allowed to have female staff. So we employed an old lady and two men. We had two butlers. And saved - the children’s furniture was put – was hidden in a van and sent to England. But opposite us was the *Bürgermeister,* the Gestapo chief, and we had parades very often in front of the house and on the balcony one of our servants would stand with their hand up, and I would stand next to her, and all of the soldiers marched past the house of the *Bürgermeister*. Then it was my time to go to school and that didn’t last because Jewish children were really being hit upon with stones and came home with bloody noses and so my parents took me out. And then they established what was called the Jewish school where all Jewish children were bunged together in a synagogue. Didn’t learn very much there. Had a lot of fun but that didn’t last. So then I had just private tuition. And then my father was an optimist like everybody else, he felt it couldn’t last, it couldn’t happen here, and so instead of not being allowed to go to the swimming pool or tennis court, or do anything by this time, we went abroad with our governess. And on one holiday, the last holiday we – it was in Switzerland in Champéry and we met an English Lord, Sir Robert Dunlop. **[00:04:06]** And he and my father hit it off, they became good friends, and my mother was also a stamp collector and Lady Dunlop was a stamp collector. And my father was told by Sir Robert, ‘Don’t go back to Germany,’ and my mother was told by Lady Dunlop, ‘If you have to go just send me one stamp, one rare stamp, and I will know you need help.’ And that’s how we got our papers. So we went back. That was the summer of *Kristallnacht* and we did, and they did, they came through with the proper – and then we started – my father sent my brother who was older to an English boarding school and my sister, and I stayed with my parents, and in May 1939 we started – we got into a train and when we got to the border the train stopped – the Netherlands border, the train stopped and we heard, ‘*Juden raus! Juden...’* everybody out, Jews out. So, at that point dramatically, my nose started bleeding. I suffered from nose bleeds as a child, and the blood went all over my white woollen stockings. And my father looked very anxious. He didn’t even notice that his life was in danger. Anyway, so the Gestapo rammed the doors open – I never will forget it – and he looked and came back in five minutes with a pillow behind my head. And then the train went through to Holland and to safety, and then we went – my father had friends, business friends, the van Santens, in Holland and in Belgium, the [inaudible] enormous amount of lovely friends. **[00:06:01]** But we went to London and met up with my brother and sister and then my father and my uncle started looking for – oh, the reason they got their visa so quickly was because they were given employment in England which was in the middle of a depression. And there were two trading estates, one in Cardiff and one on Tyneside in Gateshead. So, my father and my uncle they decided on Gateshead and we went to Newcastle and tried to settle there. And that’s the end of my – and it didn’t end there because this was in 1939. In 1940 – I didn’t say how the Gestapo came on *Kristallnacht* to our house did I, but anyway that’s what happened. My father and my uncle were both arrested on *Kristallnacht*, 1938. But anyway, in 1940, same sort of situation. The front door bell rang and the police were there to arrest my father as an enemy alien, and they took him away and left us alone. So didn’t know quite what to do with my mother, we had no income. The factory was not set up properly. My uncle was also interred, and so we tried to survive, and my mother made little, small children’s playthings out of felt, and my sister distributed them. And then came another edict that all enemy aliens, which we were, had to leave the country in case we signalled from Whitley Bay to the Germans across. So, we had to leave. We closed the house and went off, and we stayed with a family [inaudible] with a cousin of my mother in Hampstead, in Highgate, yes, and stayed there for a while. **[00:08:11]** And then my cousin – I can’t remember quite what happened, whether we were bombed out – yes, we were bombed out. We were bombed out in Hampstead. We lived in a – we went to live in a boarding house, that’s right, on Fitzjohn’s Avenue, and there was a shelter in the basement and we heard the bombs diving and everybody from the shelter run out into the street into another shelter. And the shelter in the garden was bombed and we were homeless, completely homeless. So my sister and I slept a night in the library in Hampstead. Do you know it? The one at the bottom of Frognal Lane. Anyway, so then my cousin and his mother had gone to Keswick and they said, ‘Why don’t you come to Keswick?’ So, we went to Keswick and my mother became the cleaning lady of the local vicar, which was a change of role for her. And after a while, after many months I was stationed with the local postman who were horrible, absolutely horrible, and I couldn’t speak very good English, and then finally we went back to Newcastle. And that’s when we started – my father started the factory which prospered, and I went – my mother marched me to the Mother Superior of the local convent and said, ‘We are refugees, we haven’t got much money but we’d like my daughter to have an education.’ So off we went. My sister went to the local high school which was called – what’s it called? I can’t remember the name – anyway, there we are, that’s my story. **[00:10:06]**

*Okay. So that got us quite far. I need to go back a little bit. Tell us a little bit, you said your grandparents were in Bamberg. How did they get there? And both your parents were born in Bamberg, how did they –?*

The grandmothers. We said goodbye to them on the way to the train. Never forget it. Yes, and they were very optimistic that they would join us in England, but it wasn’t to be. They were – my grandmother from Nuremburg was arrested in Nuremburg very early on. My grandmother in Bamberg was taken to a place called [inaudible] which was a meeting place of Bamberg people and then she was deported on a cow truck. With everybody looking behind the curtains she was deported to Auschwitz and Theresienstadt. My grandmothers perished. And when my father heard the news in 1942 from the Red Cross, the news came out I think, he never recovered. He died of a heart attack very soon after. That’s my story. That’s why I don’t visit Germany.

*What about your grandfathers?*

They died earlier. Don’t ask me when, but they were – yes, they died – I never knew my grandmother’s – my father’s mother, she had four sons, my uncles. One in Poland, there was three in Germany in the factory. They were all in the – they all fought for the Kaiser and yes, they – the grandmothers – I don’t know when the grandfathers died. I never met them.

*Tell us about the grandmothers a little bit.* **[00:12:02]** *What do you remember as a child?*

Oh, my grandmother in Bamberg, she was very religious and she would bring her own food on Friday evenings, and she had a very trusted servant called Kunni and she used to have her hair – she was lovely. She was a lovely, lovely, lovely lady. The grandmother in Nuremberg was more demanding. She was very modern and she was very demanding about behaviour. They used to leave me there when they went on holiday, my family. Stood at the *Bahnhof* in Nuremberg while they went off. And my grandmother, her house was opposite the *Burg* – do you know Nuremberg?

*A little bit.*

The *Burg*, you know the man who jumped over, the Iron Maiden, do you know about the Iron Maiden? The torture, the figure of a woman with closed on spikes, which was a horrible form of German torture [laughs]. So that was – I hated being in Nuremberg with my grandmother. I didn’t like – but she didn’t deserve to die in Auschwitz either.

*And how did your parents meet? Do you know anything about it? How –?*

Yes, they met – my mother was not allowed to go to university and she worked in the Red Cross and there were performances in the local – my father was in the army. My father was wounded in the army, he was wounded out, he lost an eye very early on in the Somme, and he went walking in the mountains for six weeks and when he came back from the mountains, he met my mother I think socially, somehow socially. My mother was working for the Baroness von Michel after whom I am called. I’m called – she was called Lilly von Michel. My father wanted to call me Ursula [laughs], so thank God that didn’t happen. Anyway, so how they met, very romantically, and I think my mother waited a long time before she agreed to marry my father. **[00:14:05]** ‘Cos he had one eye it was not the most desirable situation for any young woman, but there we are.

*But she was also born in Bamberg, so they both came from –?*

Yes, yes, they lived in the family home, yes.

*And Lili, what are your first memories of growing up in Bamberg? What are your first memories?*

My sister and I pretending to be – we shared a bedroom and my mother and my family were terribly hospitable. The dining-room was – silver and the crystal and the foreign people – it was always very, very exciting – we stayed in – we were put to bed, and we used to pretend we were young women in Berlin having an exciting time in Berlin. We lived a fantasy. That was a memory I have of the time. But I don’t have many good – I remember going into the cellar. My father had a collection of wines and the butler, Sulzbacher, he had the key to it and occasionally pocketed a bottle or two, but I got to know wines. My father was very good at French wines, and he was always given them by his clients, by his customers. So, I enjoyed going in the cellar. It was a very – I used to pretend I was dead in the cellar. We used to go and play in the cellar.

*And you were the youngest of the siblings.*

Yes, I was. I was – when we left I was just nine years, yes.

*And your brother and sister were how much older?*

They were – my brother and sister were at the *Gymnasium.* For reasons that I never understood, they were allowed to go to the *Gymnasium.* But my brother used to play with George, with the cousins across the road –

*This is George Loble.*

George Loble, yes.

*Who we interviewed.*

And his father and my father were in business, in the same factory together, and were arrested together on *Kristallnacht*. **[00:16:01]** But they used to play cowboys and Indians and I used to be – remember being nailed to a tree [laughs], I used to be – I was always the- playing with. But my uncle across the road, they had three boys as you probably know, and had always wanted a daughter. So, on Sunday mornings I used to go for breakfast. Did George not mention that to you? Sunday mornings was breakfast at Aunt Elsa, and by God, she cooked, she baked, she did – she was amazing. Did he mention that? About his mother?

*I have to check.*

His mother, she baked something through her life. So that’s finished with Bamberg.

*You used to go there on a Sunday morning for the breakfast.*

I went across the road and had breakfast there, yes. I don’t want to speak about Bamberg anymore.

*Okay. Just the last thing I want to ask about Bamberg. Tell us a little bit about their factory. What did they – the factory.*

The factory. There’s a picture of it, I’ll show you, downstairs. It was – we went there sometimes. It was very modern. It had a- some deck- some warming on the roof, what do you call it?

*Solar.*

Solar, solar energy, yes, yes. And they had an enormous international business with Scandinavia, and Belgium and Holland, and so on, and my father travelled a lot. We had an awful lot of guests from foreign countries, but the factory was on the outskirts. It was newly built, very modern, and lots of fun for children to play in.

*What were they exporting? Tell us what they did.*

What they did, what they made? They made – the first Bakelite electronic adaptors and equipment. All electrical equipment they made. Not equipment, like – I can’t describe. **[00:18:01]** Lighting fittings, lighting fittings. You can look that up. I’ll tell you later what – but George was- must have told you, you don’t remember, yes, same factory.

*I do remember. So, it was successful, a big business.*

Very successful, but it was forced – taken over by force without any funds being – it was a very, very tough time.

*What was it called Lili? What was the factory called?*

The factory was called Hugo Loebl & Söhne. It was the three brothers and the father, they mentioned him by saying *“Söhne”,* yeah. It was very successful. It didn’t last very long. I think it was 1928 they – I think they moved into the – the name sticks in my mind, 1928 ‘til 1938. It was not a long residency really, yeah.

*And you said you hardly went to school so did you have any nasty experiences in Nuremberg you yourself?*

As a child? Those first weeks in the school on the river, absolutely. I came home with a bleeding nose every day, so that was – yes, they were told by their parents that Jews were bad so that’s – the children took it on. You know, they became very persecutionary, so I never learnt to read and write. They got me a tutor in the end. I can’t remember her name. She came and taught me how to spell, I think.

*And when you said your brother and sister were sent to boarding school –*

In England. In Germany they were at the *Gymnasium.*

*And when were they sent out to boarding school? After Kristallnacht?*

After *Kristallnacht*, yes, yes. My brother had a bad time at the border. Because he had all his bar mitzvah presents which they took away from him. I can’t quite remember. It’s in his book. I can’t quite remember. My sister accompanied an old man who fell ill at Dover before he could cross over to – not at Dover. **[00:20:08]** What’s the German harbour? I don’t know what it’s called. Anyway, there we are.

*And tell us about Kristallnacht. Do you remember it?*

Do I remember it? Yes, I describe it in my book. What happened was- it started with the house next door which was also – which was Susie Kaufman’s family, you know, they had also a store house. It collapsed into itself. And there was a knock on the door and then I heard the footsteps coming up the marble stairs and it was the Gestapo, and they came in to fetch my father. And my father took out his glass eye, put it in his pocket, and I think he showed his medal. I’m not sure about that. I was standing next to my father when they came to arrest him, and I was petrified of course. My mother was somewhere in the backroom with my sister, and anyway, they went off with my father. And you looked down on the street and you could see them crossing, criss-crossing, arresting all the Jews. It was a very well planned arrest. So that was that. And we spent the day – I can’t tell you. It was a nightmare that day. In the evening there was a loud banging on our front door and my mother said, ‘Come in the back, come in the back in case it’s the Gestapo again.’ And it went on and on, and I looked out and it was my father saying, ‘Please let me in.’ He and my uncle had escaped from the temporary imprisonment and had made their way back, so he was rescued. He and my Uncle Fritz were both rescued and that’s [inaudible] no more making nice foreign currency for the Nazis. **[00:22:06]**

*How did they escape do you know? How did they manage to get out?*

How did they – I believe, I believe from my brother’s book that my Uncle – they both – all had been in the army and I think my Uncle had recognised one of his officers, I think, and he had opened the door of the prison. I think. I’m not sure how they got out. I shall never know, but they did get out. And that was – yes.

*And was that when things changed when they –?*

That’s when my father – and my mother sent the stamp to Lady Dunlop, and my father wrote for papers. And that’s when the brother and sister were sent immediately abroad to the school, which I can’t remember. I know there were the scout – the brother of – Henry Moore’s brother I think because there was lots of statues in the garden. But –

*Not Bunce Court?*

No, it wasn’t Bunce Court, no. It was a proper boarding school.

*English, yeah.*

And the headmaster was a very – one of the wonderful English people who really saw the danger to Jewish children and took them in. Because the Kindertransport, you know – all this business of the Ukrainian children and – they didn’t let in children unless they had somewhere to go. I’m not talking about Kindertransport, that was separate, but for ordinary people they didn’t let Jews in unless they had somewhere to go and paid a lot of money. The British were not very hospitable [laughs]. If we hadn’t known Sir Robert Dunlop we wouldn’t have been there.

*You think you wouldn’t have got that visa.*

I don’t think so. I really – I don’t think so. I mean, it was the prospect of opening, of giving work in a depressed area. **[00:24:01]** And I have to say, the people on the Tyneside were wonderful. They were a different breed of people. The neighbours were lovely, the neighbours across the road were lovely, and they were very kind, yes. It was a different thing from – yes.

*So you were left by yourself. I mean, your brother and sister – you stayed with your parents until you emigrated. Between [both talking at once].*

Yes. Well, yes, we made that journey when my nose bleed saved the family. I mean, the Jews who were out on the platform in their hundreds went to Auschwitz. It was the most extraordinary – I describe it in my book, you can read it. It’s an unbelievable act of – from outside. You know, we wore – I don’t know if you remember, woollen white knee socks. They were full of blood. And the fact that this Gestapo, his first reaction was, ‘Ah, here’s blood, people in trouble.’ He went out and got the pillow.

*He got the pillow for you.*

He got the pillow and put it behind my head [laughs]. And the train went on.

*Extraordinary.*

And we crossed the border into Holland.

*And Lili, did you go to – after Kristallnacht did you go to school at all or did you stay at home?*

In Newcastle?

*No, after Kristallnacht in Bamberg.*

I never went to school. I never went to school. *Die Judenschule* was dispersed, was liquidated, and I never went to school. Never. Never went to school.

*And you said the factory was Aryanised – the factory was taken over.*

Yes, it was.

*After Kristallnacht.*

It was taken over, yes, yes. Yes, and my mother, my grandmother’s coat – did I tell you her winter coat was taken away by the Nazis to give to – for the siege of Stalingrad because the German soldiers were so cold. **[00:26:00]** They didn’t have enough clothes. So, yeah. I wasn’t expecting to say all this, but –

*Okay, that’s –*

For me, I’m a writer. I write – I can’t write, I’ve got carpal tunnel.

*Well sorry, we are a video [inaudible] [laughs] but, you know, that’s why we need to hear it from you but I’ll look at the book obviously later. So just to come back to the journey. What are your memories of leaving Bamberg? What could you take yourself?*

I remember the journey to the *Bahnhof*. I remember there was a van which – Sulzbacher put all the furniture into the van without our knowing. We left the empty house. What do I remember? What feelings did I have? I just remember saying goodbye to my grandmother which was dreadful, to both. First to my grandmother from Nuremberg who had come to stay nearer to my house with my aunt, with my mother’s sister, and then my grandmother, the older lady, who lived near the *Bahnhof* in her house where we had our Friday evenings always. I remember that very well. Getting on the train, yes, of course. Yes, how can one not – how can one forget?

*Yeah.*

I can’t forget.

*Could you take anything? Could you take any of your toys or a book?*

Did I take any of my toys, no, no, no.

*Anything?*

Oh, I had one *Puppe* one doll, I had the one doll, which I found in Newcastle. I didn’t realise my mother had packed that for me.

*And the furniture went off in a – you said went off –*

We left the lovely grand piano behind, we left everything behind, except a few Biedermeier pieces. He put into – with maybe some clothes and some linens. **[00:28:04]** I know a van went – arrived in England.

*And when did that arrive in England, all that stuff?*

Yes, yes, it did.

*Soon after or –?*

Yes, yes.

*After you arrived here.*

Yes. Because we stayed in London because my father – they looked to furnish their factory, they looked in London. They took an office in London. We stayed in London for a little bit first.

*When you first came.*

Yeah.

*So when you took the ferry from where? You said – the train went where? The train you took. How did you cross into England?*

We came by boat, and my father and I we were very sick [laughs]. It’s a very – have you done this crossing? I mustn’t ask that. Anyway [laughs].

*Where did you arrive, in – where did you –?*

Dover, I think. Yes, Dover because school – my children’s school was in Dover.

*And from Dover – you stayed in Dover or you went to London when you arrived?*

We went to see the school, my brother and sister’s school.

*Ah, the boarding school.*

The boarding school. I think we stayed in a hotel or a boarding house near there, and then went to London to Fitzjohn’s Avenue, number 38 Fitzjohn’s Avenue.

*So Lili, what were your impressions then as a – you were young, I mean, you were nine years old. What did you make of that trip [both talking at once]?*

I have no idea [laughs].

*Any recollections?*

I would be lying if I told you what I felt. It was all so momentous, it was so – you know, it was absolutely so – *Kristallnacht* was such a shocking experience, you know. It was a very – there was a terror all around. You went in the street and people whom you’d been friendly with crossed the road. It was such a humiliating and horrible, horrible time. So, being in England, was it a relief? I honestly can’t tell you. **[00:30:02]** I can’t tell you. So many things happened since then [laughs].

*What about language? Did you have any English?*

I couldn’t speak English at all. My parents had English lessons of course and I picked up fairly quickly I think, you know, one does, doesn’t one? I don’t know how, but one does, yes.

*And Fitzjohn’s, you said you moved to 38 Fitzjohn’s. What was it, a boarding house or –?*

A boarding house, yes.

*And did you stay in a room with your parents or what –?*

No, I had a room to myself.

*And did your brother and sister stay there?*

They joined us there. No, my brother didn’t. My brother went to cadet school, cadet corps. I’m not sure. He went to a cadet situation. My sister came and we roamed around Hampstead actually. I remember that. For quite a few months we walked around Hampstead, and then we were summoned to the primary school at Fitzjohn’s for evacuation, we were evacuated to Abbots Langley. It was really quite horrible. I mean, timewise it was summer. It can’t have been many months –

*Just the children?*

Just the children, yes. We were evacuated to Abbots Langley and put in a schoolroom to be selected by the local people. And we were – everybody was selected except my sister and I. We were not selected until these two spinsters came and chose us, and they were horrible. They were horrid. They used to give me enemas and [inaudible]. It was really – they were called Ostler, Mrs Ostler and Miss Ostler. And what was the most galling of all was that when the time came that my parents could have us back in Newcastle, when they were back in Newcastle, the younger Ostler came – took us and was treated like a queen by my mother. **[00:32:11]** My mother knew how to – that was horrible. I hated – you know, it was really bitter, bitter, bitter.

*But did they treat you badly because you were refugees or just because they didn’t know how to treat children?*

They were just nasty people. They were just nasty, nasty, frustrated, spinster people, you know. They were really, really horrid. They had an outdoor toilet and I always had problems with my digestion to put it politely, and they used to give me enemas in the kitchen, in a basin. They used to give me – anyway, that’s not very interesting.

*But you managed to [both talking at once].*

We survived. You know how we survived? Because my cousin George was in a very good position. Same evacuation, but he had a lovely host family, and we met him, and he would sometimes give us something to eat. But he’s dead now too, isn’t he? Everyone’s dead. Do you know Susie Kaufman, you know her?

*Yes, I know.*

She’s – yeah. She’s a relative of mine.

*Yeah, [both talking at once].*

She’s the only one – I don’t have many left. I must call her, yes, yes.

*She doesn’t live far from here.*

So that’s enough of the War.

*Okay. So just the chronology because I’m not quite sure. When you arrived, you were first in London, then went up to Newcastle.*

Yes. We went to Newcastle for the first time.

*Yes.*

From Abbots Langley to Newcastle, yeah.

*From Abbots Langley you went to Newcastle.*

Right.

*And then you were tribunaled or your father was tribunaled?*

Well, we stayed there then. The factory – my father was – I remember my father had come out of internment and I came from Keswick on the bus across – there’s a huge pass from Cumberland to Northumberland and I remember my father stood there at the bottom of the stairs.

*What did he feel about this, being interned, and how did he cope?* **[00:34:04]**

At the school, how did I cope?

*No. Your father.*

Oh, how my father coped.

*[Inaudible].*

My father coped – my father, he was interned for a year. My Uncle was only six months. How did he cope? I don’t know. I really don’t know.

*Which camp? Where was he, do you know?*

Isle of Man. He was from Huyton to Isle of Man. But of course, Isle of Man was full of people like Peter Schidlof who came to our house later, and there was music, and there was intellect, and there was teaching, and there was a lot of interesting things going on. But my father just wanted to build up his living, the factory, and the family for God’s sake, it had been a horrible time for them. My father didn’t last long after that. He dropped dead on a business trip to Birmingham. At the railway station he dropped dead. My brother – that was when – I can’t remember what year it was, but it was horrible. Horrible, horrible.

*[Both talking at once].*

My cousin Ronnie was still alive, George’s brother was alive, ‘cos I remember. Yeah. I remember my uncle coming to tell us in Newcastle with my mother in our drawing-room, in our living-room in Newcastle, telling us about my father’s death. I don’t know how my mother – my mother managed to survive. She really did. She was very resilient and very admirable really, my mother.

*Lili, but did your father die still in the Second World War or later?*

Did he –?

*Did he die during the Second – when the –?*

My father?

*Yeah.*

He died in Newcastle after being interned. Have I got it all wrong?

*No, no, I just mean the year. When did he die because –?* **[00:36:00]**

Ah. It must have been early fifties, ’52, ’53, something like that.

*So a little bit after the War.*

Yeah, but you didn’t understand what I said about the War. My father survived the War very quickly with an injury to – losing an eye, and then walked six weeks around, then married my mother. He had a whole life after the War. They all had. All the four brothers. They all ended – there was no recognition by the Nazi government about the input of these four Jewish men.

*No, I meant the Second World War. The Second World War, sorry.*

Second World War.

*[Both talking at once] Second World War.*

Sorry.

*But you said he survived then he died –*

Cross that out please.

*Okay, don’t worry, don’t worry.*

You will edit this will you?

*Yeah.*

Will you?

*Well, not for the archive but –*

Yes or no. Will you edit it?

*Not for the archive, not for the archive. The archive is as we speak now, that’s the idea of it. That’s oral history [inaudible].*

The Second World War, well, after internment – yes of course it was after the War, of course it was after the War. We had a few good years. When I was at university, my professor – it was an old family tradition, we always invited teachers, and my professor was a man called Cuthbert Girdlestone. Your husband will know who Cuthbert – he wrote the first book on Mozart’s piano concertos. He was my professor, and his daughter was my best friend. And I had another good friend from Argentina and a lot of Greek and Norwegian – the Norwegians studying marine engineering at Durham – at King’s College, and so they all came to the house. My mother was very hospitable and we had a very lively and very – Professor Girdlestone loved coming to the house. **[00:38:02]** It isn’t heard of now, it’s done is it, that people – teachers come to the house. We pursued that, we always did that, and were enormously social, open – my mother was always baking and cooking and I was helping. Yes, so we had a few good years before my father died.

*Was this when you were back in Newcastle?*

Yeah.

*But in between you said you were in Keswick. We haven’t discussed that. In the Lake District.*

Oh, that was long before that, long before that.

*So tell us what –*

When my father died, I’d already – he’d sent me – he had paid for me to go between school and university – we had a French teacher, Mademoiselle Canelle. She took students across to *Maison de Famille* in Fontainebleau where the summer holidays were spent. My father paid for that and it was absolutely wonderful and it started my passion for Paris and France. And Mademoiselle, the teacher, she came to the house and she loved my father and she loved eating what my mother cooked. And yes, so what I wanted to say was on one occasion after university – or was it in between – I became an *au pair* to a French family. My father didn’t like this idea and he wrote the Ambassador, was this an okay family, and they wrote back and they said, ‘He’s no longer Ambassador,’ etc., etc. But anyway, I went. And I started off – it was a very peculiar situation because I started off with Madame Montmorency, a big family name, in the north, and she drove me down to – what’s the name of the place – somewhere in Brittany, lovely place, where they spent with their daughters for the summer holidays. **[00:40:02]** And I was treated like French people treat their servants, you know, very offhand, but I taught the little girls English and it was all right. So, one day I get a letter from my brother saying that – do you know a higher school certificate is A Levels, yes? That your A Levels have given you one of fifty State scholarships in this country. And I got a letter from my mother, Mother Superior, [inaudible] and then a letter from my father which I have, which I shall never forget. Anyway, so –

*[Inaudible].*

What was funny was that after that they took me to the local hotel where there was a bar and a restaurant and there was the Duke of Montmorency, and we went there and the Duke of Montmorency announced that the ‘Young woman from England’ had been given the State – something – ‘The State had honoured the young woman who is teaching my children.’ And from then on, they fell over themselves, you know. It was unbelievable. Unbelievable. So I came home with a State scholarship. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have gone to university. I don’t know how I did it, but I think I did it because Mademoiselle Canelle, she felt the refugees – she was very good, she taught me – I was very well taught by her, the lay staff at the convent. So that was a letter from my father.

*Lili, what did he say in this letter? What did he say?*

Oh, please don’t make me cry.

*Okay.*

So then I came back and I went to university and in my first year my father died, at the end of my first year at university my father died. Sorry, that should be 1953, got that right.

*Yeah.*

So then he died, yes. **[00:42:01]** And then again, there was a very little money and I had a grant. I had a grant and free education. In those days you paid for your education, you know that don’t you, and my sister had got a PhD. My sister and my brother had both got – I don’t know how my parents did it but they both went to higher university. So.

*What did they study?*

My brother engineering, my sister biochemistry. And she has a PhD, she had a PhD in biochemistry, and she worked at – with Margaret Thatcher. What was the shop Margaret Thatcher worked in? Anyway, she worked next to Margaret Thatcher, so that’s the story.

*And what did you want to study?*

I studied French and Spanish and why did I do that? Because I’d fallen in love with Paris during my gap year, my thing, and yes, because Professor Girdlestone was an inspiring man. Please tell your husband to read –

*Okay.*

If not, I’ve got a copy to lend him if he wants to. It’s inspirational. He was very – he was a musician, he was a renaissance man my professor, and I disappointed him. I got a 2:2, I didn’t get a very good degree, I went downhill fast. But I think after my father died, I didn’t function very well and then after he died, I took off. I took off to Paris where I worked for a bit and then I thought to do a PhD, and then one day I walked down the Avenue des Champs-Élysées and I saw a poster of the desert in Israel and I decided I would go to Israel, and off I went to Israel. And I landed in Haifa and took a bus that went to *kibbutz.* **[00:44:04]** An English-speaking *kibbutz*, which happened to be Sasa. Have you been to Israel?

*Yeah.*

Have you been to Galilee?

*Yeah.*

Have you been to Sasa?

*No. What’s it called?*

Sasa. It’s north Galilee. It’s divine, absolutely divine. And I think after Paris I think my happiest year was in Israel because it was – the landscape was beautiful. The people were inspirational really. They had a lot of fights about how to bring up children. Children were separated. But I worked – for a while I worked drying onions in an onion hut, and then I worked planting – I told that to the gardener. There’s a gardener – discussing – Israeli gardener who charged – £1,000 he wanted for the garden – anyway, I told him that I planted – there was a *wadi* next to the kibbutz which had been decimated by the Turks, and we planted fruit trees which are blooming, absolutely blooming now. And next to Elias [inaudible] was the leading poet in England. It was absolutely wonderful. And then I got a letter from my cousin in Jerusalem saying my mother had written that she would throw herself in the Tyne if I didn’t come back [laughs]. So off I went. I left Israel.

*Some pressure to go back.*

I left Israel and I went back to London, to my mother, to Newcastle. And then, we went to – she wanted to go to see her sister in Texas. So, I said I would come with her to Texas, but before then I went to Paris to cover the fashion show, the summer fashion which was for some New York paper, I can’t remember which one. **[00:46:05]** Anyway, so then we went by boat, we went to Texas and I stayed there for a while in Texas with my uncle and aunt who were childless and who had escaped in the last – a very tragic history. But I stayed there. When I moved out of – I’ll tell you this because it’s topical. When I moved out of their flat into sharing with a nurse from John Sealy Hospital, I shared for some reason a bedroom with her, and she had a gun under her pillow. And she said, ‘Lili, if anybody – if my boyfriend, my ex-boyfriend comes, just shoot.’ And we lived with a gun under – I think that’s terrible what’s happening now. And then after a while I took off and I went to New York and I got work. I worked, I got jobs in magazines and so on. 1956. I had a very miserable love affair with a brilliant young mathematician who was schizophrenic, and he had a breakdown, and after that I came home. I worked in London for a while and then –

*As a journalist?*

As a journalist at – this is ridiculous. Anyway, a women’s magazine, and after that I decided – it was quite a collegiate time. It was in the fifties in London, it was quite amusing. And then my mother said to me, ‘Why don’t you go back to America?’ So, off I went to America, and that’s when I met Cohen, the singer Cohen, whatshisname – singer – Cohen – anyway. **[00:48:04]** I went back to New York and – how did I get my job at *Newsweek*? I worked at *Charm* magazine and another magazine [inaudible] and I lived in the university – there’s an international house, student [inaudible]. And one evening I went to a party with a friend and there was – it was a cocktail party, champagne party, with a woman who collected students, Israeli students and made music. She had a collection of art. And there was Arnaud de Borchgrave who happened to be foreign editor in *Newsweek* and we talked and he said, ‘Why don’t you come and work in *Newsweek?’* And that’s how I went to work in *Newsweek* [laughs], and that was very interesting.

*Fantastic, and what was your portfolio? What did you –?*

I didn’t have a portfolio.

*Okay.*

Women at *Newsweek* worked clipping newspapers, handing them to [inaudible]. Until one day in 1960 on a Saturday my editor happened to be – had changed. Foreign editor changed. It was – Eldon Griffiths was his name. He just died quite recently. Anyway, he wanted – he saw that I’d done my apprenticeship in London. He didn’t like [inaudible]. Anyway, it happened on a Sunday. Patrice Lumumba, do you know who he was?

*Yeah.*

Of the Congo. Congo had just become independent – and did you see recently about his tooth which has gone back to the family? Very moving. I saw that last week. Anyway, Patrice Lumumba is arriving in New York and is going to Washington. Because Africa had become independent in 1961 and there was a question of – it was the height of the Cold War. **[00:50:02]** It was a question between Soviet Union or the West having influence. So, he said, ‘Well, he’s arriving at the Barclay Hotel and since you can speak French, you go and talk to him.’ So that’s what I did. And he came, Patrice Lumumba, and he was very nice. And it was the beginning of my – that I now became a reporter. From being a cutter of newspaper articles, I became a reporter. And of course, I met all the African heads of state. I’ve met every – I just looked at my UN book, if you want to look at it, it was a very fabulous time. And it was a very dramatic time because they really didn’t quite know how to behave. Lumumba went off to Washington. He called me from there. Would I become his minister of information? He called me in the office at *Newsweek*, you know. The writers just fell about, you know. They said, ‘Why don’t you go do it? Why don’t you go to Congo?’ It was then Kinshasa, it was –

*Yeah.*

Anyway, so that was a very, very exciting time. I met everybody. I met all the heads of state and Castro, I met Castro. He teased me, Castro teased me, a very teasing man. And they kicked him out. You know, he came to see – there was a famous fifteenth session of the United Nations where Khrushchev had decided to come, so every other head of state came. And I met them all. De Gaulle, and from Ethiopia, Haile Selassie I interviewed. And it was a very interesting time.

*And do you feel it was an advantage to be a woman reporter at that time? It wasn’t –?*

It was – well, you’ll see in my book, where’s the book? **[00:52:04]** I’m the only – that’s a press conference on the front, there’s one other woman. There were women reporters from – *Time* magazine had a woman, and there were other women but very rare. And among the delegates, mainly men, they were all men.

*So what was it like for you as a woman at that time?*

Oh, they all wanted to go bed of course. That was the obvious thing. And one man, the foreign minister, Justin Bumboko, he wanted to marry me [laughs]. It was a very – I lived – I had a flat. I moved out of my – I shared a flat with Dmitri Nabokov who went off to sing in – and I shared a flat with him and another woman, and then I moved into my own flat which was walking distance to the UN and to the office which was on Madison Avenue. And it was a very – it was a fabulous time. I can’t say it wasn’t.

*But you managed, despite – with the advances, I mean, –?*

Yes, I mean –

*[Both talking at once].*

How could one not? I mean, there were receptions, there were meetings, very interesting people. I mean, people who represent their country, you know, from – usually they were – at the session there were usually the high ministers. The other time there were delegates. They were not stupid people, you know, they were really very – and particularly the emerging African countries were very, very exciting countries. And of course, I could speak their language. That was the big thing. I mean, there was a lot of trouble too. This is – going to bed, it wasn’t really a joke. It was often quite embarrassing, but I managed, I did manage, yes. Hella was there– Hella – that’s when I met – it got even more exciting. **[00:54:04]** Why did it get more exciting? Because there was a question of going to – you know about the Bay of Pigs? The Bay of Pigs – and there were all the British – the American troops – there was the exchange for American troops for – who were they – for lorries, vans, for – what do you call them – what are vans, lorries, what do you call that in America? Trucks. Trucks for the troops. So, I had an English passport, I could get into Cuba, I could go with Donovan, he was taking trucks to Cuba. So off I went. I got my visa into Cuba from the Cuban Ambassador, and I got myself dress – I already knew Cecil, I’d met Cecil. He was in Boston at the – he was a doctor in Boston, and I remember going to Cuba and he was coming to my flat. Anyway, so I went to Miami in order to go to Cuba, but there was a problem with Donovan. There was a hold up and so I lived in Miami for a few days, and underground in Miami were the Cuban refugees, the emigrés, and they had all the information about the Russian invasion. About the Russian missiles, about where the sites were, how far they were from the coast of America, and I had all the – it was a very tense time. I don’t know if you remember the Cuban invasion. Anyway, I sat down and I filed my story to my editor Arnaud de Borchgrave, and I took a boat to one of the islands to have a rest, and then I went to New York about two days/three days later. And I went into my – and in the morning I hear that President Kennedy had a very important message. **[00:56:00]** And New York was at a standstill. It was numb. And my editor said, ‘Lili, you’d better get to the UN because there’s going to be a big announcement.’ It was the Cuba Crisis. It was the fact that the Cubans were going to invade. And I said, ‘It’s all in the file.’ They’d taken my full account and put it into the filing cabinet because I was a woman. Can you imagine? So, after that they offered me [laughs] – the editor, Kermit Lansner, called me and he said, ‘What can we do? How can we make amends?’ So, I said, ‘I just want to be what I am,’ so they gave me the – I became the chief of the bureau, which is quite something, that they made me chief of the bureau instead. But that was one of the incredible events of my life. That I really licked the Cuba Crisis, it was – you know –

*But they didn’t use it?*

They didn’t use it. They didn’t use it. Kennedy went and then they worded it. But I had the tonnage, you know, I had the places of the missiles, I had all the information given to me by these young men in the underground. So that was sort of – I had a few fantastic –

*And you became head of the – you said, head of the –?*

Did they increase my salary?

*No, you said you became of the –?*

Of the bureau, bureau chief.

*Which bureau?*

At the UN. Bureau Chief. Head of the bureau. It wasn’t a big deal, you know, it wasn’t such a big deal but – the problem was the other ladies at *Newsweek*, they didn’t particularly enjoy that but – so, what –?

*So how many years did you stay there in New York?*

How did I...?

*How many years did you stay in New York?*

That second time from ‘57 to ’64 when Cecil decided he wanted to get married with me, we wanted to get married. **[00:58:03]** I’d met Cecil in the dental chair. Did I tell you that?

*No, not yet. Go on.*

Is it interesting?

*Yes.*

It was one holiday when I went to – I was going on a holiday to Yugoslavia and I needed tooth work, and I wrote to my sister who lived in London and I said – no, she wrote to me and she said, ‘It’s time you saw my children. They haven’t seen you, etc., will you come and stay with us?’ I said, ‘Yes, if I can see a dentist.’ So, she booked a dentist for me. I came to London. We had a party and I invited all my American friends who were here, but it was a funny English sort of party with sherry. Americans don’t drink sherry, you know, [laughs]. Anyway, so the next morning I hadn’t made my room which was her daughter’s room, bedroom, I hadn’t tidied my room, and big sister, and she kicked me out. So, I said, ‘Okay, forget about the dentist,’ you know. I took the taxi and went to the hotel in Mayfair and I thought, gosh, this is NHS, I can’t – I’ve booked this time. This was in not Hendon, in Hampstead Garden Suburb, the dentist, Booth, Mr Booth. Anyway, I took a taxi and I went to Mr Booth and I sat in the waiting-room and there was a woman with a little child, and there was a boy, and then a man came out in a white shirt and he said, ‘I’m sorry to keep you waiting, but this little boy has got troubles and I’m talking to him.’ Anyway, I went in there and it was Cecil. And he was doing a locum. He’d done his medical training, he’d worked as a doctor, but he’d done a locum for two weeks can you imagine as a dentist there. And he fixed my teeth. He said, ‘You have to come back again.’ And I said, ‘No, I’ve got to go to New York.’ He said, ‘Oh, I’m planning to go to New York.’ Anyway, that’s how we met. He came to New York and **[01:00:02]** – no, I went with all my love affairs in Yugoslavia, and then went back to New York. And there was a letter from Cecil saying, ‘Can you find a home for a pussycat,’ something like that, and so I thought, hotel, he probably can’t afford a hotel. So what I did was, I put the key in the front – I said, ‘You can use my flat, I’m going to stay with my aunt in Mount Kisco,’ which I did, and I left a key for him. Anyway, he arrived in New York, he got into my flat. It was a very modest flat. Just one, big, huge room with a kitchen, and of course I took the first train back and that was it, you know, [laughs]. That was it. This is ridiculous, isn’t it? That was exciting. But the other really traumatic experience was the Eichmann trial that I went to. That was in 1961 wasn’t it?

*Yeah. Tell us about it*.

Yeah, that was overwhelming really because it was not – when he was in the glass cover and – he was so – what’s the woman who coined – the – phrase?

*Banality of evil.*

Yes.

*Hannah Arendt.*

Banality of evil. Her name –

*Hannah Arendt.*

Hannah Arendt. I haven’t spoken to anybody for two weeks – for two years. Sitting down there, really, words are not coming to me. I mean, I can’t remember names. So Hannah Arendt was there and there was the press there, and there were people from concentration camps there. And he sat in this glass cage and very correct, he was so correct. If one of the attendants came and brought him some information, a sheet of paper, he said, ‘Thank you,’ and if he had turned his back he came back to say, ‘Thank you. *Dankeschön. Dankeschön,’* you know. **[01:02:00]** It was overwhelming. It was overwhelming.

*But did you report on it?*

Of course I reported it, yes, yes. And after that –

*So were you in Jerusalem [both talking at once] –?*

I was in the trial.

*Okay, you didn’t tell us that yet.*

I said I went to the trial.

*[Both talking at once].*

I was sitting in the third row with some people. And then afterwards all the correspondents were there. We went to the King David Hotel and got drunk, but it was absolutely horrific. I can’t tell you. This man had, you know – and my grandmothers and all the Jews, it was awful, awful.

*When he was sitting there, did it feel personal to you?*

Did I feel...?

*Did it feel personal?*

Very, very, very. Tried not to. Tried very hard not to. Talked to some of the women who’d been in Kielçe. Afterwards I took a tour round Israel which was lovely and then I went back home. That was 1961. Yes. That was really the highlight of my experience I suppose. And the other was when Khrushchev banged his – wanted to get rid of the – the fifteenth session. He wanted to get rid of the Secretary-General and Dag Hammarskjöld had decided he was going to resign. And Khrushchev took his shoes off – do you remember that? Banged it on the table and shouted and shouted. And the Russians – you know, when I see now how the Russians are behaving, the lies, the lies. One time the editors at *Newsweek* sent me to invite Gromyko who was the foreign minister of Khrushchev to lunch. They wanted to invite him for an editorial lunch. **[01:04:01]** And I caught him in the UN and I said, ‘Mr Secretary, would you come...’ he said, ‘Ah,’ he said, ‘they want to eat me. The people at *Newsweek*, the want to eat me.’ What a performance all the time. Ridiculous performance. But no, when Khrushchev banged his shoe on the table, Hammarskjöld disappeared from the rostrum. The UN now is nothing but at that time it was really important, you know. The Secretary-General went from the podium, walked down, and walked towards the lifts, and I ran after him with my cameraman, and I’ve got this picture of him where he’s decided to change his mind and not to resign, to remain as Secretary-General. It was big news, it was big, big news. It went round the world. I’ve got the picture in there somewhere. I’ll show it to you. Anyway, so that was the Russians. They were quite awful. I’ve got to tell you something else. There was a man called Bogoslovsky. Bogoslovsky was a young man who was counted to be – who was assigned to be sort of an observer. What do you call it? I can’t think of the word. Suslov sort of Secretary-General. What was the – the seven representatives high level. I can’t remember the name. Suslov was one of them. He had to watch out for him, that he didn’t transgress. Anyway, how I met him I don’t know. I know he came to one of my parties of the young delegates, and I used to – oh yes. I met him for lunch and the New York *Times* – somebody had posted the fact that he was Jewish. And at lunch he said, ‘I’ll do anything for you if you don’t let *Newsweek* print that I’m Jewish.’ **[01:06:03]** That was it. From then on I met him every week. He told me everything the Russians were doing. I had the most amazing inside information there. That’s what I had. So, he told me about Cuba and he told me what else – he told me – what else did he tell me, Bogoslovsky? He spilt all the beans. I can’t tell you what – and *Newsweek* was difficult because we went to press on Friday night and that was a long time to write our stories, you know. No, we went – it went on the stand on Tuesdays. So there was a long delay in information – do you understand?

*Yes, it’s a week.*

I’m talking too much. I’m boring myself.

*No, no, no, you’re not boring.*

I’m boring myself.

*You’re not boring us. Just, I wanted to come back to the Eichmann Trial. Did you find the Eichmann Trial was a big turning point? I mean, it was a very important –*

No. No turning point.

*No?*

Just misery. Just a feeling of disgust [laughs].

*But did you feel it was important that he was brought to trial?*

Oh, absolutely. I mean, the story of what they did to Israelis, I mean, it just got my respect, it was just unbelievable what they did there. Yeah.

*Because in terms of- I think- history and historiography the Eichmann Trial was important in terms of –*

Yes, yes, of course.

*Holocaust consciousness or –*

Well, all the press were there and they were – yes, it was all – it was a very, very exciting few years. And then what happened was – it all ended, it all ended when Cecil wanted to become – he’d got his doctor’s degree and so on, but he wanted to become a psychoanalyst. And for that he had to go to London to be accepted by the Institute of Psychoanalysis. **[01:08:01]** So off we went. I went with him. Before then he had worked in Boston.

*So he [both talking at once].*

He was Fellow at Harvard, for two years I guess.

*Oh, he [both talking at once].*

And then I commuted, we commuted. And then he went to London and he was accepted. He didn’t know that right away. We came back, and then he asked to marry me, so we decided we would get married. And before then I’d wanted to become correspondent at Jerusalem, I wanted the bureau at Jerusalem, but then I decided I’m going to get married to Cecil. And then we came to London and then it all started to get very difficult because – how long into our marriage [inaudible] – with the children – I was pregnant – we had the two boys and he was a fabulous father and very good, and he worked at the Tavistock Clinic. I’m not sure if it was – started at Anna Freud’s – I remember we used to – I must tell Frank this because I used to pick up the boys at [phone rings] – yes, I used to pick up Cecil, and Anna Freud could not speak to children. My boys were six and seven and they were in the car and they had to get out to fetch – Cecil would come down, and then Anna Freud would come down and she would talk to me and to Cecil, but she couldn’t talk to children, you know. Whereas at the Tavi there was a man called John Bowlby. Do you know the name?

*Sure.*

He brought the fact that children – the connection between mother and child, he reversed the Victorian principle about mothers and children. Anyway, but he could talk – we met him too with the children. **[01:10:01]** He talked to them and talked about the birds and so on, in Kenwood when we met him. Anna Freud could not talk to children. It was quite extraordinary.

*How interesting.*

But what I wanted to say –

*[Both talking at once].*

What was I talking about? His discovery – yes, he wanted a daughter and he found out how you get a daughter. He found that out at the Tavistock. And then the colleague said how you get a daughter. You don’t try to produce before the menstrual period. You do it – you know about that do you?

*I heard about it.*

You heard about it.

*Yeah.*

It worked. We had Ariane. I was pregnant with Ariane and we had Raphi’s fifth birthday in the back garden in our communal garden, and Cecil – my next book starts – Cecil had been to see the doctor because – he had a watch which his colleagues at work had given him, and it didn’t work. And he sent it to Geneva and it was fixed and it came back. Two or three days later it didn’t work. Sent it back again to Switzerland. They said, ‘It’s not the watch, it’s your arm.’ It was Parkinson’s. He was thirty-eight. That was a big, big difference in my life then. That was really – it became a mission for him to cure himself. He was absolutely utterly dependent on curing himself. We went everywhere. We went to Japan, we went to the Mayo Clinic, we went to Boston. And he wrote a book, a very interesting book about how he tried – but he lived – he worked until he was – he worked his full term, at Mary’s and then at the child guidance clinic, but they couldn’t hear – they couldn’t understand him so they kicked him out which was very painful. But that was – yeah, so that’s the story of my life. End of. No more to say.

*That had a big impact on you, on your work also, that he had Parkinson’s. So, you couldn’t – did you continue as a journalist at all once you had a family?* **[01:12:02]**

I didn’t work at all after that. He said, ‘When you have children you stay with them.’ That was his – that was it. I never left the children. I was there always for them, always. Then they were in kindergarten, they wouldn’t stay in kindergarten. They tried – Mrs. Barkery – do you know Mrs. Barkery behind Waitrose? They stood there – half a term out. Raphi was in some nursery in Belsize Park out. We went on the tops of buses. We just never, never – it wasn’t a good idea. It’s not working – I don’t know, I don’t know. Anyway, when Raphi was five he was discovered to be a very talented violinist so there was music lessons here, there – Sheila Nelson does that mean anything to you?

*I know the name, yeah.*

Yeah. So, we met somebody who knew Sheila Nelson at a dinner party, so Raphi started playing the violin by ear and then he had great difficulty in transferring to reading music. But he did all right. They both went to Cambridge. Gideon studied physics and went with a top degree – at Westminster School with the top marks and got a third-class degree at Cambridge. Raphi got a 2:1. He did better at the Guild Hall, he’s been playing the violin ever since. So that’s the story of my life. End of.

*Did your husband play any instruments?*

No, but he loved music and he knew music. And the last three years of his life he lived on music, you know, just lived on music morning, noon, and night. He was very musical. His mother taught him the piano but it was never good enough, it just never, never worked. And I used to try in the company – Raphi on the piano it didn’t work. He was far – **[01:14:04]**

*Do you play?*

My brother taught me. But it was in Newcastle, in the room where the fog was thick, you know [laughs]? Newcastle – have you been to Newcastle?

*Yeah, I’ve been to Newcastle, yeah.*

We lived in Gosforth. Do you know Gosforth?

*Yeah.*

Can I stop talking?

*Not quite, not quite Lili. We’re almost, almost – I’m trying my best. It’s interesting you mention Anna Freud because obviously Anna Freud did this study, you know, with the children who came after the War to Bulldogs Bank.*

Yes.

*Do you know about it? With Sophie Dunn. They did a little study of the children who came from Tereszin for a year. Have you heard of it?*

I knew about it. I heard a lecture about it. She gave a lecture – on one holiday from America, Cec and I went to a lecture – she had this high voice. She was brilliant, she was absolutely brilliant in her way of communicating. Frank, is that what you – ? Never mind. She was completely – she had a room full of professional men entranced when she talked. She really was extraordinary. But I – afterwards I set up a shop in her museum. I hear they’re going to hold an exhibition now, Lucian Freud –

*Yes, yes, I’ve seen it.*

I wish – I don’t know if I can get there.

*So were you involved with the museum, with the Freud Museum?*

Yes, yes. Yes.

*And did your husband have patients in the house?*

Yes, occasionally, early morning and late at night. He worked in a hospital most of the time.

*And Lili, how do you think your own experience impacted your life? Your own experience of emigration?* **[01:16:00]**

Not really because – this psychoanalysis, it’s very pre-occupying. My husband was very preoccupied with his own growing up and we had a completely different culture. How Jews can have such different culture, you know. My German upbringing and then his – his father came from Lithuania, and he lost his mother when – that’s why he didn’t allow me to leave the children, you know. His mother died when he was seven and he wasn’t allowed to visit her in hospital and he wasn’t allowed to go to her funeral. His brother worked in Cape Town with the heart man – tell me – the man who discovered the heart surgery, famous – lost my words.

*Okay, don’t worry.*

Barnard, Barnard. With Chris Barnard.

*Christian Barnard, yes, yes.*

Yes, my brother-in-law he was a surgeon.

*So he was – he grew up in South Africa, your husband.*

He stayed in South Africa. And then they all went to Australia. Cecil’s family are now all in Australia.

*And he came to London.*

Yes. He came with – you know, as I told you, Sidney, and George [inaudible], and Mark Weinberg, and Cecil, they all came together. 1952 [sic] when the Nazis came in. And he couldn’t stand it any more. He said he couldn’t stand the separation any more of South Africa. He found it very difficult. But yes...

*But you said – so his upbringing was very different from your upbringing.*

Completely – well, yes, yes, it was. It was disrupted. **[01:18:01]** Terrible. At seven I didn’t lose my parents. I had a terrible outside situation but he lost his mother and that affected his life colossally, you know. His upbringing of our children and the fact that I wasn’t allowed to leave the children, you know, it was very dramatic for him, yes.

*So you feel you were in a way protected by your own parents [both talking at once].*

Yes, yes, yes, I was. I really was. Yes, there was no separation from them until – yes, [sighs], until my father – I mean – you know something, the tragedy of these last two years in isolation with my broken vertebrae and the fact that I didn’t speak to anybody. I thought too much. I’ve thought too much about it. Felt too much. I didn’t like that. Didn’t like that.

*And you feel the past is coming back to you now when you had all this time in a way which [inaudible]?*

I had too much time to think about it. Of course, it came back, yeah, yeah. Can we stop talking now? Can I –?

*Almost, almost, almost. We’re getting to – do you sometimes think about what would have happened if you hadn’t been forced to leave Germany?*

No, I never think about that. I just hate it all [laughs]. I don’t go to Germany. Now, the children, funnily enough my children have all got German passports again. Everybody has, you know. Raphi because he’s gone on tour, musical tour, and my daughter because – I don’t know, for her music as well. I don’t know. Gideon hasn’t done that I don’t think. I find I didn’t like that at all. I am sorry but that’s how I feel about Germany.

*Have you been back to Bamberg?*

Through Bamberg but never stayed there. Through in order to show them – have you been to Bamberg? You’ve been – **[01:20:00]**

*No.*

No. The cathedral is unbelievably beautiful. I think the reason I loved Paris so much it was the same period. Notre Dame, it was the same period. Same gargoyles as in Bamberg. Yes. I used to go with the staff. I went with the staff to mass on Monday mornings. On Sunday mornings sometimes and festivals I went to the church.

*[Both talking at once].*

And we’ll see the famous statue of the blind justice. And there was a lovely statue of King Henry of Bavaria and – I mean, Bamberg is an unbelievably beautiful town. I mean, it’s a medieval city with – yes, it was lovely. Yeah.

*Did you –?*

Did I have a nice time before the Nazis came? Really, not – we used to make *Aufsflug* and outings to the country, lovely country round and about, and picnic at – and we used to go – we had our servants. I hate to call it that but the girls who worked for us came from the surrounding farms and we used to go there at harvest time which was lovely. I’ve got lots of pictures of that. I remember that. And we used to – yes.

*Did your father go back to Bamberg after the War?*

No.

*No.*

My mother, yes, she went because – yes, of course she went. She went because finally after the War our house the sold. She got the money, but it couldn’t be transferred ‘cos the Russians were coming. So yes, she went to Bamberg but I went with her, but I had a breakdown and I went to Garmisch where I was very amused to see the heads of – the G7 was in Garmisch wasn’t it? It was funny to see.

*You had the breakdown going to Bamberg.* **[01:22:00]**

Yeah, I couldn’t –

*You couldn’t cope.*

I was taken to a doctor and he said to me, ‘*Seelen*- something *Seelensturm*- [mental health issues],’ I don’t know. He made a diagnosis and my mother packed me off to [inaudible] – have you been to Garmisch?

*Yes, I have.*

What was the hotel called?

*I don’t know.*

Witters, Witters, Witters Kurhaus.

*Really, so it was too much for you to go back [both talking at once].*

It was awful, it was dreadful. I couldn’t bear it.

*Did your parents get ever compensation?*

No, I don’t think so. I think just the money they owed for the factory and for – and for the house. My mother inherited the house from her father.

*And how did they feel about Germany, your mother for example? How did they –?*

She was very bitter. Of course, they were. How can you feel when your mother’s being murdered?

*Of course.*

But she did need the money so yes, after – her life became easier when she had the money because the factory, there was problem with my father’s share of the factory. I don’t want to go into that because you knew George, but anyway there was a problem and – yeah.

*But she stayed in Newcastle.*

Yes, yes, she did.

*And she managed –*

No, she often came to visit the children. She came. She stayed here. My brother lived down the road from – my brother made a huge career in – a huge contribution to the industry of the north and yes, he invented – after his college years he invented the microdensitometer which was an instrument which detected the content of the blood. What happens was, the miners would be taken from injury in the mines and they’d be brought and with this instrument they could tell instantly what was the blood content. **[01:24:06]** It was brilliant, brilliant, worldwide.

*Sorry, micro –?*

Microdensitometer.

*Microdensitometer.*

He had – you look up my brother. He did an awful lot. He started a whole lot of small industries on Tyneside.

*Herbert Loebl.*

Yes, George should have mentioned him. He really should have mentioned him, but – yes, yes. But he did that on his own because they didn’t – the uncle didn’t want him back in the factory and he made a huge name for himself, yes. And he’s got – he had a lovely house in the country, in Whittingham which is in Northumberland which I’ve got a picture- Gideon is a painter. And he painted – and we spent our summer holidays there with the children. It was lovely, yeah. I wish you’d take a picture of some of Gideon’s paintings [both talking at once].

*We will, we will. Lili, what I wanted to ask you, did you have contact with many other refugees during the War time for example when you were in [both talking at once] in the Lake District, in Keswick?*

Did we? No. No, actually no. My mother was busy work – can you imagine from the life she’d led as a semi-aristocrat in – she became a cleaner. She never complained, she never made – she just went to work and did the cleaning. I admired her enormously.

*In Keswick you said she was a domestic.*

Yes, yeah. Who did we know, any refugees? Let me think. In Newcastle. Apart from – no, we really –

*Was there –?*

We really didn’t – the people we knew were the people we brought, the children brought. I mean, like, our teachers and the professors and the friends from – like, the business friends from Holland and from France and from Norway, the Norwegian friends came. **[01:26:01]** We had – from overseas. Not refugees so much as from overseas.

*What about a synagogue? Did your parents –?*

My father belonged of course, to the synagogue, yes. My father was very – he was very observant. We did Friday evening every Friday evening, and holidays. My mother not so. My mother not so. But my mother had an enormous charm. She was a very delightful woman really. My sister married – came to London and married Martin Bud. Do you know the Bud family? No, no, no. They’re all very famous. My sister was very strict with her children. The oldest one Martin – the oldest one Toby Robert Bud, called after my father, he was a director of the Science Museum. Andrew discovered facial recognition. He just got a CBE for facial recognition. And his daughter, Harriet, she’s doing something in Boston in a hospital, doing something on medical patent. So, if we had a birthday party – we lived in Frognal Lane – if Raphi had a birthday or Gideon in the garden, her children sat in the garden doing their homework. She was very strict my sister. Very successful. Very, very successful.

*Lili, you said you went to Israel and to America. Did you feel English at all after you finished school?*

Did I speak English?

*No, did you feel English? How did you feel?*

No. I lived in America don’t forget, most of my time. No, I didn’t feel very English. I mean, in America for a while they treat you as something special if you’re English, but after a while no, no. No. **[01:28:04]**

*How would you define yourself today?*

Old. Redundant. That’s the truth. Completely redundant. Nobody has any interest in one or any time for one. Remember that. Don’t get old. How do I feel nationally? Right, to answer your question, I mean, I’m not trying to be glib, I’m just telling you what I feel.

*Yeah.*

And everybody I know is dead. I mean, my friend Beryl Bainbridge is dead, and who – Marika – my great friends here were Greeks, the shipping community, because we met at the local school and Marika Lemos – you didn’t know any of the Lemos [inaudible]. They were fabulous. Marika was recently divorced. I met Marika because her husband, I knew him in Newcastle. He was a student in marine engineering, in naval architecture so I knew John Lemos and so on. And yeah, so Marika, she was wonderful. She was my great Greek friend. So no, the Jewish community – the English Jewish community are not very welcoming. They’re really not. We belonged to the local synagogue, Rabbi Jacob. My husband was really housebound. He went regularly. In the last years he couldn’t go any more and I was upstairs and he would drop his *tallit* or his book and I would rush down and he would look at me like that. But when he was no longer able to go to synagogue, nobody came to visit him. So I’m not terribly – I don’t want to say that on camera. I don’t want to be quoted. I really don’t want to be quoted. I have spoken a non-quoting talk. Frank?

*So – anyway, you didn’t have the best experience.* **[01:30:05]**

Will you be discrete? Can you cut anything out?

*Well, let’s discuss it when we finish, we can do something if there is something you are concerned about.*

You will. Thank you.

*Yeah.*

Thank you. I can’t – I’m not used to being interviewed as you can see.

*Coming back a little to identity, so not English. How would you define yourself today in terms of –*

As an old woman.

*Old. Apart from that.*

Old, redundant. Redundant.

*Redundant and old, okay, apart from that? Anything? British or [both talking at once]?*

No, I can’t write. You know, when you think of it, I’ve been very badly treated by the medical profession to be honest. I went to the professor of neurosurgery, buggered up my right hand. Did it again a second time, have no use – then they sent me to another hospital to another professor. He buggered up my left hand. I have got no use of my hands. I really – I couldn’t – the photographs, I couldn’t separate the photographs. So, I can’t write. I mean, my children say, ‘Talk into the computer.’ I can’t. My brain doesn’t work like that. I’m used to typing my story, you know.

*And you wrote your book. You wrote your book. Tell us about your book.*

I wrote – the book I wrote before I was destroyed by – I hear people have the same complaint and they get cured. You know, this is a nerve, isn’t it in the wrist.

*I know, yeah.*

And what else? I had this fall. The fall came – [inaudible] Jewish – got a huge- I have ordered seven – three years ago, ordered seven sessions of physiotherapy. The first six were fabulous then she changed girls and there was a young woman, she gave me this command at a distance to stand on one leg to do an exercise, and I crashed. **[01:32:07]** And I crushed my vertebrae. And she never took responsibility, never did anything, and nobody will touch it. Nobody will touch – nobody will touch the spine unless they – I don’t know if you’ve got experience of it but that’s the only reason I would go to France or Germany. My cousin in Israel says, ‘Please come to Israel.’ But I’m longing to go to Israel, I really am. Yes.

*But Lili, what made you write the book, to write your memories? What’s the title?*

Cecil was more or less cared for, for two hours a day, and in those two hours I came down and I wrote. I wore the same clothes when I wrote the book and – did he ever read it? I’m not sure if Cecil read it. My children haven’t read my book.

*Who did you write it for? [Both talking at once].*

I wrote it really for my children actually but, I mean, you know, you’d probably be bored stiff now reading it but – yes. And I’ve started my other book, halfway through, but I’ve just left it.

*What’s the other book about?*

It’s a continuation of this. But I just find it – I find it pointless. If people don’t read my book – they wanted to have a big opening for it, I didn’t have – I’d lost my self-confidence completely over this illness, you know. Completely. Now I don’t – at the time – I didn’t have this illness. I was fine when – Rosa said she would have this and the bookshop wanted to have – I didn’t – but it’s available.

*[Inaudible] anyone wants to buy. Did you talk about the past to your children at all? About your own experiences?* **[** **01:34:02]**

Not interested, you know, they’re not interested. Raphi a little bit. Only when – Raphi – my son Raphael, he’s married to a director of Sotheby’s who’s worked her way up, and they’ve just bought a lovely country house in Frome, Frome.

*Frome, yeah.*

Do you know Frome? It’s in between Somerset and – beautiful house and where they entertain constantly people. So they have got no financial problems. Their children are – one is at Cambridge, wants to be a conductor, and his daughter’s a musician as well at the Royal College. And I think he’s more or less happy. She travels a lot for Sotheby’s. She’s always looking for things to put in the auction, you know. She’s never there, so – but he takes me shopping which is nice. Gideon is more – it’s a very bad situation. He lived for two years with a young woman who left him when she had a baby. And then he signed up with this other girl and she had a very bad post-natal depression, and he took care of the baby for the first six months, and so now he has the children every other week and he adores them, and they’re lovely. And one lives in Winchester and the other in Wimbledon, so he’s forever travelling between Wimbledon and Winchester. So, what can one say? I don’t know – can I talk off camera please?

*Yes.*

[Break in recording]

*So you said you didn’t talk much about your history to the children.*

Not at all. I haven’t told – no.

*And to your husband at all?* **[01:36:00]**

Did my husband talk about Germany?

*No, yeah, you, did you talk about –?*

Did he talk about my background?

*Yeah.*

No. No. I think he just always recognised that basically I was a refugee. That I had a mentality of a refugee, and I certainly – you know, self-confidence was never – I’d never got the self – it’s always – I mean, you know, when you – I was pelted in Keswick by the locals, you know. I was a German in England, war time England. And of course, in Germany I was a Jew. But did my success in *Newsweek –* because it was a success – did it help me? Yes, it did. I think I felt very well in doing my job, doing it well, representing what I did, and making politics really. That was fine. But when I got married – it was very strange. We lived in a small flat at the corner of – the two blocks of flats at the bottom of Haverstock Hill. Do you know the one? You probably know the – the curtains are still there from – our curtains are still there. And – I’ve forgotten what I was going to say about –

*Talking about confidence and being a refugee.*

Yes, being a refugee. I can’t remember what I was going to say. Honestly, it’s completely –

*You said you were –*

I can’t remember.

*You said you felt very confident in your work but then you came to London and –*

Oh yes, I know what I wanted to say, that the difference in treatment of women. Cecil worked at the Tavi [Tavistock Clinic] and there were many social occasions, you know, his supervisor, he was – **[01:38:01]** I can’t remember his title – supervisor and then John Bowlby, and – there were lots of parties. Never, ever, ever invited. I remember that his immediate colleague, senior colleague, invited him for dinner. He was most astonished. In America, in New York, Harvard, whenever the Dean at Harvard had a party, a beach party, or a – always the girlfriends were always invited.

*But not here.*

It was a very strange – it was an automatic loss of confidence if you like. I mean, one was just a wife, you know? I found that very – does it tally with what you’ve heard?

*Difficult, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And you said you feel you had the – you still have a refugee mentality. What does that mean?*

No, I don’t know, I don’t – just the lack of confidence, that’s – I don’t know. I mean, I’m surrounded at the moment by two Jewish neighbours. One is disgusting. I can only say that. I mean, he’s got no concern. Puts the dog out when I’m asleep and so on, and so forth. Addressed me in the street that – his son is at school with my grandson, was in the same class, and he accused me that my grandson told his grandson – that my grandson told the classmates that the father of the neighbour’s grandson had four Porsches. So that’s – he accosted me in the street with that. All kinds of things. The other neighbour was a High Court Judge, Jewish, his father was a good friend of my father’s. I’ve never been to his house. So, it’s just England, isn’t it?

*Hmm, hmm.*

Sad –

*But you still consider yourself [both talking at once]?*

**[01:40:00]** But I just yearn, I yearn to go to Jerusalem. I don’t know why. I just loved – I loved Jerusalem. I stayed at the – opposite the King David – what’s the – not the youth hostel, the –

*Yeah, it’s the youth hostel.*

No, it’s not a youth hostel. It’s called – I’ve suffered a lot mentally I think over the last few years. They’ve got a swimming pool and everybody stays there. It’s a landmark place in Jerusalem. Can’t think of it. Anyway, I stayed there and then with Marika. Marika wanted to be – she wanted to go to the river to be blessed at the river, and so we went together, and we stayed in Jerusalem at the King David, and she loved Jerusalem as well. But there was a problem with volcano. That was the year of the volcano, and we couldn’t get back. Things got a bit rough. But – yeah.

*Lili, so where do you feel at home? Do you feel at home here?*

No.

*No.*

Well, yes, of course I feel at home in this house. Yes, of course I do, for heaven’s sake. I’ve lived here for fifty years. I don’t – I mean, when it comes to my future now which – switch off. Would you switch off my future please?

*Well, we need to finish – just – we don’t have to talk about then. We can talk about it once we’ve [both talking at once].*

No, I just – it very much answers your question about old age homes or just retirement homes. Or moving from here. I just can’t face moving into a small flat in Marylebone which would be ideal. I still cling in a way to the family home which is not a good idea. In fact, it’s ridiculous, you know, [laughs], but – it really is ridiculous. **[01:42:03]** I’m thinking about the Ukrainian families and a) I don’t know how to access them, and b) I don’t really know how to cope with my limited mobility to do that.

*Yeah. Of course. Lili, is there anything else – I know you’re very keen to finish this interview –*

Yes [laughs].

*So I’m going to oblige –*

No, you read my book, read my book, everybody should read my book.

*Is there anything else I haven’t asked you that you’d like to add?*

No, I can’t think. I can’t think. I can’t think. My life story’s there, you have it there.

*You are an AJR member.*

I what?

*A member of the Association of Jewish Refugees.*

Yes, I am. I am. Always have been. But I’ve never sort of had advantage until Linda got hold of me which I –

*Your mother, your parents? Were they involved with the AJR, your mother?*

No.

*No.*

I don’t know if it existed then. I don’t really know. My mother adjusted her life by travelling to see her sister in Texas every year. She went every year to Texas. She stayed there for many weeks, and when my aunt died, then she had my brother. My brother lived very close to her and spent a lot of energy and time, forbade her from eating non-Kosher food. My mother loved shrimps and she loved salami and my brother refused for her to – so when I went up to Newcastle which I did often, I brought her salami and shrimps [laughs]. Ridiculous, isn’t it? But he wasn’t that religious in a profound way. He was just a good Jew, my brother, he was just a very good Jew.

*Two last questions. So, the one before last is, what for you is the most important part of your German-Jewish heritage?* **[01:44:00]**

I suppose the love of learning, love for arts, and music I suppose. You know, that’s what I grew up with. Grew up with music. We had – when foreign friends from abroad, business friends, they always had a performance. My brother on the violin, my mother on the piano. It never not happened, you know, so music was very much part of life. And just the fact that I did go to university and I had very good influences from my professor. They were all musicians actually at King’s College, but anyway. Yes. Yes, the sad part is that in my – after Cecil was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease, we did travel. He did drive us through Europe. We were able to go on holiday because we exchanged houses. We swapped our house with a house in Israel next to the museum. We went to Nantucket. We went to – where else – we went all over the world on exchanging houses, which preserves this house, the integrity of his house, saved it from burglars and gave us more or less a free holiday. That’s how the children saw the world. It was a good idea. Norway was lovely. We went to Bergen and – yes, it was – and everybody who came to this house left something behind, you know, and it’s very interesting.

*And Lili, do you regret that you didn’t continue to work?*

That what?

*That you didn’t continue to work. Do you regret that today?*

If I say regret, I didn’t hanker over the years. Now, at this moment in time, when I really need my children and then they’re not what I would like them to be, you know, they ration me, my children. **[01:46:02]** So yes, in this sense I think they could be more – they could be more – I notice children who are – who lead a life – where their mothers are working, they’re much more attentive to their parents in their old age.

*It's an interesting theory.*

Is this what?

*I never thought about that. It’s an interesting theory.*

Yes, yes, yes. I think it is. I think my children are very spoilt. I mean, what I want for them, Raphi, it’s been the same with his children as – but the mother’s missing, she’s always away. From birth I looked after the grandchildren and I don’t see them now. And I don’t like quite honestly, this next – the generation next to my generation. I don’t like the youngsters. I think they are very superficial and very, in a way, uninteresting. Is that a wicked thing to say?

*[Laughs] Okay Lili, my last question. Have you got any message for anyone who might watch this interview in the future?*

No, except let’s not stop being Jewish. No.

*What does it mean to be Jewish for you?*

It means – I can’t define it really. It’s just the continuation of generations. It’s what’s inside I think of the continuation of – and what my grandmother’s died for. Died for being Jewish, I suppose, but that’s why I wish I lived in Israel and I’m very worried for Israel and I’m extremely concerned. However, when I see the technology I’m quite reassured [laughs]. So, yes.

*Okay. Lili, thank you very much for this interview.* **[01:48:00]**

Thank you, thank you.

*And just one moment – and thank you for sharing your story and we’re going to look at [both talking at once].*

I wasn’t prepared for this. I really wasn’t prepared for – am I off?

*Not yet. Wait. Lili wait one second.*

I want to apologise for – it doesn’t apply to his children, definitely not. [Pause].

*Tell us a little bit about this piece of art Lili, about this.*

This is a picture of Cecil in his chair as a psychoanalyst. That is a depiction of how the patients feel [laughs], which I think is quite –

*[Inaudible].*

Please have a look at the sides.

*What are we looking at? Tell us again please.*

What do you mean?

*Just tell us what this is.*

A picture. It depicts my husband in a situation analysing patients. It was done by a patient and it shows the agonies that they go through to show the side pieces there. It’s on paper and a little fragile, and I’m quite concerned it may – and *The New Yorker shows* the newspaper in the waiting-room.

*And what do you feel about this piece of art?*

Well, I think it’s fabulous actually. I think it’s quite extraordinary. It has his South African badge of – his school badge from South Africa and I think it’s amazing what expression you can show in paper. **[01:50:09]**

*Okay, thank you.*

References to my husband’s South African newspaper. [Pause]. And this is the torment that the patients allegedly feel [laughs]. I think –

*Yes please.*

That’s my grandmother, Rosalie with her new-born baby who became my mother, and her older sister Antonia. Taken at the turn of the century.

*And where was it taken?*

Probably in Bamberg. Sorry? Yeah, that’s my mother and her sister when they were young girls going to school, and a little brother who was never spoken about but he lost his life I think soon after that. He became very ill and died. Tell me when.

Picture of my father and his brothers at an exhibition – at the international fair in Leipzig in 1924, showing their wares.

Yes, that’s my father’s factory which he started with his brother and it was very progressive. It had solar energy roof and it had a vegetable garden and we children loved to play in the garden, and it was very beautiful.

And it was forced away from him in 1938. **[01:52:06]** After *Kristallnacht* it had to be given over to a family called Lindner and they still own it, I think.

*Yes.*

That’s my house in Hainstraße, number seventeen, which we occupied the top floor. And there must have been a festive day because of the flag hanging out.

Picture of my mother on the doorstep of our home in Bamberg. She must have been about nineteen. Worked in the Red Cross. Was not allowed to go to university.

That’s my father in the army. He served for a short period of time. He was wounded out, had one glass eye, and had the Iron Cross.

That’s my brother, and my sister, and I at the back of our house in Hainstraße. It must be just before *Kristallnacht*, probably 1937.

That was harvest festival at the farmhouse of our servants. I hate to use the word servants, but this was our cook and our helpers in the house invited us. And the children all got gingerbread hearts, and we played in the fields and it was great fun.

That picture was at an Easter egg hunt done by a professional photographer in the garden of our house in Bamberg. My brother, sister, and I.

That was a picture of a two-families outing on a Sunday. It’s taken in front of a sundial in the Hain which is the local park. **[01:54:03]**

*Okay.*

That’s a picture of the so-called *Judenschule* where all Jewish children who were kicked out of State schools were plonked together in a hall of the synagogue with one toilet which always was a problem, and all ages. It didn’t last very long. The teacher was inadequate and the situation was grotesque. Is that a wicked thing to say?

That’s my miserable passport photograph.

*Taken in Germany.*

Taken in Germany, of course yeah.

*So taken 1939.*

1939.

*Thank you.*

That picture was taken in Keswick where I was evacuated and housed with the local postman’s family who didn’t really know what it was all about.

*Which year?*

[Sighs] 19 – it was during the Blitz, so 1940. 1940, 1941, I don’t quite remember.

*Thank you.*

Picture taken outside my house in [inaudible] Terrace in Newcastle with my cousins George and Ronnie, and my sister Hannah, and me.

*And when?*

I don’t know. I can’t make it out. Ronnie was still alive. I don’t know. Yes. Do you want me to say it?

*Yes please.*

Hello. That’s my parents on their first post-War holiday in Vichy in 1948.

That’s me in Texas after the – where I went to after my degree. I went to live with my uncle and aunt in Texas and I went riding with the cowboys.

That’s in the – reporters in the – sorry. **[01:56:07]** Just give me a minute. It’s important. That was in the press section at the – I think the General Assembly. Maybe the Security Council. With two colleagues.

*And who are the colleagues?*

I don’t want to mention them, do I?

*Why not?*

All right. Hella Pick and Ellen Lucas.

*Thank you.*

That was an interview I did with the Sudanese Foreign Minister, Omar Adeel, in the United Nations. I’m not sure what year.

That was an interview I did with the Ambassador from Oman who was very helpful.

*And [both talking at once]?*

At the United Nations.

*And you said you also interviewed Golda Meir.*

Yes, I did, but I haven’t got a – I can’t find the picture. I looked for it in there.

*And what did you talk about with Golda Meir?*

It was at the Essex House Hotel, and she had a housekeeper with her. We talked about Mongi Slim who was then the contestant for the role of Secretary-General, and he had turned away. I remember now. He had – in the line up for – he had turned away. He would not shake her hand. He would not shake her hand. And so he – I published that, and it disqualified him from being Secretary-General. I did have some good effects, you know, [laughs]. I really did. But, you know, Mongi Slim who he was. There’s a picture of him in there. He was from – Mongi Slim was Tunisia, Tunisia, or Algeria. Tunisia. He was a despicable guy. Very despicable. And he would not shake the hand of Golda Meir, and that’s what we talked about at this meeting. **[01:58:02]** And I posted it, and I don’t know if other papers did too but he never became Secretary-General. When you talk about feeling about things, I’ve felt that I was being useful, you know. I’ve felt that there was, I suppose, power in a way. All gone. That’s a picture taken by Renee Farmer who is the wife or ex-wife of Art Farmer the jazz musician, and it was intended to send to my fiancée’s parents in South Africa. He was not reassured and they were not reassured, and we had to find another picture to send to South Africa. That picture is my late husband on the front doorstep of our house in Clifton Hill after he’d been diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease, long after, and was trying to live a life. That’s a picture of my three children on Primrose Hill where we often went at weekends. And I can’t remember which year. It was Gideon, Araan [ph], and Raphael [ph], and they were in their early teens I guess.

*Lili, thank you again for talking to us and for sharing your [both talking at once].*

Oh listen, I apologise for my absolutely incredible behaviour. I mean, the fact that I can’t move which is dreadful, I can’t put these things back.

*You’ve done very well, thank you so much again.* **[01:59:43]**

[End of transcript]