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Interview Transcript Title Page

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Forename:	Ann
Interviewee Sex:	Female
Interviewee DOB:	15 August 1928
Interviewee POB:	Berlin, Germany

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REFUGEE VOICES

Interview No. **RV240**

NAME: **Ann Kirk**

DATE: **10th July 2019**

LOCATION: **London, UK**

INTERVIEWER: **Dr. Bea Lewkowicz**

[Part One]

[0:00:00]

Today is the 10th of July 2019. And we're conducting an interview with Mrs. Ann Kirk and my name is Bea Lewkowicz, and we are in London.

Good morning. And what is your name, please? What is your name, please?

My name is Anne Kirk. But officially it's Hannah Kirk.

And when were you born please?

I was born on the 15th of August 1928.

And where?

In Berlin.

Ann, thank you very much for having agreed to be interviewed for Refugee Voices Archive.

That's okay.

Can you tell me a bit about your family background please?

My father's father was a doctor. My father was born and Breslau [Wroclaw, Poland] and Grandpa had a practice in Breslau in a country villa in the mountains in Obernigk [Oborniki Śląskie, Poland]. His wife died before I was born, so I never knew my grandma Breslau. But I used to spend quite a few holidays in the country villa at Obernigk with my step-grandmother, whom I called Tante Meta. My mother's father had a linen shop in Magdeburg. He was Gustav Löwenthal. And, again, I never knew my- my grandma there died when I was three. So, I never knew Grandma Magdeburg. But Opa Magdeburg, we did visit quite a lot. And he came up to say goodbye to me just before I left Germany on the Kindertransport. I'm an only child. I have some cousins. But other than that, as I say, I am an only child. My parents were born – but, sorry- yes, my parents were born- my father was born on the 4th of April 1896. And my mother was born on the 1st of October 1899. So, she always went with the century. They got engaged- they met at business school, and they got engaged in 1920. But I imagine because of the economic situation there, they didn't get married until 1924. And I was born in 1928. But as I say, I was an only child. My parents moved around Germany a lot. As I say, I was born in Berlin. They then got- Mum, Mum, very unusually for 1930- for the 1930s, also went out to work. And they first got jobs in Elbing [Elblag, Poland] and Königsberg [Kaliningrad, Russia] in East Prussia. But my earliest memory really begin, when they then got a job in Cologne - Köln. I remember very well my Mum and I going first going- going to the station to meet my dad, I didn't recognise him, 'cause he'd shaved his moustache off! So that I remember.

[0:03:50]

Yes, Cologne-

Well in Cologne we had a very large flat because my father was also a very good amateur musician, playing the piano and the cello. So, we had a very large music room with a grand piano, two cellos, all the trunks with music in, shelves all the way around the room with books, with one shelf left empty for me to curl up in to listen to the chamber music Dad was playing with his Jewish, but very importantly, non-Jewish friends. And we also had a maid called Agnes to look after me, because very unusually for those days, Mum also went out to work, and Agnes looked after me. And I remember for instance a carnival there, Mum making me an outfit with lots of ribbons sewn on a bright red jacket. And we were very

happy in Cologne. And we also had a boat. Really more like a skiff, which Dad could put up the sails. He could row. But what they mainly did was to use the boat as a canoe when they both pedalling. And I was always promised when I had learned to swim, they would build proper little seat for me in the front of the boat, because normally I just sat on the floor and they would build a proper little seat for me, give me a little oar so I could join. And I have the happiest of memories going- sailing down the Rhine, back in the evening, with the sunset on the wonderful Cologne bridge with the cathedral just by the bridge. Our boat house was really quite near the bridge. And those are very, very happy memories of Germany.

[0:06:05]

And how old were you in Cologne?

Well, I must have been four, five- well my memories start at three, because I went to a kindergarten there, a Jewish kindergarten**.** The Moriah School. But of course, come 1933 with Hitler came to power, everything started to change. First thing I noticed was, Agnes had to leave us. Well, she hadn't done anything wrong. So, I asked my parents why, and they said, due to recent Hitler German laws, no non-Jew was allowed to work for Jews and vice versa. So most reluctantly, because Agnes didn't want to leave us either, she had to go. But by the very same token, my parents who were working for a Christian firm, had to leave. Well, they found jobs in Cottbus, which is a little town east of Berlin on the river Spree. And I went to school there, and to be quite honest, I didn't have too bad a time. The state school there was reasonable and I don't really remember - teasing about my red hair - but I wasn't really abused about being a Jew. Not then, at all. My parents made very many applications to emigrate. As a businessman, they were both business people, all unsuccessful. So, Dad decided to retrain as a chiropodist massage- masseur. His father and his grandfather had been doctors, and he'd always wanted to be a doctor. But his father hadn't allowed that. Because apparently, his physical state of health, my grandfather didn't think would be able to cope with being a GP, which is why he went to business school in the first place. But I think he thought he was very medically drawn. And he felt that as a chiropodist masseur, he would be able, or it might be easier to emigrate with a quasi-medical qualification. But of course, we had to earn a living. So, Mum managed to get a secretarial job in the Ruhr, taking me with her. And we lived in two rooms in lodgings. Lots of phone calls backwards and forwards at the Dad in Berlin. And Dad actually qualified only after about ten months. Of course, under a

Jewish practitioner. So, when he qualified, we went back to Berlin and tried to find accommodation. But of course, for Jews, to find accommodation was very difficult. It was usually, “Oh, we don't want Jews living next to us.” Well, it so happened that a cousin of Mum’s who’d lost, lost his own job through the regulations, was then a caretaker in a Jewish school with some rooms in his little flat. Asked the headmaster, if hopefully temporarily, we could use those spare rooms. And he agreed and also allowed me into his school, the Holdheimschule in Berlin- in Berlin. And Mum and Dad managed to get a job.
And then, on November the 9th I was in bed, and I was awakened with Mum, and Dad and the cousins rushing around, very agitated. When I asked what was up, I was told, “Oh, just go back to sleep Hannele.” Hannele was my nickname. “Oh, go back to sleep Hannele.” Well, of course I couldn't. Well in the morning, Mum told me we wouldn't be sleeping with the cousins that night. Across the courtyard, into the street, and what did I see? Glass absolutely everywhere. Windows shattered. Nazi- “Jews” jeering, smearing graffiti on the pavements, on the shards of windows left. Jewish men, including Mum's cousin, on their knees sweeping up the glass, boarding up the windows. And do you know, the police were just standing around doing nothing? Well, during the day, we moved around constantly, walking, on the buses, on the underground. When I asked my Dad why we were on the move the whole time, he told me that on the night many men had been arrested, and synagogues had been burned, and shops and homes were also vandalised and burned. And of course, as Jews have a synagogue in each district, as we walked from district to district, I saw very many of the synagogues burning. And you know, that's a nightmare with me even to this day: the burning synagogues. When we wanted something to eat, I was sent into a sandwich bar. At that time, I had bright red hair. I didn't look Jewish. Well, that night, we stayed in an unoccupied flat over a police station. It belonged to a friend of my Mum’s who’d just emigrated to London, given Mum the key to try and sell the flat. And Dad reckoned the Gestapo would never look for him above a police station. But when we got there, Mum and I crept up the stairs holding our breath when a stair creaked. When we got upstairs, tweaked a curtain to show Dad in the street that all was clear, and he came up. We never put on the lights in the flat. We tip-toed around in bare feet. To this day, I don't remember what we did about food. But I presume we’d stocked up during our daytime walks. And we stayed in that flat for about ten days, until things did bin- begin to calm down a bit. And we came out and we did manage to rent a flat where my Dad could also set up practice. And that's when Mum then retrained as a manicurist beautician so that she would be able to help Dad in his new profession, which he loved, absolutely loved.

[0:13:45]

And then I was told, about three weeks after Kristallnacht, that I would be going to England on a Kindertransport. I would be staying with two Jewish unmarried sisters who would look after me until such time as my parents got their papers in orders, and of course then they would follow me. Well, the date came for my departure, which was the 19th of April 1939. We went to the station, by underground, my parents looking at me as if they couldn't take their eyes off me. Normally one of them would have sat next to me for a good cuddle. When we got to the station, there were hordes of parents and children, all crying. But we three, we kept up a pretence: "Oh! What an adventure you're going on Hannele. You're the pioneer. We will be joining you as soon as our papers are in order." And then a whistle went for the final goodbye. And as Mum and Dad hugged and kissed me, they said I should look out of the train window at the next station but one. Well, I did this. And do you know, there were my parents on the platform, waving to me, as if their arms would drop off. But that was the very last time I ever saw by parents. Because I realised afterwards, they must have hopped into a taxi immediately they said goodbye at the station, to try to be there for that last wave. They must have worked out how long it would take the train to depart from Berlin and get to this station. Well, the train went up to Hamburg where we boarded an American ship called *The Manhattan*.

[0:16:03]

The crew made a terrific fuss of all us younger ones. Older boys tried to cheer us with guitar-led singing, not very successfully. There were a lot of tears. Strangely enough, my main memory of the trip is breakfast with boiled eggs. And you had an egg at the top, but then you turned the egg cup over, and - goodness me - there was another egg on top. Well, that, at ten years old, I thought was magic. Anyhow, we arrived two days later on the 21st of April 1939 at Southampton, where we left the ship. I have a document, very interesting, which at the top says: "Left Hamburg harbour 19th of April", with a German stamp. Then I have another stamp: "Landed at Southampton 21st of April 1939." And then in the bottom, there's a little note: "Leave to grant- Leave to land at Southampton granted, provided the holder does not enter any employment, paid or unpaid." Well, I always have an enormous laugh because, you know, I was ten years old. Was I likely to take employment paid or unpaid? Anyway, at

Southampton we boarded a train for Waterloo. And the Jewish ladies of the local committee gave us chocolates, and biscuits and sweets just through the windows - and smiles. We hadn't seen smiles from strangers for many, many a long year. And then we arrived at Waterloo, taken into a big hall, each with our labels around our necks. When my name, Hannah Kuhn, was called out and I went through the barrier, there were these two ladies who were going to look after me, Millie and Sophie Levy, whom I recognised from the photographs we had exchanged beforehand. They took me in a taxi, which passed Buckingham Palace. Now they actually spoke no German, but in their best German they pointed out Buckingham Palace and said, "König. Königin." And I, precocious as I was, said, "Oh, I know. King and Queen!" Anyhow, they took me to their flat in Finchley Road - Apsley House. Now, before I came, these two ladies, whom I was called- was to call "the Aunties", had been to South Hampstead High School, the local school in Hampstead, asking the headmistress if I could attend that school. And she said, "No. You must send her to a boarding school to learn English." So, the first fortnight in this country was spent kitting me out in school uniform. Brown it was, I remember. Of course, school uniform was unheard of in Germany. So, yet another shock, culture shock. And after a fortnight, they took me to this boarding school, which were, was near Rochester in Kent. And funnily enough, it was the home where Charles Dickens, the famous author, had lived and written his books, and then been turned into a girl's boarding school.

[0:20:03]

Well, I hated that boarding school. Truth to tell, I would probably have been lonely, and miserable and homesick anywhere. But the girls, because I'd come from Germany thought I was a Nazi, and bullied me. The staff were reasonably kind, and I did learn English pretty quickly. Now the outbreak of war, on the 3rd of September 1939 meant I didn't have to go back to that nasty boarding school, because the Aunties missed the evacuation train. What to do with Hannah? I mean, all the children were leaving London. Well, they had a friend who was a teacher in an elementary school. And she asked her headmaster if hopefully temporarily, I could join them for the evacuation. And of course, he agreed- they agreed. And that was Berkhamsted Elementary- Beethoven Street telem- elementary school, evacuated Berkhamsted, about 20 miles from London. Well, it so happened that South Hampstead High School was also evacuated to Berkhamsted. The wonderful headmaster at the elementary school, a Mr. Dixon, went up to see Miss Potter, the headmistress at South Hampstead High

and said, “I have a little girl at the school with me. She's only been in this country about five months but really her English is quite good already, and in all other subjects she’s streets ahead of her peers. Would you please see her?” And I always say, “Well, poor Miss Potter, she could hardly say ‘no’ could she?” So, off I went to see Miss Potter, stood at her elbow, “Read this.” And I read that. “How do you spell that?” I spelled that. Did a few sums. That was my entrance exam to South Hampstead High School, where I stayed very, very happily until I was eighteen. There were quite a few Jewish girls at SHHS as we called it, and quite a few refugees, children of refugees. But you know, we never ever talked to each other about our German past. Never ever talked about it. Well, at eighteen I wanted to go to university, and Miss Potter supported this.

[0:22:48]

But the Aunts said, “No.” If, by some miracle- well, what I should say is, during the war, we had twenty-five -word messages from my parents - only twenty-five words - once a month, each way. And in December, I had a message from my father to say my mother had been taken, and given the- given the date and the number of the transport. And then I had yet another message in February to say he was- well, et cetera. And then I never heard again. Just silence after that. So, we did assume that he had also been taken to a concentration camp. So, there I was, wanting to go to university, but the mums said no- the aunties said no. “If, by some miracle, your parents survive the camps, it will be your responsibility to look after your parents and support them until they can find their feet. So, no way are we paying for you to go to university for three years, and then another year of vocational training.” So, they sent me to a very, very good secretarial college, from where I got a job as a secretary in an educational publishing firm, The University of London Press. Well, you know, I rather liked the editorial work that was going on around me. So, continuing to work during the day as a secretary, I enrolled in an evening course at the London School of Printing in book and magazine production. And after two years, I qualified with a 1st class pass, rather proud of myself, because I was the only girl in the men- class of fifty men. That did rather please my feminist soul.

[0:25:02]

And I was then promoted to editorial assistant. Well, after we married and I had my children, I freelanced publishing. And when the children were old enough to be able to come home on their own - although they were never key children. I was always sure I was home by three o'clock, but - I then took a job in a medical publishing firm, becoming their senior editor. In my retirement, I am, or was, the technical editor of the two prayer books, that the Liberal Jewish movement, to which my husband and I belong, are still using to this day. They're just beginning to talk about getting a new prayer book. But technically, I was the technical editor with those two books- of which, in a way is my sort of swan song almost, although I did continue doing private work for quite a while. We have two sons, David and Andy. David is a very successful accountant. Andy, the younger one, is in travel. Not quite so successful because travel doesn't pay as well as accountancy. My elder son David has married a wonderful wife, Janey, who is a musician, plays the flute, teaches at Haberdashers' [Aske's School]. And we have three of the most fantastic grandchildren. Devorah, who's now the proud young mother of a little boy, age two and a half and a little girl, age ten months. So, we're great-grandparents now. And they're called Joseph and Sophie, the little ones. And we're very close to each other, our grandchildren. We spend Friday night with each other, they often come here, and we are really a very close family. We call our retirement job, my husband and I- I didn't actually say when I married. [laughs] He will be pleased. We married in May 1950, so we're coming up to our 70th anniversary next year.

[0:27:38]

Of course, we married at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue. And we're both very active at the synagogue. Bob has actually been Chairman at Leo Baeck College, the Progressive Jewish seminary, and he's also been President of the- our synagogue. And we are still very active there. But in my retire- in our retirement, because Bob has now also finally retired- he didn't retire until he was, he was eighty, was finally retired. And we go around to schools talking about our life in Germany, the Kindertransport and the life afterwards. That's my story.

Well, then you don't need me to ask any questions. So, well done. Thank you. But now, I'll go back a little bit and we'll discuss a bit more detail. Let's just go back to the time in Germany. I'd like to go back to Cologne, and you said those are your early memories- your first memories are there. Where did you live in Cologne? Do you remember?

No. In Cologne- I have a sort of vague memory. And when we went back to Cologne, years ago, I couldn't find it. But the actual address – no.

Which area? In the centre? Was it…?

Well, all I know is that in order to go to my kindergarten, we had to cross the square where the cathedral was. So, it was on the opposite side. But I – no, I don't remember- do not remember the street. I remember the flat.

But was it near the Rhine? You said you had the boat. So how- was that boat…?

Oh yes, well when went- well, when we were in the boat, we of course had to go to the centre of town to the bridge, then the boat house to get the boat out. So, the walk to the square where the cathedral was, I must have done every day to go to school with Agnes because Mum was at work.

And what sort of work did your parents have?

Sorry?

What sort of work did they have?

As far as I remember- and- as far as I remember, and I don't totally remember, they were store detectives - in a big Christian store. It- it must have been one of the big stores- one of the- yeah. But I don't entirely remember.

[0:30:23]

Both of them?

Yes. They- they worked for the same firm.

Right.

And of course, as I say, it was a Christian firm, so they had to leave at the same time as Agnes left us.

And the- the school, the kindergarten, you said was called Moriah? The school?

No, I think the Moriah was actually- I was in the first year of the primary school. I went to Kindertransport when I- I was three, when we went to Cologne.

Right.

So, I must have gone to a kindergarten, which I think was Jewish. And then I went to the Moriah school at five, because in Germany children went to school at five.

Yeah. And the kindergarten, was it attached to a synagogue or do you remember where- the synagogue?

I don't- don't remember.

Did you go to a synagogue there? Do you remember?

Don't remember. Mummy and I used to go to a synagogue. Daddy, no. He got married in the synagogue but he didn't really believe in organised religion. But he supported us. We had Friday nights, candles. We kept all the festivals. So, Daddy never undermined my mum, but he didn't- well, he- he took part in the candle lighting and so on. But he didn't go to synagogue except for when they were married.

And what was your mother's religious affiliation?

Pardon?

What was your mother's religious affinity, or?

Well- I think it was Progressive Orthodoxy, because I'm not sure that the Liberal movement had really properly started. But we were not kosher. None- no business about *milchig* and

fleishig. And we were certainly Progressive Liberal in outlook. And one of the things that really pleases me: I have a prayer book from Breslau of my paternal grandmother, the one I never met ‘cause she died before I was born. And when I showed it to our rabbi, he laughed. He said, it's one of the first Progressive prayer books ever printed in Breslau. So, the fact that my grandmother, whom I never knew, was also a Progressive, really pleases me.

[0:32:53]

So, you’re continuing a tradition.

Sorry?

You're continuing a tradition.

Absolutely. Yes.

Yeah.

But I do remember, the Aunties took me to the synagogue at St. John’s Wood the very first Saturday I was in this country. And I wrote back to my parents, because I now have my letters- I wrote back to my parents saying, “Are these ladies really Jewish?” And Mum wrote back and said, “Yes, of course they're Jewish. But it is a modern form of Judaism. And you will learn to love it.” And how right she was.

So, it was different to what you were used to?

Mn?

It was different to what you were used to?

Oh, yes. I mean, when we first went to the LJS - men and women sitting together? And when we went - it's changed a bit now, but - very few of the men wore *tallit* or even *kippot*, and the men and women were sitting together, and there was some praying in English! LJS is a bit

different now. The men do wear *tallit* and the men do wear *kippot*. And even some of the women wear *tallit*. I'm afraid I don't.

So, it changed.

Yes.

Yeah. So just to come back so how many years did you spend in Cologne from the age of three?

Sorry?

How many years did you spend in Cologne - from the age of three, you said? So-

I think- well, we must have gone as soon as the laws came in about Jews not working for non-Jews and vice versa. So, I suppose- I could check this because Mum and Dad put an envelope with my school reports in. So, I've got my- so I could check that. But I think I must have been five. And then I went to a state school in Cottbus, which was quite good. I- there was no prejudice there then.

But you also said that you went to visit- in the holidays you went to visit your step-grandmother.

Yes.

And was it at that time, or a bit later? When was that?

[0:35:05]

Oh, that was a bit later when we were back in Berlin, after my Dad had requalified. But as they were both working school holidays, I was put on a train in the charge of a guard, and at Breslau, the guard put- Tante Meta was at the door, at the guard's door. And from Breslau, we took a country train to Obernigk. Cause Grandpa, the doctor, had a practice in Breslau and a country villa in the mountains in the Obernigk. It's always one of my sadnesses, because I

was the only child of the oldest- my Dad was the elder one, my aunt was younger. So, in normal circumstances, that will have- would have - as I always understood - been mine, eventually. Well, there you go. It was a lovely villa with a beautiful garden. I remember an apricot tree just outside my bedroom window. It was- and I learned to swim in Obernigk. So-

Did you like going there?

Oh, I loved it! Loved it. The only thing, Tante Meta, as I say, was an ex-nurse. And I remember I had mumps. And obviously she believed in keeping you warm. And over my duvet there was a mattress. I was sweltering. As I say, she was an ex-nurse.

So, you said for you the first time when you noticed the change was when you had to leave-

Sorry, I am a bit hard of hearing.

The- the first time you noticed a change was that when you had to leave Cologne when the- the nanny had to leave you? That's what you felt the- the impact?

I'm sorry- I can't hear-

I said- you said that the first time you know there was something happened was when the nanny, Agnes, had to leave the house?

Yes. That's right, in Cologne. I mean, I remember the- a troop - troops marching up the street and Mum saying that was not good news. So that I do remember. Cause before that, we'd just been Cologne citizens, you know, with the carnival and just - enjoying Cologne. I mean, I was certainly taken into the cathedral. Not for a service, but to see the architectural side of- of the cathedral. As I say, the school was a Jewish school I went to. My first *siddur,* I have it still. There are a lot of holes and ink blobs [laughs] in it.

[0:38:05]

That's from that time?

Yes, that still is a German *siddur*. It was the first one I had and I have still got it.

You took it? You took it on the train when you came?

Yes. Yes. We were only allowed one little suitcase that we could carry. But my goodness, what my parents packed into it. Three books. One on Berlin, one big dictionary and one photos of Max Lieberman's pictures. And then, as I say, about three books, a photo album, and a change of clothes.

What books? Do you remember what books were there?

Well, as I say, one was on Berlin. I think it was Lilliput- I think it was Lilliput Doctor. What was the man's name with the dog- with the animals? I've forgotten.

Cameraman: Doolittle?

What was? Well, Bob might know.

Doolittle? Doolittle? Doctor Doolittle?

That's it. Doctor Doolittle. That was it. Doctor Doolittle. There was a dictionary, German-English. And of course, the Aunts, when I got to Waterloo as they met me, handed me a little German-English English-German dictionary, which again, it's now very tattered. But the interesting thing is, the pages above the German are black. So obviously that's where I looked first to get the English equivalent.

Yeah - yeah. And then when you- you moved to Cottbus and further on, when did you experience any - before Kristallnacht - did you experience any-

No.

Persecution yourself?

[0:39:58]

See, the school in Cottbus, the only thing I experienced was teasing on my red hair. But the state school in Cottbus - no. And I always wonder whether some of the more thinking Germans were that pleased with Hitler. But I don't know, you know, one heard this raucous voice- don't forget: no TV. We all listened to the 'wireless', as we called it. And of course, his voice was so horrible. So raucous.

Do you remember the voice?

Oh, yes. Oh, yes. 'Was unmistakable.

And as a child, did you know that it was- that that was a bad thing? Do you have an association of?

Look, I was an only child. I was probably rather precocious. I think my parents really treated me like a little adult. They did. They- it wasn't they never discussed things in front of me. They did. And - ha-ha - I picked up. And I asked questions. I knew quite well what was happening. And I explained to you about Kristallnacht, I mean- you know, some Kindertransport children I find, are angry with their parents, because they think the parents really left them. Whereas I know that I was sent out for my own good, for my safety. I can never quite understand people who are slightly upset with their parents for sending them away. And not for a moment did I feel they'd rejected me. No. Not for a moment.

You understood?

Oh, yes, absolutely.

You understood what was going on?

[0:41:45]

But of course, one hoped and hoped, especially before the war. They'd get their papers, as they said. But Mum and Dad kept on sending applications, and they kept on being refused.

And when your father retrained, you also understood- the reasons?

When he retrained, it was quite successful. I mean, I was still in Germany when the patients started to come. He had a- a corner, a practice corner in our big sitting room. It was very difficult to find a flat where he could also practise. So, the big room in the corner had the patient's chair and his chair, and all his instruments. But of course, in another corner of the room, there were the cellos- no piano by that time. There was a room- this was a rented flat. As- one thing I meant to say, because of these non-Jewish musician friends they had- I told- talked about the Red Cross messages, but very occasionally, I got what I call a proper letter purporting to come from one of his Christian musician friends, in actual fact, written by them. And there's one letter, June '42, where he actually says - this is my father, "Be happy. Live your life to the full. Always tell the truth. And do not grieve." Now that sentence, "And do not grieve." They must have had a pretty good inkling about what might be happening. But it was, "be happy" – you know. That's what I've always tried to do, live my life to the full – be happy! I don't think I said how I met Bob. Did I?

[0:43:52]

Not yet- wait, we're- we're not quite there yet. We're not- and he said "do not grieve" in the letter?

Sorry?

He said, "Do not grieve." Your father?

Do not grieve, mn. Well, that made me- they must have known. Presumably, people disappeared and were never heard of again. And my parents weren't silly.

So, he had the- these non-Jewish musician friends? They- he kept in touch with them?

Yeah. And I did have one letter saying that they knew my mother had been taken. But sure, she'd been taken as a warden, as an old people's- I think just to try and keep my hope up. That she- that my mother was sent to the east as a warden in a home for old people. Of course, it was rubbish.

And what happened to their siblings? To your parents' siblings?

[0:44:50]

My father's sister did manage to emigrate to the States with her husband. She was not a very kind aunt, because the aunties here had to write to her to beg her to write to me, 'cause I was so anxious to hear from family. Mum had a sister who was taken, a brother, who was taken on Kristallnacht. And he must have been so terrified. I think he went into the sewers, because he survived. And he then wrote to me in England to say he had found a lady who'd also survived and they were going to go to Israel. I, as a child hadn't got Bob here to calm me down. As a teenager, I wrote a terrible letter back, saying, "How could you possibly?" Oh no, I'm wrong. I said, "Okay. Going to Israel." But then he wrote back to say they were going back to Germany, because they couldn't take the life, they couldn't take the climate and they couldn't take the language. And I then wrote and said, "How on earth could you possibly go back to Germany? With both his sisters murdered? His brother-in-law murdered? How could he?" Never answered. I never heard from him. I never had an address from him that I- even just an address to say he's gone back to Berlin. But when we, Bob and I went back to Berlin, we found his grave. And he went back to Berlin. I think he died in '77. So, he must have gone back with his new wife. He was the one who had to divorce its first wife, cause his first wife was not Jewish. So, I'm not very happy about my uncle because I always thought, A- he could have understood as a teenager having lost my parents, how I must have felt. He was the grown-up man, I was the teenager. Or at least he could have told me, "Never mind what you say, but I am back and this is my address."

[0:47:22]

He could have found you.

I think so. I think so. So - I've lost it. I think his second wife had a son. I've no idea. No idea. So yeah, but Tante Else's *Stolpersteine* we did go, and the whole family went to lay that in Magdeburg. Breslau [Wroclaw], of course, is in Poland now.

Yes.

Because David our elder son, the first time he had to go out on business to Poland, found the *Gedenkbuch*, and brought it back with him where my parents' names are down as Auschwitz. So, David brought the book back.

They are in the Breslau book?

They are in the *Gedenkbuch*, my parents' names, at Auschwitz.

But were they deported from Berlin?

Mn?

Did they stay in Berlin? After you left, did they…?

Sorry?

After you left, did they stay in Berlin?

Yes. They moved. And I've got their *Stolpersteine* outside their new address that I never knew. But I've got the address, Hektor- Hektorstraße 20. And we all went to visit, because I had the *Stolpersteine* laid and they sent me photographs of it. But when we went to Berlin, we obviously went to see it, polished it.

So, you didn't lay them? You didn't do it?

I didn't live there. No.

You didn't lay those Stolpersteine?

No – no.

They were done?

No- They were done by this man who does them all.

But what was the address where you still lived in Berlin?

I'm sorry.

What was the address where you still lived in Berlin?

Where I lived at 33 Düsseldorfer Straße, garden flat. Garten. 33 Garten Düsseldorfer Straße, which is near – oh, Bob will know – the church that is above the Tier- I've forgotten.

Tiergarten? Tiergarten?

Yeah. Well, no. No- no. The name of the church- it is well known. Damaged and a big shopping street where that huge department store is. [Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche]

Kudamm- Kudamm?

No, he's better at that sort of thing than I am.

Okay. Don't worry. So that was the flat where you-

That's a flat that I knew.

And where you had-

I had my own little bedroom. They had- a big lounge where Dad had his practice, had their own bedroom and a bathroom. And I mean it- it was a rented flat. There is a message from them, with the Red Cross message, there's at some point- cause their furniture from Cottbus had been put into stock- into store. And there is a message that they'd been to Cottbus to sell the furniture. I suppose by then they were so hard up. So that they sold the furniture. Because after Cottbus, we never really lived in our own home. It was all rented- or other, with other people's furniture, not ours.

[0:50:48]

In Cottbus you had your own-

Cottbus- we had- still had our own furniture, the big music room, the dining room with the old-fashioned German huge furniture, with a sofa bed where they slept. Because you know the music room was sacrosanct, with its grand piano, and the- the coffers with the music in, and the cellos - and the books. Huge library.

But you said you stayed in that school. When was that?

Hm?

You stayed in that school in Cottbus?

Until Dad decided to retrain. So, he went to Berlin to train under a practitioner. And Mum got a job in the Ruhr - because as I said, they had to earn a living - taking me with her. And we lived in these two rooms - in the two digs.

And where was that? In the Ruhr you said?

Yes. Wuppertal.

Oh! Okay. Im Ruhrgebiet.

Elberfeld, Wuppertal.

Rights. So that's quite a way- quite far.

Yes. Oh, yes. Quite a way from-

So, you moved to Elberfeld-

Pardon?

You moved to Elberfeld- with your mother?

Yeah. Elberfeld, Wuppertal.

So, in fact Kristallnacht was in Elberfeld?

No. Kristallnacht- by that time we'd just got back to Berlin living with Mum's cousin, 'cause we hadn't been able to get any accommodation yet. So, we were living with Mum's cousin in his caretaker flat of the Holdheimschule, because as I say it was difficult to find accommodation where Dad could practise.

So, he was the caretaker of Holdheimschule and that's where you lived?

Yeah.

Right. So just to come back to Kristallnacht, because obviously that left a-

Yeah,

…a memory- a strong memory on you.

Yes.

What- do you remember noises? Do you remember what- what are your main memories from Kristallnacht?

[0:52:54]

Well, the shattered glass. The shattered glass. And the fact that we walked and moved all the time during the day. But first coming out of the flat and seeing all the shattered glass, the shattered windows, the Nazi youths just jeering and laughing and smearing graffiti. And then, seeing the burning synagogues on our walks. That and good thing I was good at walking in

those days, because we walked and walked and walked. Well, not only walked. We took buses, underground.

And was the school targeted, where you stayed?

Mn?

Was the school- because you stayed in a- it was a Jewish school.

That was the Holdheimschule.

Yes. Was it targeted? Was that…?

Do you know, I don't think so.

Was the school damaged, or the building?

No, not very much, because when things settled down, I went back to school. I don't think it- it was behind- it was behind, in a courtyard behind. It wasn't off the street. So that may have been the reason. Because we had to cross a courtyard to go out into the street. So I think that was the reason. No, I don't think that was – no. It was outside with all the damage. And the son of the headmaster went to the States, and we kept in touch with him. Cause he was a member of our LJS congregation, although he went to Boston. But he was the son of my old headmaster.

So, this Holdheimschule, what was it? Can you describe it a little bit? That was your first Jewish school?

Except the kindergarten that I-

Right.

[0:54:54]

Very crowded because of course by that time all Jewish children could only go to Jewish schools. There were very crowded classes. Bit miserable. Everybody was miserable, because all the time people were leaving; their parents were managing to emigrate. So, very unsettled time. But they tried to carry on teaching us German, English. They taught us English pretty quickly. Geography. I mean, when they tried to give us a proper education, but it was very crowded.

Was it a private school?

Mn?

Was that a private school?

Oh, do you know, I don't remember – wouldn't know. The Holdheimschule.

And what ages were the children were there?

It was a Reform school, so it was Holdheim- so it was Reform, Liberal - not Orthodox. But I'm quite sure we had a lot of Orthodox children, because where could Jewish children go?

And what ages of children were there? From what age to what age?

Oh – I don't know if it was only secondary and not junior, or whether we had some juniors. I mean, I was ten. So, I wasn't a senior.

And you went back after it calmed down. You said after it had then you went back to the school?

Yes. Yes. And when we were in Berlin, we re-walked my walk from where I know we were staying to the school - which is now a hotel. That's- there's no school there, but it's now a hotel.

Which area of Berlin? Where was that?

Ask Bob.

Okay, don't worry. Don't worry.

Let's get him in.

Don't worry. Don't worry. Don't worry.

This is what I was trying to- trying to remember just now, what the name of the damaged church is there. There's a very famous church [Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche].

Yes. Is it Frauenkirche?

Hm?

Frauenkirche? No, what is it? I don't know. I don't know Berlin.

It was near that big department store that everybody talks about, because the food was so good.

Cameraman: KaDeWe?

KaDeWe? KaDeWe?

Right.

That's the department store.

Right. And we had to cross the road that that shop was on. And it was just on the other side of the road. And as I say, it's now a hotel where the school was. But yes, when things settled down, I went back there. But gradually, people were leaving. You know, one of the things that made one both sad and happy, as you walked around, you saw 'lifts', called- they were called 'lifts'. The big storage moving vans, and they were called 'lifts'. And you knew that

some other lucky person had manage to get out. So, you know, we were a bit envious, when you passed a 'lift'. Good- good for them, but it- how we wish it was us.

And do you remember some friends from that time? From your school time?

[0:58:10]

One girl came with me on the boat in the Kindertransport from the Holdheimschule. But because I hadn't been at the Holdheimschule very long, she was really an acquaintance, not a friend. She came over with her sister. Her father was a judge, and she went to Blackpool. And in fact, the Aunties invited her down to stay. After the war- the judge survived. After the war, they went back to Germany. And they're there now. I did meet the sister when we were at a Berlin conference with the movement. And I remembered her name, and I saw her there. And she was the younger sister. But I can't say she was really a friend.

Right.

But she was a known face, put it that way.

And how long after Kristallnacht was it the first time that you heard - I guess nobody talked about Kindertransport at the time, but- when did you hear this idea that you are going by yourself?

Oh, only about- I think January. I came in April. And Kristallnacht on the 9th - of November. So, I think what happened- I didn't say this. The lady who was- Mum's best friend, whose flat we borrowed, had come to London. The Aunts were voluntary social workers in the East End of London, based at the Bernhard Barons Settlement. Mum's best friend must have been at a gathering, or party or something, met these two ladies and said to them, "My best friend in Berlin is desperately trying to get her little girl out. Would you consider giving her a home?" It's so happened that Dr Mattuck, the rabbi at the LJS, had been preaching to the congregation they should really think seriously about taking in a child from the Kindertransport. So, these two wonderful ladies didn't take long to say, "Yes, we'll take her." And Mum was a very good linguist. So, to begin with, it was all by phone. They were phoning, said, "Yes…" And then of course, they were even prepared to come to Berlin to fetch me. Wasn't allowed. And

so then my parents joined me on to the Kindertransport. But I always say in my talks, my Kindertransport experience is almost unique, because my parents knew to whom I was going. I knew to whom I was going. Most Kindertransport children, including Bob, went from hostel to hostel to hostel, and their parents had no idea where they were going. So, you know, it is quite a special Kindertransport experience. And after all, they sent me to a private school: South Hampstead. Then St. Godric's, the secretarial college. After that, of course, I started earning my living.

[1:01:35]

But they paid for you?

They paid everything. The boarding school, South Hampstead, extra-curricular piano lessons, whatnot, they clothed me, fed me, sent me to St. Godric's. But St. Godric's got me the job at University of London Press.

So, in fact, it was your parents who organised that, you know, your Kindertransport?

Yes, yes. They-

It was just that you joined the journey.

I- they applied for me to join.

Yeah.

Because- and they already had a name for me to go to.

Yes. You had a sponsor.

Yes. There was no home to have to find for me. It was- they were at the barrier when I came at Waterloo.

Yes. So that's very different from many other Kinder.

It’s quite different. As I say, our stories are totally different. I had a good education. Bob had to catch up on his education by correspondence class in the evenings after we were married. And, you know, I was probably quite a snooty South Hampstead High School girl.

And- yeah, so you knew- you knew from January that you're supposed to go. And what were you feeling at the time when your parents told you that you are- you're the pioneer going to England?

Well, you know, they insisted that they would be following me as soon as they got- it was sold to all of us that it was, well, temporary, and the parents when they had their papers would join us. It was really sold as an adventure. I think this was the case with all of us. I don't think any of us had any idea that we’d never see them again. Of course, I had that last wave on the train, just passing through.

What station was that? Where did you leave from? Any idea?

[1:03:45]

I can’t remember. Not for a moment. I’ve tried. I suppose I could find out if I looked at the railway timetables. No idea. No idea. I presume from Berlin I went to the station they all went to. But I don't know. I mean, somewhat my memory is a bit- sort of- dim on some of the stuff.

But you remember your parents-

Oh-

Driving [inaudible].

I have their photo in the bedroom. And every night I go to bed, I look at the photo. But they were very far-seeing. I mean, packing the photo album, packing the address book, packing the three books. I remember them saying – a very funny- when they packed the dictionary, “You'll be surprised but you will soon forget your German.” I said, “Oh, couldn't possibly!”

"Oh yes, you will." And what happened? This boarding school, very soon after I got there, my mother began to correct my German. But I corrected her English- because she was a good linguist. But I corrected her English and she corrected my German. And this was only the first term from April to July. But the- the teachers were quite kind, but the girls were horrible. But to be quite honest, I would have been homesick wherever I'd been. Possibly if I'd stayed with the aunts, and gone somewhere as a day visitor. But it was Miss Potter at South Hampstead who advised them to send me, and I did learn English. By the time that September when this headmaster went to Miss Potter and said, "Would you see her?", he knew "She's actually quite good." Well, you know, it was quite good. But apparently, I gathered from somebody I met afterwards, the girls were advised that I was coming, and to be kind to me, and nice to me. And not to- you know, my, my accent might have been funny. And for the first two years in my reports at the bottom it says, "Hannah must take more care with her accent." One of the things apparently, I said, I couldn't say 'jam'. I said, 'yam'. 'J' - The 'j' sound. 'Jelly - Yelly'. 'TH'-es I never found difficult. The 'r-s' were difficult, I rolled my 'r-s'. But yes, for about two years, I said, it said I had to take more- but South Hampstead was an ideal school, because there were a lot of Jewish girls and quite a lot of refugees.

Let's just back to your journey. You said you can't remember that much, but the train station you remember and then what happened on the actual journey? The actual journey - on the Kindertransport - on the train?

[1:07:11]

Yes. Well, there were a lot of tears. There were a lot of tears, sadness, tears. Nobody knowing quite where they were going, what was going to happen. I mean, I knew I would be met by these two ladies. But other people didn't. Not a clue. We were all quite quiet I remember; there wasn't much talking.

Were there adults on the train?

Cause we'd I mean we only had the train from Berlin to Hamburg. And the boat was quite different. It was a new experience. The American crew were wonderful. So, I mean, that was an adventure! And the fact that it took two days, gave you a bit of time to… get over, you

know, really come home to you, actually, what was- but most of the children had no idea where they were going.

Because it's-

Bloomsbury House would put them somewhere.

But it's unusual. Not many people came by boat.

No!

You did.

What's the name? The Reverend… The Orthodox Rabbi- again, Bob will know, in a minute. He came on *The Manhattan* a month before I did. Apparently, the owners of *The Manhattan,* the ship owners, were Jewish. And so, the boat came over with Americans. And then instead of coming back empty, the Jewish firm arranged to have the children, as well as tourists. We took over one whole deck: the lowest deck of course.

How many children were there roughly?

Two- hundred, three-hundred. I've no idea. No idea.

And sleeping? What were the cond-

Hm?

Sleeping together in a hall, or- how was it organised, the children?

We were in cabins. Somebody- presumably we didn't have single cabins- must have been double cabins. The main thing I remember is breakfasts. Did I tell you this one about the eggs?

Yes.

The older boys did try and cheer us up, but nobody was very cheerful.

Any adults you met on the boat?

Well, the ones that had to come as leaders, but you know, they had to go back to Germany. They couldn't stay here. But the adult leaders had to go back. Oh yes. There were adults looking after us. But - two days at sea, which in a way probably was easier to cope with than a train journey across Holland. But- they said, I mean *The Manhattan* went backwards and forwards.

[1:10:32]

I wonder how many trips of, you know, Kindertransport they did.

I think so, quite a. Hm?

I wonder how many trips of Kinder. How many children they took. How many journeys.

I don't know. I really don't know.

We could find out.

Let's call Bob in and see if he might- I don't know why he- I don't know why he should know. I would say it was about 200, 300.

Yeah. Yeah.

Basically, to fill a deck - with the cabins.

And did the- before you landed, did you remember at all- did you have any medical exams or did…?

Must have done, but I don't remember.

And when you-

Cause at the Kindertransport Conference we heard recently- do you remember they'd said the ones that were not allowed to come-

Yeah.

Which surprised me. I didn't know that.

That was interesting, yeah.

I didn't know that at all.

And when you docked, what- what were your first impressions of England? What- what were the first things?

[1:11:30]

Freedom – freedom! There were- and people smiling. People welcoming you. I always say in our talks - and people find it difficult to realise - in Germany there was this sense of fear. Not only amongst Jews - amongst everybody! Because eyes, ears were listening everywhere. If you were seen talking to a Jew, you could be… had up. So, there was terrible fear. Here: no fear, freedom, policemen that smiled- you know there's that book, "*When the Policeman Smiled*"? [sic, Turner, Barry *And the Policeman Smiled*] Totally different. Everybody- no fear. People- people went around smiling, busy, going to work, bowler hats and umbrellas, [?British]- [laughs] And I think the first fortnight, the aunts- we were at Daniel Neal's to kit me out in this boarding school uniform. The poor aunties, as I only went there for a term. By the time I went to South Hampstead, that was Navy, so they had to do another lot of uniform. And as I say, we didn't have uniform when you- in Germany. The other thing we never had in Germany, at least not in our home, was toast. Now at the boarding school, there were a lot of day boarders and- who went home at weekends. So, at the weekend, the weekly boarders had a bit of fuss made of them, and we had toast for breakfast on Sunday morning. Oh! I loved it! But we also had grapefruit without sugar, which I hated. [laughs] No, I mean, but

you see, the aunts were so different to my parents. My parents were a young modern couple. These two wonderful ladies were really rather Edwardian and very strict. I mean, they couldn't have been more different. And yet, bless them for what they did.

[1:13:50]

And when I met Bob, you know, I think he told you he was interviewed and grilled et cetera. But basically, they became his aunts as well. And our babies became their grandchildren. Except - they became their grandchildren, but I said to the boys not so long ago, "Did you consider the aunties as your grannies?" They said, "No. We just knew they were very good women." Interesting. Very – I found that very interesting. I was sad because I hoped they would think of them as their grannies. But there we go.

And how- when you saw them first, what did you think? Do you remember? As a child-when they picked you up?

Well, I'd seen their photographs. So, because we'd exchanged photographs. Also exchanged letters. I remember having to write letters in rough, and then back in neat, in English. I was ten years old. Mummy, of course, helped me. So, we- and, I'd spoken to them on the phone. So, there was no surprise.

You knew…?

Oh, I knew them immediately.

And how old were they when they…?

Ah, probably not that much- I worked that out. Not that much older to my parents. Because Dad, in '39 was forty-three, and Mum was thirty-nine. And I think they must have been in their late forties. But they were still in their forties - late forties. Only a few years older, but very Edwardian. Their mum had died when Sophie was quite young. And they'd been brought up by a governess and by family – uncles. And apparently, they were two very adventurous young girls. When the older one learned to drive, they got a car, careered around Europe. And the uncles were very upset with these two girls careering around England-

around the Continent on their own. [laughs] So, they had been quite adventurous. But that- to me, they were old and Edwardian. Dressed rather Edwardian.

And how…?

[1:16:20]

Mummy, Mum had a velvet trouser suit that she used to smoke- when she smoked, she used to put a smoking suit on. I mean, you know, it couldn't have been more different.

And you adapted? You managed to adapt, or?

Well, you see, I think I must have been quite precocious. I've absolutely realised it was for my own good to get me out of Germany. But, you see, I had the little case with me. But apparently, they were allowed three months after you arrived, to send a big trunk over. And in the trunk, and I've still got them, there are some lovely tablecloths of my Mum's, which I've still got. There were the basic instruments that my Dad would need for his work. And the manicuring sets, basic instruments for my Mum. Either deliberately to make me think they were coming, or really, because they were still hoping to come. And that was all in the big trunk. And we didn't get rid of my German big trunk until we moved from the house which had a loft, till we came here. And then the big German trunk eventually went, just like any old big trunk.

[1:17:40]

And do you think, did- did they try or did- they try to make an effort to help your parents at all?

I think the aunties made an effort to try and get them over. I could never quite see why they- Mummy couldn't come on domestic permit. But I imagine- we didn't have a car, so Dad wasn't a chauffeur. What could Dad do? And they were desperately trying to get a job for him. So, I mean, on numerous- the aunties- to be fair to them, they made a lot of enquiries from friends if anybody could take them, but- and I think my parents were optimists until almost that "do not grieve". Somehow. There's one letter from them to the aunties: "we feel

trapped.” So- because after the aunts died, I picked up the letters that my parents had written to the aunts and vice versa. When they died, I found some of- whether- letters the aunts sent. They must have been copies, because the letters wouldn't have been there, of course.

So, you have got that whole correspondence?

I have got some of the early letters, yes. And I've got- my letters are all with the Wiener Library, and I've got copies. But- that happened when we went to America, Washington. And they said, “Do you have any correspondence? Any letters?” “Yes.” “Oh, do let us have them.” And when I spoke to the boys they said, “No way. They're not going out of the country.” But, because they’re all on airmail paper, why not send them to the Wiener Library who could keep them, and I have the copies? And sometimes the Wiener Library write to me, “May we use a certain letter or a certain-?” in whatever they want it. Well of course they can. No problem.

You're happy they're there?

[1:20:00]

Oh, yes. Oh, yes. And I know the number of the box that they are- I mean, any of us could look at them at any moment. We know the box. We know- we know the archivist at the Wiener Library. And we knew the chairman, when he was alive. So- and- and we know his daughter. So, there's no problem.

Again, you're in a unique situation to have all this correspondence.

Hm?

You are in a unique situation to have all this correspondence.

Yes. Yes.

Cause many people don’t have that either.

Well, Bob always said he had nowhere to keep anything. So, he hasn't got any letters. The only thing we've got is his- his sister in Brazil, of course, has or had, a lot of information. And of course, once we re-met Helga, there was a lot of conversations. But she was twelve years older than he was.

Yeah.

Her memory of their father is quite different to Bob's memory, quite different. But then Bob was the baby of the family.

Yeah. Just to come back to you- you said- the two ladies, what were the names?

Sophie and Millie- Millie was the older one. Millie and Sophie Levy. Well, Millie was really Amelia. Amelia, but she was known as Millie. And Sophie was Sophie.

And their surname?

Levy.

And how did they- what financial means did they have? How did they…?

Ah! Dad, their father, was a potato merchant in Margate. They had all inherited money. Because they worked voluntarily in the East End of London. But it was inherited money from potato merchant Mr. Levy. Their mother died when she- when they were young, and they were looked after by a governess. And they had a- a guardian to look after them I think one of the mother's brothers. But- yes, it was inherited money. They were reasonably wealthy. I mean, they paid for the boarding schools, all my- all the South Hampstead's- all the fees. To- they paid for St. Godric's. And after that I did earn my own living, and they made me contribute to the housekeeping. They were very good in teaching me money. As soon as I earned, a smallish percentage, but I had to give a bit of money up for housekeeping. Very astute - very astute. Do you know anything about the Bernhard Baron Settlement?

[1:22:53]

A little bit- tell us a little bit about it.

Basil Henriques.

Yes.

Well, we've got his books there - who was their hero. and apparently when the staff were all together at lunch - and they had an office at the settlement there – Basil would beam over, [in a booming voice] "Well, and how's the daughter?"

Did they see you as their daughter?

Hm?

Did they see you as their daughter?

Oh, yes. Oh, well, I think they- did they see me as their daughter? No. No, but Basil Henriques was teasing them. The aunties were very careful to not let me think of them as parents. They were very careful to encourage me to believe they would- we would- they would come over. And even when they were in concentration camp, they might survive. In other words, that business about, "No, you're not going to university. You've got to look after them when they come."

And did they- did they ever adopt you?

No. Never. They wouldn't, because- in case my parents came through- alive. But they made sure that I was naturalised as soon as I could be. You know, the government made a rule that if you were eighteen and deemed to be an orphan, you could be naturalised at eighteen, not twenty-one. So, I was naturalised at eighteen. No, no. Never any thought of adoption. And, you know, at our wedding, they wouldn't even come under the *chuppah*. They stayed in the front row. Bob had some cousins living in Reading, and they came under the *chuppah*, but the aunties were in the first row. [coughs] Sorry.

That's interesting. So, they didn't see themselves quite as family or…?

[1:25:00]

Well, we were family and we were not family.
They introduced me to all their friends, you know. And- Auntie Sophie, funnily enough, wouldn't let her sister, or me, go in the kitchen. We were never allowed in the kitchen. So, when we got married, I had to learn to cook with Bob standing behind me with the recipe book. The only thing she- Sophie taught me before we got married was how to boil an egg. Literally. Nothing.

And were you closer to one of the sisters or…?

No. Basically Millie, the older one, was the businesswoman. Sophie was the housekeeper, the cook. They both shopped. They both, during the war, gardened; they had a little allotment during the war at Berkhamsted. As I say, they shut up their flat in London and took- rented a flat Berkhamsted, because they thought I'd had enough trauma not to be billeted. So, once we got to Berkhamsted we really lived like a family, because before I'd been at boarding school, and only literally for about a fortnight, plus the school holidays in August, when they took me to the seaside - Birchington. My first glimpse of the British seaside. And then the war came. But as I say- and, they took another girl from the school billet. So, they took a billet. So, I had another girl living with me at Berkhamsted.

So, they moved out - that you could stay with them?

Mn.

Again, this-

Is unusual.

Yeah.

I mean, the more I think about them- I mean, not in- that's their bookcase. The rest of the furniture in this- that little coffee table is theirs, the bookcase. But the hall is almost all their furniture. But the bookcase was theirs.

So, they didn't have any other family?

No- no.

So, you-

Well – yes. They had cousins, but they only- they- no, just them. But in fact, I know quite well, the granddaughter, the great-granddaughter of one of their cousins, whom I am in touch with, was a member of the synagogue. And in a way there's that sort of connection, you know. No- no relationship.

[1:27:44]

So, speaking of the synagogue, was that- was that an important part of their lives?

Oh, absolutely.

Yeah.

Oh, yes. Great friend- great friends of Mrs. Mattuck. And the Women's Society - who did take one or two German children.

So, there were other refugee children in that synagogue?

Well, there were and there weren't because there was one, but she then moved. Although we're now very friendly with them, when they came back again. But she didn't actually have a very good experience. You know. It varied who you were with.

And I think at the time also the Liberal Synagogue hosted Belsize Square Synagogue which later became Belsize-

Sorry-

At the time the Liberal Synagogue also hosted what later became Belsize Square Synagogue.

Yes – yes.

Do you remember? Did you ever- do you ever get- did you ever go to those services? To the refugee…?

We do occasionally go there.

But at the time?

No, no. Kokotek - Rabbi Kokotek, who was a rabbi at the LJS then went over. Because apparently Lily Montagu was responsible for really starting with Salzberger.

Yes – yes.

But as we've been there. Because obviously the AJR, they, you know, holiday- Holocaust Memorial Day and we go there. And we knew Rodney Mariner very well, because I think Bob told you he was at the Leo Baeck College and he got to know all the rabbis.

Right.

Well, there's- he got to know them as students and then as rabbis.

But at the time, you- you were not involved with that-?

No, not at all. Not at all. It was just the LJS. The first Saturday they took me to synagogue- the very first Saturday in this country, they took me to the LJS. And when it came to the time of the sermon, Dr Edgar who was then the Associate Minister, came down from the *Bimah*, took me by the hand, led me out for the children's sermon- story, and then brought me back leading me by the hand. I mean, this was five days after- I didn't- I had a basic English. But I

always remember Dr Edgar leading me by the hand out for the children's story and coming back again. Of course, that was all in the old LJS synagogue before it was rebuilt. Because, you know, it was bombed during the war? And then rebuilt. Our lovely-

But this is-

Our lovely building now.

And do you think that gave you something, that- that synagogue? I mean in terms of your-

Well-

...arrival?

[1:30:43]

Well, I was immediately joined up. Another friend of their- great friend of theirs, Miss [Marjorie] Moos, was *the* teacher par excellence, you might say. She went round all the country, to all the boarding schools, teaching the Jewish girls as well as being principal of the religion school at the LJS. And so as soon- I was enrolled in the religion school in only the correspondence classes, 'cause I was at boarding school. So, I was very early on, straightaway into English Jewish education. The only thing Marjorie had to do- I of course spoke Ashkenazi. And the Liberals of course speak- don't speak ivrit. So, that was- I had to learn how to say '*Adonai'*, not '*Adonoi'*.

And did you have a Bat Mitzvah?

Hm?

Did you have a Bat Mitzvah or Confirmation or?

No, we didn't. Under Dr Mattuck, he didn't leave- he didn't believe in Bar, Bat Mitzvah because he said it was too young to make a commitment. We will all confirmed at sixteen. And it was called Confirmation. This was an American custom. Bar, Bat Mitzvah didn't come

in at very much- till now, until several years later, because of grandparental pressure. Grandparents were leaving with their sons and daughters and grandchildren because we didn't have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. But my generation were confirmed. Now we have *Kabbalat Torah.*

But you had a confirmation?

I had a confirmation.

In the synagogue? In the…?

Yeah. And I had read my own prayer- well, we all had to write our own prayers, and then one person was chosen to read it. And I had to read my own. Well of course mine were about parents and Germany and-

What was your prayer? What was it?

Well, hoping that I would see- you know, I can't remember now, but it was my prayer.

Which year- when was that? In- you were sixteen in…

[1:33:08]

I was seventeen. Well, no, no, you were meant to be seventeen. The aunties wouldn't let me be confirmed because that was the year of taking school certificate- matric. So, I wasn't confirmed until I was in the lower Sixth. So, I was a year older than the rest of the class. The aunties were quite strict like that. The other thing, they would- they wouldn't allow me to play hockey. The girls played hockey, but "Hannah might get injured and she's not our daughter". So, I wasn't allowed to play hockey. [laughs]

So, was the confirmation still in the war time?

Yes. We had it- the hall in the old school had been turned into a small synagogue, cause the big building was bombed. Build- you know- had to be rebuilt. So yes, my Confirmation- but

Bob and I were married in the Montefiore Hall not the big synagogue. It wasn't rebuilt until- I think it was 1948.

When was it bombed? When was it bombed, the synagogue?

[Nineteen-] Forty-two [1942] I think. Don't quote me; I could be wrong.

But at that time, you were in Berkhamsted?

We were in Berkhamsted.

So how long did you stay in Berkhamsted? Throughout the…?

Not quite throughout the war. You know, we were billeted on Berkhamsted Girls' School. The girls had morning lessons, South Hampstead girls had afternoon lessons. But I think the headmistress of Berkhamsted Girls' School got a bit fed up over this. And it seemed to be quite quiet. So, she- well- so we all trooped back to London, the whole school. There was a remnant of girls left at London anyhow. So, we all went back to re-join the few that had stayed in London, just in time for the buzz bombs. So, we were up here during the buzz bombs, in Maresfield Place. I gave a talk- we gave a talk at South Hampstead not so long ago 'cause it's been completely rebuilt. It's beautiful now. Not at all what it was like when we were there. All mod- it's all mod- and nice.

[1:35:25]

The bombing - you remember the bombings?

Yes.

The bombs falling?

Well, no, we were- I think the actual bomb was in the evening on our- we weren't, we weren't in the school. I don't think the school was bombed, but we came back in time we could hear it, you know. If you were in the middle of an exam and the sirens went, pens

down, papers down, into the shelter. You must not talk. If you talked, you were disqualified. So of course, the trick was to read the exam paper through, memorise the question, because they couldn't stop you thinking. So, while you were in the shelter, you were trying to work out your answers. And then when it was all clear, up you went and could write. But if you talked, you were disqualified. If you took paper and pencil, you were disqualified. And we came back just to all that. I mean, I remember we did actually do matric- matriculation during an air raid. Which means you did have a little time to think.

And in the flat- when you were in the flat-

Sorry?

When you were in the flat, did you also have to go to a shelter?

The flat in Berkhamsted? No.

No, the flat in London when you were back with the-

I don't think we ever did, no. No, when we came back to London it was a different flat.

Oh, where did you live then?

[1:37:00]

Daleham Gardens just around the corner from the school. Actually, where the headmistress and her partner, who was the headmistress of the Junior school had lived. And it was their flat. And they had another flat. And the aunties took their flat. It was only just around the corner form the school. So, I only- Apsley House, I only stayed in the first fortnight and the holiday period after term finished, and we went to the seaside. So, I never actually stayed in Apsley House very much.

But in Daleham Gardens. And did they stay there?

Daleham Gardens, that's- I was married from. And then we lived in Maida Vale, our first flat. Then we lived in Neasden, in a little house, which the aunties paid for, and made us pay a rent. Once they saw that we could pay the rent and that we were good about paying it, they made it over to us, the first house - in Neasden. Then we bought a three bedroom, but it was the proportion of a four bedroomed house, in Kenton, with the- you know the proceeds of the first flat, plus we were earning by then. And then twenty years ago, we bought this. We were thirty-one years in Kenton. Now we've been twenty years here.

So, they continued to help you, the aunties?

Yes. I remember the first domestic help I had, when I had David as a baby, they paid for. Without the aunties, we definitely wouldn't be here now. I mean, we've done a lot ourselves-work-wise as well. But the start, we had enormous support from them. I mean, you know, it was- you know, we became their family. David and Andy became their- I would say, in this room there were no furniture - is in fact the bookcase. But the hall is all theirs. In the bedroom, there are two – not wardrobes – there's a tallboy that belonged to them and another chest of drawers. They're all around the place.

So, in- when you were in school, did you- did you go to any youth groups or youth movements apart from the synagogue? What other activities did you have?

[1:39:56]

Ah, well, that was another story. This is how I met Bob. I belonged to the youth group at the- the Alumni at the synagogue. At the time, West London and LJS between them, sent a solicitor with article clerk and a secretary down to the Settlement, Bernhard Baron Settlement, for what was called 'poor man's lawyer' - forerunner of the Citizens Advice Bureau. And I went as a secretary with a solicitor who brought his article clerk named George. Well George was also a Kindertransport. We didn't date, but we met every week. And that's the one bit of voluntary work I carried on with even when I was studying in the evening. And then one day George said to me, "I would love you to come to- I'm chairman of a club for young refugees. I would love you to come. I want to show you off as an integrated refugee, cause they're still chatting away in German." So, I thought oh, well heck the revision. And I went and I quite liked it. Bob was very busy, I thought, with a girlfriend.

He said he wasn't. He was interested, but she wasn't. But anyhow, then I didn't go for months because I was studying in the evening. And then George- as I say, I did continue this one bit of voluntary work – George said, “We’ve got a play reading next week. Why don't you come?” So, I thought again, oh, heck the revision, I like play reading. So, I went. And this time he was in the kitchen on his own. And as I came in, he said, “Oh, she does come sometimes!” And I thought, “Oh! He remembers me.” Well, it took him three weeks to pluck up courage to take me out. And we were unofficially engaged three months later. But then I brought him to the Alumni. And he was hooked at the LJS. So that's how we met.

So, you introduced Bob to-

That's how we met.

…to the Liberal Synagogue?

And George, who introduced us, he became the leading light of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Called Simon Rattle into Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. He died but this last Sat- Sunday, for instance, we went up to Birmingham to visit his widow. Still, because if it wasn't for George, we wouldn't be here. Because I think coming from the Alumni, you know, the LJS in those days was [inaudible] a bit snooty, English. And coming from South Hampstead, I was probably a bit snooty. And you know, the refugee club was a refugee club. They’d all been hostels. They hadn’t had - a lot of them - a very good time.

[1:43:04]

So, you- did you see yourself as a refugee at that time? How did you see yourself?

No!

No.

That's the point!

Right.

Totally- refused to speak German. Totally suppressed my German - wouldn't speak it. The boys were terribly cross, because they could have been bilingual. We'd never talk- the awful thing is, I'm now beginning to remember. And I feel it's quite funny. And Bob says some of the words I'm remembering I shouldn't know, at ten years old. But- so I think psychologically, I must be- true because I think it's quite funny.

What- your German is coming back?

That the German is coming back - and I don't mind.

Like what? Tell us a little-

Whereas I absolutely refused- never went quite as far as refusing to buy German goods, because I thought that was taking it a bit far. Although I don't think we had any German cars. So, I don't know, maybe the dishwasher was German. I don't remember. But- no, I don't mind now. But for years I wouldn't-

You wouldn't speak German.

I wouldn't speak it, I wouldn't read it.

Or go to Germany?

No. Oh - we did go. Well Bob went first to try and find out what happened. Then we went to Italy with Karl- but went through Germany. I wouldn't even open the windows, let alone go to the loo. But gradually- anyway I always say in our talks, young Germans we have no problem with. Not their fault what the grandparents did. But if I've- when I see people our age, of course they would have been children themselves at that time, but I do think, "I wonder what your parents did."

But you finally changed? You- you changed slightly your…?

[1:45:02]

Yes. Yes.

So, what German- you said something comes back. Give me an example. What- what words or what?

Well, I just think it's quite funny.

What words come back? What words?

What words?

Yes.

Well, anything- anything! "I'm going to bed now." [laughs] Something that- something silly, you know. We don't speak in German, not at all, but the odd phrase comes back. Or I'll say to Bob, "Bob, what was so and so?" And of course, having been an interpreter, in a German prisoner of war- he had to keep his German up.

Yes.

But we never, ever talked at home. Ever. And of course, the aunts spoke no German at all.

So, what did the aunts say when you announced you were going to marry a refugee? What did they think about that?

Oh, they wanted me to be a little British- I think Auntie Millie arranged for me to be naturalised at eighteen. I think she was the business woman and she did all the preparatory work. But my nationality- nationalisation certificate: 1946. And of course, Bob, I think, was naturalised in the Army.

Right. And were you happy when you were naturalised?

Hm?

Were you happy when you became British?

Oh! Couldn't… The- what's it called, the Minister of Oaths or the-

Home Office?

Yeah. The- the one who took my oath and whatnot. Then at the end, showed me, you know, we all had to carry little 'alien books'. And if you travelled more than ten miles, we had to report to the police. Well, he showed me my little book and says, "What shall I do with it?" Well, there was an open fire burning behind it. So, I said, "Throw it in the fire." That's what he did. Oh, I couldn't have been happier. But then, you see, I was Hannah Kuhn. I then didn't want to keep my German surname. So, I anglicised- Dad was Franz. So, I anglicised my name to Francis, and I was Hannah Francis, when I married, née Kuhn. And- but I said I'd prefer my friends to call me Ann, because Hannah to me seemed like 'arsenic old lace with little lace caps'. Really wasn't me. It really wasn't, so I said I'd like my friends to call me Ann, but officially, even now, I'm Hannah. So-

[1:47:37]

And when did you change from Hannah to Ann?

Hm?

When did you start using Ann?

Straight away.

In England?

I said at the time I was naturalised, "I'd prefer to be called Ann. My friends- my friends will call me Ann." But National Health, legally-

Why didn't you like Hannah?

Well, because I thought it was a person with a little lace cap, and an old little Victorian. It wasn't me with my bright- bright red hair. It really wasn't me.

And not because of anything Jewish?

No! Not at all! Oh no, no that- quite useful when some people say- what's my Jewish name. Hannah, of course. But no, no, no, it was purely the image I had of a Victorian lace-capped and- arsenic and old lace.

Right.

And I thought, no that's not me. And now Ann's only the middle of Hannah. That's why I'm not an 'e'. That's why I'm A double-N.

Right. Right. And after the war, how did you find out what happened to your parents, or how long did it take to- [inaudible]

Nothing for years. No word - nothing. David, by that time was an accountant, went on business to Poland heard or found out about the Gedenkbuch, looked it up, and there were my parents' names. Franz- well, all right- he knew my parents' birth dates: right birth date, right location, and a few lines underneath - my mother's name. And so, he brought that back. And that was in the Auschwitz lists. But- in Berlin- I had always understood that Mum, you know, we went- we knew she went by the 25th transport and on the date, because my Dad had put that in a Red Cross message. There's a message, "Sorry bad news, Mummy emigrated, 12th of December '42." But of course, not to where, just 25th transport. And at that time the 25th transport was known to have gone to Riga, where Bob's parents actually went. And in Berlin, in the Letwoch- Letwocherstraße [Levetzowstraße] - there's a big steel, *Stele* thing with inscribed in and Riga, and on the 12th, the 25th transport – 'Riga'. It says that. When I wanted to put a *Stolpersteine* down, they said, "You know, that's all wrong. We now know that the train was meant to go to Riga, was stopped." This was December '42. Because German troops were coming home by train for Christmas, so they stopped the transport. When they were ready to go again, Riga said, "We're full. Can't take any more." And they were sent to Auschwitz. But it's in the *Gedenkbuch* as Auschwitz. But on a *Stele*, it's Riga.

So, they didn't- she didn't go to Riga. They both went – but, so now, you know, it's another worry for me. Grief. They even went separately. Because she went December ‘42. And the last message I've got is February ‘43, which we show, when we go around the schools. So, I've got card- the actual red message, so we- we show that. Then I'll say, “After that, nothing. Silence.” I gather from the *Gedenkbuch*, he must have been taken on a few days after he'd written his message to me.

[1:51:57]

But after the war, was there a time where you…?

I wondered whether they would be in the DP camps.

Yeah.

Oh yes. I was hoping, and so on. Mrs. Henriques, Basil's wife, went around the camps. And she had a list with her of all their various friends and people for her to look out for. She never found any sign- any sign of Franz or Hertha Kuhn. So, you know, eventually you adjust. You accept it. Because what else can you do? A silence- you know, for years I dreamt there they'd be at the door. And the aunties would have been right, you know, I would have had to support them. But that was a dream of mine- nightmare – dream, for years. That either one or other - certainly wouldn't have been together - would have- be at the front door. In shabby clothes- you know, the- it was very graphic, my- my dream.

What, as a child?

[1:52:55]

And look- and looking terrible.

When did you dream that? As a child or as a young – later?

After the war, you know. All the- the- the years of the silence until I actually knew what had happened. Cause- quite a while before David found them in the *Gedenkbuch*. And that- quite

a while after I'd say Mrs. Henriques. “The Missus”, as she was called. Basil Henriques was called “The Gaffer”, and Mrs. Henriques – Rose - was called “The Missus”. And it was quite a few years after she hadn’t found them.

Yeah.

So… Yes, it took many years to finally adjust to the fact that really there was no chance of them- ever seeing them again. And the fact that Bob and I were married, we supported each other. He had the same- not the same story, but the same fate for his parents. Although they went to Riga. Because the Hanover people went to Riga. And the fact we had each other, of course helped.

Do you think it-

Hm?

…do you think it was important that he, came- do you think it was important that he also came on a Kindertransport?

Oh, yes.

For you?

Hm?

Was it important for you?

Oh, yes!

That he had also come…?

[1:54:34]

I think that we were both Kindertransport children, really helped. But of course, I think all the people in the club had been when George took me to the club, we young refugees. All just chatting away in German. I mean, how else would they have got here? They were all Kindertransport. And as I said, the widow of the man who introduced us we went to see in Birmingham only a couple of weeks ago. And he was George- not only brought the- Simon Rattle into the Birmingham- he was a criminal lawyer. And I had a very nasty accident thirty-four years ago. I was run over by a coach. I've got grafts- the reason I'm always in trouble is I've got grafted skin from here to here, and under here- there- have to wear something else. Because my skin- I was 'de-gloved' they call it. The skin was taken off by the tyres of the coach. So, I've got grafted skin there, all the way down. Now why did I tell you this? Can't remember. Why did I start on that?

The lawyer – the lawyer.

[1:55:57]

Ah! George. That's what I was going to say. George was the solicitor who got me com- took the case on and got me some compensation. He- he took the case on because he was a criminal lawyer. I got 98% compensation, 2% because perhaps I wasn't looking enough. What happened was, I was crossing the road- I was going to work, and I was in Victoria. I was crossing the road this way. The light was green, so I was crossing the road. A bus- a coach, the light was also green, came, and we met in the middle of the road, with me underneath. So - I only wear a skirt or a dress for weddings. [laughs] Because it's not very pretty. The leg is much thinner than the other leg, and very scarred. But I'm lucky! I kept my leg by 2%. The doctor said, if the graph was less than 98%, or more than 98%, they would have to amputate. And I kept it by 2%. Although now I have to take a stick, 'cause David said, "Mum, you're not walking very well. So now, take a stick."

And you said that you had this dream of your parents. How- how did it affect you, do you think, your experience of the Kindertransport, in later life? How- how did it impact you?

[1:57:36]

Oh, I think it makes you more resistant. I think you become stronger. I think you're able to cope with emergencies or catastrophes better. I think it definitely does something to your character. It makes you more determined. It makes you more determined to get on in life and see goodness in life. You know? Definitely, I think, the fact that we basically, although we both had help with the aunties and so on, used it- still it was a very, very big trauma. And I think- your character must have changed. I must, if it wouldn't have happened, A- I wouldn't have met Bob. I mean, there's no way from Hanover and Berlin, we would have met. So, you know, you think well, perhaps some good came out of it. I've got a lovely family now: grandchildren, great -grandchildren. Great -grandchildren are great fun.

Do you sometimes think how your life would have been if you hadn't been forced to leave?

Completely different. Completely different. I suspect Dad would have hoped I'd be- I am musical. And I did learn the piano, but I wasn't very good. But I think Dad would have tried to make me - make me - musical. [laughing] Would have been quite, quite different, German life, totally different. Dad wasn't very Jewishly inclined. He supported Mum and I. He was married in a synagogue, but afterwards, he never went into a synagogue. Didn't really believe. But he supported Mum. So, we always had Friday night candles, and the festivals. But whether I would have continued to lead the Jewish life, that we do lead – 'cause we are very active at the LJS, Bob and I - I don't know. I would *hope* I would have gone to university.

What would you have studied, do you think?

[2:00:06]

Well, history and English here. Apparently, the very first reports I've got from England are very good. Mum and Dad were very proud of me. But whether the teachers- you know, embroidered a bit, I don't know - to encourage me. But once I was at South Hampstead, I was invariably third in the class. There were two girls who were always just ahead of me, and I was so cross with them. But I was always third of a class of thirty-odd, so I was reasonably bright, shall we say? Reasonably. In the subjects that interested me. Maths, you can forget about. Algebra? Trigonometry? Hah. Leave it.

And did you feel some resentment when you couldn't study? When the sisters said, "No, no, don't study." Did you feel some resentment or did you accept…?

Sorry?

Did you feel some resentment when the aunties said you're not allowed to study, you should, you know, do a secretarial course? Or did you accept it?

I was rather cross about it, because I really did want to go to university. But I did understand their motive, because there was that hope that they would be in the displaced person camps and that they would survive. And of course, it was true. They would have nothing. And it would have been my responsibility. They- they would say- the aunties say, "We will help, but you will have to do it, therefore you must be able to earn some money. So, train you as a secretary and at least you have a secretary's money." And I think at the back of my mind, I took that argument. You know, I could see, there was justice in that remark. But I always resented it a bit when the- my friends came back with a BA or an MA or- I could have done that. But I haven't done badly with my publishing, my editing, you know. And I loved that work. I loved working on the prayer books with the rabbis. So, that. And it still rather thrills me. I mean they're now thinking of possibly doing a new one. But it does rather thrill me when I open a prayer book, and it was my choice of typeface, the layout, I mean, the proofreading- the lot. Obviously not my choice of words- mainly I was a technical editor. But the appearance of the books is purely me.

And what, do you think, attracted you to this- the editing or the publishing, or…?

[2:03:00]

Well, the fact that I went, as a secretary, to University of London Press - as a secretary. And I was secretary to the overseas manager, who actually [inaudible] editorial work. There was editorial work- these days you know we have to have [sound break]

Yeah, we were talking about publishing.

Ah. So, I went as a secretary. Loved the editorial work that was going on around me, thinking I would like to do that. So, I found at the London School of Printing, which now is part of the University of London, but it wasn't then. And they ran a course – a two-year evening course - in book and magazine production. And not only did we learn how to edit, but how paper was made, the type. I mean, those days were all before letterpress, when people put the individual bits of type into the type form, you know.

Right.

And two years, I was the only girl in a class of fifty men because women weren't- well, some of them may have been editors, but basically, they were secretaries in publishing houses. There weren't many women editors. And I absolutely loved it. Took to it. Came out, as I say, with what they called a first -class pass. And then University of London Press was part of Hodder and Stoughton. And at that time, women who wanted to get married had to leave. Well, first of all, I was made an editorial assistant. I was- the wonderful manager at University of London Press, as I say, promoted me. And that was lovely. But then I met Bob and we got engaged and we wanted to get married. And at that time, married- women who got married didn't- weren't allowed to stay. You were standing in the way of somebody else. Anyhow. I said to our manager, "We don't intend to have any children immediately." There was birth control. "Don't intend to have children immediately, and I don't see why I should have to leave." So, he sent me up to the director of Hodder and Stoughton. Bright red hair. So, "Oh, cute." I said, "Look, I really don't see why- I do a good job- why I should have to leave. I really want- we were not going to have children for at least another few years." So, I was the first girl to be allowed to stay after marriage. So, as a wedding present, I was given a pressure cooker. And when I did leave three years later- four years later, I was given a carrycot. But I was the first one. After that, the floodgates opened, and women were allowed to stay.

You fought for your rights.

[2:06:22]

Absolutely. And I- I am- I won, you know, and I really fail to see - in this day and age - why women should have to leave. Provided they were not already pregnant, or the- you know. But birth control was known, so-

And do you think your experience of the Kindertransport, of your separation, shaped your own parenting?

Shaped my whole?

Your own parenting, when you had children.

I'm not sure about that. It's very difficult being a parent because you don't learn to be, you know, you have to learn as you go. I don't really- I think the example of my parents being such wonderful parents - that certainly helped me. And, you know, the one thing I missed with the aunts was hugging and kissing and touching. The touchy- touchy feeling. And I made sure I touched and hugged my children a lot! But on the whole, except for the example of my parents, and on the whole trying not to keep secrets from them. Because as I say, I was brought up to know everything. But I was an only one. And I must have been pretty precocious because really my parents- and of course, maybe because I knew I'd been treated as a little adult, I tried to teach- tried to keep my little boys as little boys. I didn't want them to grow up too quickly. Not to be precocious. But I- on the whole, except with my parents' model in front of me, I don't think it affected me very much. Bob, on the other hand, was very strict. With hindsight, we both think he was too strict with our sons – and quite different with the grandchildren. But he was very- and our- that again may have been because as he was the baby of the- his family, he didn't ask any questions. And he didn't- I think his parents were quite strict with him. And I think he thought that's what a father had to do. So be- as I say, he was really- especially with the younger. The older child was very easy, very easy, but our younger son wasn't so easy. And I think we expected them to be the same, but of course no children are ever the same. But when you've had one very easy one, you think the next one should be easy as well.

[2:09:32]

Yeah. And is it- did you talk about the past with your children and with your grandchildren?

Not at all. They knew we had come as children from Germany. We didn't talk to them at all until the first time we talked at Northwood Synagogue, when David was in the audience, and people asked him afterwards, “Did you know that?” And he said, “No.” We knew they’d come from Germany as children, and we knew we were different because when we went to birthday parties, there were uncles, aunts, cousins. When we went, and we had our own birthday parties, there were just the aunts.” But no, never talked about it. The first time David heard about it is when we started talking.

And when did you start talking?

Ninety-two [1992]. The rabbi up here, Andrew Goldstein, one Kristallnacht or before Kristallnacht said, “Would you come and talk about your experiences on Kristallnacht?” And that started us off. And actually, once we started, it opened the floodgates. We then wrote down what we said, we changed what we said. We then did a PowerPoint presentation, which has been built up gradually. And we've changed it, when we- we used to, at the beginning, one of us would talk, and the other one would join for questions. And then we suddenly hit on this duet. Bob starts giving how Hitler came to power and the background, and then his experience until Kristallnacht. Then I come in, my life until Kristallnacht. And then we alternate until the end. And it goes down very well. I think the children like a change of voice, cause we both obviously have a different way of talking. It stops the fidgeting. [laughs] It does go very well. And then, questions, we both answer. My problem is my ears. Questions have to be translated for me, interpreted. I can’t hear. Even with hearing aids which I’ve got, as you can tell, I'm not too good.

And what is the main - from your point of view - what is the main message you want to bring across to the school children?

[2:12:08]

Oh- what dreadful results any prejudice can be. Any treatment of people- thinking people as “the other”. Everybody, whatever colour, whatever faith, whatever background, everybody is a human being and deserves to be treated as a human being with respect and dignity. That's the last message. You see what can happen when respect breaks down, when prejudice comes

in, when hatred comes in. Never, ever think bad of anybody because they look different, or because they act differently. Everybody is human. And that's the main-

That's your main message.

And, I mean, partly we talk to make sure that the next generation knows- I mean, they hear the word "Holocaust", well what does that mean? And they always say to us, "When we read it in the book, it's history; when we hear it from you, it's real life." And I think it's so much- especially, you know, we often talk to schools - very mixed. We talked on Monday this week to a grammar school in Slough, ethnically very mixed. And you know, they must take it to heart when we say that. I mean, I'm quite sure that school is very good. When we- that's our last message, always. And we bring Rwanda into it, you know, Ethiopia. We- we do bring- and that unfortunately, it does still happen.

And you do it for the Holocaust Education Trust, or?

We do it for the [Holocaust] Education Trust, the Holocaust Memorial Day, and for the Jewish Museum. We do a lot for the Jewish Museum as well.

Yeah.

But these days, it's mainly the Educate- Education Trust. And of course, we also do it at various synagogues, who know. And occasionally, privately. We were talking to a Jews and Christians society up here in Northwood. At the end, somebody came up with a white collar and said - Catholic, "I'm the- the rector of a Catholic church in Uxbridge. Would you please come and talk to us?" Of course, we did. Well, when we got there, he had asked many other churches to be there. The hall was absolutely filled. When we finished, they all stood up and clapped. Now we've never had that before. And then they all queued up to shake our hands. All I could see was rows and rows of feet. Never had that before. So, the word gets around, somehow. I mean, apart from the three main ones.

[2:15:26]

And how-

You know we we've been given the BEM, don't you?

Yes – congratulations!

That's only just happened.

And how do you feel about that?

We had a letter-

Yes.

From a- I can't remember what- they said that we were going to be in Queen's Honours List and would we accept the BEM. And they needed to know by a certain date would we accept it. And to keep absolute silence, totally confidential, because they were releasing the news to the newspapers in the evening of June the 7th, and it would be in the papers on June the 8th. And we mustn't tell anybody. So that was that! The joke is, Bob used to say, "Well, you know," to my husband, "if I say something, I'll be in the Tower." Well, the Queen does not do the BEMs. She does all the others, but there are so many BEMs, the Lord Lieutenant of London does it. And guess what? November the 15th in the Tower. [laughing] there was Bob saying he'll be sent to the Tower if he speaks- going to be in the tower. But we were allowed three guests each.

Very nice.

Which will be lovely. And I always say my Dad would have hooted with laughter, to think of two little refugees. But as long as we can, we do it. Quite tiring.

Yes, and-

And emotionally it's quite tiring

Yes, so I was going to ask you- how, how do you deal with that- giving all these talks? Do you find it affects you, or?

[2:17:15]

Well, you do begin to used- you do begin to get used to it. But the night afterwards, not too good normally. Because it's all your, fresh in your mind again, you know? I mean, it's always with us. But we don't let it affect our lives. Because they wouldn't have wanted it. I don't know. Because that's the sad thing. I never knew Bob's parents, he never knew mine. It's only what we tell each other. And what we tell the children! For their Bar or Bat Mitzvahs - in fact, I think David was still confirmed - we gave them photos of their- of their grandparents. So, they've all got photos of them.

Because you were a small family because you didn't have family - on both parts.

Yes. Yes, absolutely. Absolutely – both sides. Now David always says to his friends, "My parents were Holocaust children. I lost my grandparents." And they are now grandparents and are wonder- they're wonderful with them. But they know they never had grandparents. And they're now wonderful grandparents with the two little ones. So- which is lovely to see. I love to see my son with his two little ones. It's lovely. Cause my younger son is not married, which is a shame. He's never somehow found the right one. As far as we know, he's not gay because I think we would know. But he's- just never seems to have found the right one. But happy. But- and he comes to all the family occasions, obviously. And sometimes he comes- the only thing, at the moment he lives in Richmond, which is quite a way away, whereas David and Janie live in Moor Park, which is five minutes' drive from here. The boys live in Islington, two separate flats, but near each other, which is very funny. And the granddaughter lives in Watford with her husband and their two little ones. So, we're- apart from the youngest, Andy, we're all quite- well, Islington is not all that far. And certainly, Moor Park and Watford are very close.

And where- Ann, where do you see- where is your home?

[2:20:02]

Where's our home?

Home?

Home? Well, here. And my second home is the LJS. And I suppose my third home is the Northwood Synagogue just up the road. I mean, it is a bit daft. And we know the rabbis there very well and we're very friendly. And we have a wonderful welcome when we do go up here. And we've belonged, as friends, up there. With my history, I cannot leave the LJS. And Bob was hooked, so we both love the LJS. It's the same prayer book, [laughing] which as I say, was mine. But they do things a bit differently up here. We do go occasionally- with David and Janie- with the young children, I mean the children were brought up here obviously, rather than travel all the way down to-

What's the difference between- I mean apart from the size and- what are the differences?

Oh, Northwood is the second- second largest Liberal synagogue after LJS. They- they, they are-

Oh, so it's also big.

And they're very active.

So, what- you said it's slightly different. What's different?

Well, they now have a- a guitarist and a chazzan, I suppose, going. But- but they also play the guitar - we play the organ. They also have an organ up there which they use sometimes. Both have a choir, but their tunes- either they're the same, but they sing them slightly different - tempo- it's just not quite the same. And the LJS has a professional choir, the wonderful music and singing, and a members' choir the first Saturday in the month, which we used to sing at, for a long time, until my voice started getting unpredictable. And to be the lead soprano as I was, with an unpredictable voice didn't really go. So, we now sing from the congregation. But we have a members' choir of about eighteen, twenty, and a professional choir of five of them. And sometimes they join forces.

So, it is slightly different.

[2:22:25]

Yes. Oh, yes. Same prayer book, but different tunes. They sometimes choose different things for congregation to say all together. Just-

So, you feel you have your-cause?

Yeah, just a bit different. Building- have you been up here?

No.

It was- their synagogue wall they brought back, and the ark, from Kolin in Czechoslovakia. And their scrolls are some of the Czech scrolls.

Right.

So, it's very impressive up here. And literally it's up the wall - up the road.

But you keep going to St. John's Wood.

Every- but we're allowed to drive.

Yes.

The Orthodox- Orthodox are not allowed to drive. Since we drive, it doesn't matter.

But also, the Liberal Synagogue in St. John's Wood played an important role in your life.

Yeah.

I mean, in a way maybe the sisters took you through the movement as well, I mean…?

Yeah – yeah. Well, as I say, I joined the youth club there. And then when I brought Bob over, we joined the next lot, the younger members' organisation. I joined the Women's Society which now no longer exists. And when- he's been on the council, he's been president up there. He's still one of the senior- really senior men. And- I ran the club, the restaurant club [? Once a month?] for twenty years. Given it up now. Decided I was getting too old for this rushing around. But I am on the Care Committee. We're pretty much granny and grandpa of this synagogue. And have lots of friends. And the nice thing is, through the generations. Oh yes! The first thing of course I did, I was a teacher in the school. And Bob administered our school, that's the first thing. Then we were editors of the newsletter for seven years, as he was on the Council, then finally president. So- we're pretty active.

You've done- you've done your bit.

Busy. Well, what with that, and the talking which we call our retirement job. [laughs] Well, we're talking again next week. Next Monday, we're talking again. And during January, it's impossible. Gets a bit much. In January, I think this year, we talked to eight schools, which- that is almost too much. But we do it.

And Ann, how would you would you define yourself today, in terms of your identity? How would you describe yourself?

[2:25:33]

As a good British Jew, of German birth. But a good British Jew, totally British. But - born a German Jew. And of course, German Jews were fairly assimilated. Yes, I wouldn't hide the fact now. At one time, I wouldn't have admitted to German birth at all. Now, I think psychologically I must be over it. Because I would, I would say, of- "of German birth".

Did- did people ask you where you were from? Did you have an accent, or- in your adult life?

No. Well, I must have had an accent for a little while. But they say Bob has a bit of an accent, which I can't hear. But they say he- especially on the phone they see he's got a little accent. They always say they can't tell from me at all.

So, nobody would ask you?

Hm?

Nobody would ask you necessarily?

No. No.

So, if you didn't want to share it-

No-

…you didn't have to?

No, no. No, no, no. Oh, no. Well, no. I wouldn't- in- no, no, no. I would - willingly come out with it, but if they are asked… Dad said, "Always tell the truth." Which makes me wonder whether as a child, I didn't. But I don't know. [laughing]

And is there anything which I haven't asked you - we've discussed many things, anything - you'd like to add?

[2:27:13]

No, I think you've been pretty thorough. No, I think- I don't think- some of the children's questions- occasionally they say, "Have you lost your faith?" And I find that's a very, very difficult one. Because: Where was God at Auschwitz? But then, Liberal Judaism believes in free will. And it's not God that didn't- we don't believe in an- an interfering God. And it's free will whether people are evil, good or indifferent, you might say. So, it's not, "Where was God at Auschwitz?" - "Where were people at Auschwitz?" It's a very difficult- we're often asked- actually we were asked over last Monday, "Do you forgive?" And we say, "It is not for us to forgive. It's for the victims to forgive. We must never forget, which is why we're here", we say. But forgiveness? That's not up to us. Albert Friedlander always said that. Did you know

Albert Friedlander? Lovely man - and Evelyn, his wife. Yeah. No, no. He always said that: "Not for us…"

And you believe that?

Hm?

You do believe that?

Oh, yes. Absolutely. Absolutely.

Well, you are- you are a victim of sorts…

Yes.

You said it's for the victims. But you don't see yourself as a victim?

No. In fact, some people see us as victims, off course. That's quite true. We say we are children of victims. Children of victims. That the parents, the four of them, were the victims. And we have to live with it. And as I say, my father would- would not have wanted me to be miserable – "Be happy!" It's an amazing thing to say. And that was in a letter June. As I say, I've got these very occasional letters by supposedly Christian people. But I knew they weren't.

So, you said.

But: be happy!

[2:30:00]

And you came as a refugee. And do you still see yourself as a refugee?

Do I still feel a refugee? No, not at all. Not at all. I feel very concerned for the young children now, who want to come over. You know, the- the present movements. I do- feel very strongly

about. I think many more children should be allowed in. But of course, one of the problems is, there wasn't a- health and safety rules when we came. And now there are all these health and safety rules. I don't know whether it's really the answer. I don't think it is. Because, where's the humanity? Where is the humanity? But that's one of the things that's always said: Health and Safety.

And what do you think? Is there a lesson to be learned from the Kindertransport, for today?

Sorry?

Do you think there is a lesson to be learnt-

Oh, absolutely!
...from the Kindertransport- for today?

Absolutely. Absolutely. It was wonderfully organised. The sponsors, the trains - and the aftercare. You know, funnily, Bloomsbury House did send people round to check. And there were my two aunties who were social workers themselves, being visited by a health worker to make sure Hannah was being looked after properly. Because they had a cup of tea together and laughed, you know. But, fair enough. The children were-

They checked-

Although Bob always said he didn't think many people – checked on him.

And did you ever look at your files? Are there files for you –

Yes.

...at World Jewish Relief?

[2:32:15]

Yes. We've- on the World Jewish Relief, yes. We've seen those.

And so there you can see the social worker-?

Yes, yes. Yes. It said that Mrs. Wajda had come to visit the aunts, et cetera. Yes, we have got those. We're very friendly with Roz and George- so now what's the surname? Parents of the Chief Executive of World Jewish Relief.

Anticoni.

That's right. And they live in Northwood, their mother and father. And we're very friendly with them. And Paul is lovely too. And so-

But you got your documents?

Yes. We got our documents. Actually, I think they were sent quite a long time ago, by Amy- what was her name? Whoops. My memory is going. Come to me in a minute.

Doesn't matter. Yeah.

Come to me- Amy, Amy, Amy.

Gottlieb?

Right - who died. Yes. So, we've got all those- we've got those cards. And as I say, I think about my- the aunts were checked up on quite often. So- which amused them and amused the person- people who interviewed them. But Bob doesn't remember much about that. But the difference between our [inaudible]- I had a home. You see, Bob says he's got no letters from his parents or anything. He had them. But there was nowhere to keep anything, because he never had a proper home. Because his first home was really our first married home. But before that, he was always in digs. And then the Army.

You had more stability.

Oh, much more - much more. And of course, Bob studied for years after we were married in the evening. Worked during the day, studied at night. Didn't finally qualify until he was thirty-five. We always said he was ten years behind everybody else. And look at him now! [laughs]

And Ann, have you got the message for anyone who might watch this video? I know we talked about the message for the children but maybe something else. Anything else based on your experiences?

[2:35:00]

Well, again, I would say, be very careful of any prejudice. Always treat everybody of whatever- their colour, their culture, their faith, whatever, however different of that- ever somebody else is, if they're different from you, they are still a human being. You have just learned what happened in Hitler's Germany. Please, please learn from that. Just don't even begin to think of anybody else as "the other".

Okay Ann, thank you very, very much for sharing your story.

It's a great pleasure.

And I know you've done it many times. So even a-

Great pleasure.

Bigger thanks. We're going to have a little break and then we're going to look at your photos.

Hm?

We're going to have a little break and then we're going to look at your photos but

Fine.

- one second.

Lovely.

[End of interview]
[2:36:06]
[2:36:26]
[Start of photographs and documents]

Photo 1
This is a wedding photograph of my parents Franz Kuhn and Hertha Löwenthal, in May 1924.
Where?
In Ber- no, probably in Magde- I'm not sure, probably in Magdeburg.

Photo 2
This is a photograph of my grandfather Gustav Löwenthal, with my aunt Else and my mum, Hertha, in 1909, which my parents sent to me because they thought it was a bit of fun for me to see them in those swimsuits.

Photo 3
This is a photograph of my grandfather Gustav Löwenthal, with the son of his eldest daughter, Else, in Magdeburg, taken in 1929.

Photo 4
This is a photograph of my grandfather and Tante Else, standing outside their home, in 1939. We actually laid Stolpersteine for them, taking our whole family with us, last year.

Photo 5
This is a photograph of my parents with me at about two years old, living in Königsberg in East Prussia. In about, as I say, 1930.

Photo 6
Sorry. This is a photo of my Mum and me, probably at about four years old, taken in Cologne – Köln.

Photo 7

This is a photograph of me about six years old. Please note the boots that I'm wearing. I had funny feet at the time, and I only got my first pair of proper shoes to come to England. Until then, I always had to wear boots. And when I was tiny, overnight, I was clamped into irons - leg irons.

Photo 8

This is a photograph of my parents in our boat, probably taken in East Prussia. And they al- always told me very proudly that the wood- that the boat was made from cedar wood, which came from Lebanon.

Photo 9

This is my first kindergarten in Cologne.

And, where are you? Where are you in the picture?

Oh, gosh, I- you'll have to show me again. Can I have it again?

This is me and my kindergarten in Cologne. I'm the third from the right in a little navy tracksuit.

Photo 10

This is a photo of me in the first primary school. It was a Jewish school called the Moriah School. And I am the first one, front row, on the right.

Photo 11

This is the last photo taken of me and my mum just before I left for the Kindertransport, standing on the balcony of our rented flat in Berlin, in Düsseldorfer Straße.

Photo 12

This is a photo of me taken probably 1938 just a couple of months or so before I came over, in my favourite blouse. It was blue with embroidery around the neck. And of course, as I had bright red hair at that time, the blue really sort of fitted me - or suited me.

[2:41:00]

Photo 13
This is a photo of me with the aunties. Millie and Sophie Levy. Two unmarried Jewish sisters. Auntie Sophie is standing on the left. She was the younger one, and basically was the housekeeper, the cook. And the other one is Auntie Millie, and- who was the businesswoman of the pair. Did all the business, all the letters, looked after their money, et cetera. But this was taken at the Bernhard Baron Settlement in the East End of London, where they had their office because they were voluntary workers in the East End of London.

Photo 14
The white sweater was bought by the aunts for me when I arrived. I think a part of when they'd kitted me out in school uniform, ready for the school- boarding school that I was going to go to. But I think this was a weekend sweater.

Photo 15
This is a photo of my parents, which they had taken, and they then sent to my Mum's cousins in Shanghai which of course was not in the war, where post was allowed from Germany to Shanghai. And post was equally allowed from Shanghai to England. So, I received this photograph via the cousins, from Shanghai. Mum must have been about forty, and my Dad about forty-four.

Photo 16
This is a photo of my father as a chiropodist, doing my Mum 's feet but teasing her, tickling her toes. But it was to show me Dad at work, with his instruments all around him.

Document 1
This was a business card of my Dad's that they sent over to me after I had left, showing that he, as a chiropodist would go into people's homes, as well as the address from where he was from the 1st of December. So that must have been the 1st December '39, after I left in other words. And a new business address there, because that address, I didn't know.

Thank you.

[2:43:38]

Photo 17

This was on the summer holiday that the aunts took me to, to Birchington at the seaside. The first holiday I'd had at a seaside since I'd been a baby in East Prussia. And my parents, when they heard I was going to there, told me although I had learned to swim and could swim quite well, to be very careful, because the sea was a different matter to a swimming pool. And I must be careful. And the aunts are- they used to let me swim, but as a signal that I should come out of the water, they would wave a towel. And then that meant I had to turn back, and go back in.

Photo 18

This photo shows the headmistress of the boarding school that my aunts sent me to, to learn English. The boarding school was called Gadd's Hill Place and the headmistress was Miss Bert. And she was very kind, but that particular photo was taken during the summer holiday because we shared a villa with the headmistress and her partner. And there was another little girl with us whose parents were in India and therefore she was also taken on a summer holiday with us.

Photo 19

This is a photo of me in August 1939, having been evacuated to Berkhamsted. I'm at my first billet with Mr. and Mrs. White on the- both sides of the photo. And in the middle is the aunties' friend who was a teacher at the elementary school that I was evacuated with, and that was Aunty Beatrice. I'm wearing what was obviously one of the German dresses that I brought with me.

Photo 20

This is my twelfth birthday party in Berkhamsted with some school friends, taken in the garden, adjoining the block of flats where the aunts rented a flat. Actually, flats above a cinema in the high street in Berkhamsted. And this garden belonged to a neighbour adjoining the flats. And so, as I say, I was twelve years old.

Photo 21

This was taken at a river party, one bank holiday where the Achdut, the youth group for refugee children which was opened by Bloomsbury House- and it's at that club that I met Bob.

Photo 22
This is a photograph of The Alumni ramble in ’49. The Alumni was the youth club of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue. And I'm in the front row, second from left, looking down. Oh, dear- sorry- and my name on the photo is Ann Francis. What happened is when I was naturalised at eighteen, I didn't want to keep my father's German surname of Kuhn. So I anglicised his German first name Franz, to Francis, and I was known as Hannah Francis. But please, would my friends call me Ann.

Photo 23
This is our wedding photo on 21st of May 1950 taken outside the Liberal Jewish Synagogue. I was carrying a bouquet of lovely yellow tea roses. And the bridesmaid, Barbara, was the little girl of Bob's first cousin Lisa, who had married a cousin of hers, Henry, and they lived in Reading. But she was then about seven years old.

[2:48:31]

Photo 24
That is in our garden in Ballogie Avenue in Neasden, with David and Andy and the two of us on a little roundabout toy that the aunts had given David, I think, as a birthday present.

Which year? When?

Well, I think that must be 1956 or seven. Because Andy was born in 1956, so probably 1957.

Photo 25
This is a photo of Seder night, or really after the Seder, of our family at the home of my elder son David, and Janie's home in Moor Park. On the extreme left is my younger son Andy. Next to him, our middle grandson, Ben, then my daughter-in-law, Janie, with me standing in front of her, and Bob standing at the side with David, our older son behind Bob. Next to them at the back row, the tall one is Joshua, our second grandson. In front of him is our

granddaughter Devorah with her little boy, Joseph, our great-grandson. And next to him is, or rather next to Ben, is Simon, Devorah's husband, with his father on his side and his mother in front of him, Jill and Chris Weaver. In the meantime, we now do have a little great-granddaughter that Devorah had ten months ago.

Document 2

This is my identity card. *Kennkarte*, that Mum and I went to the local Town Hall in Berlin to have taken. I gather that the hair behind the ears is another means of making it easy to identify us. And there are my fingerprints. And please note that the signature is "Hannah Sarah Kuhn", because all German women were made to take the name "Sarah", all German Jewish men were made to take the name of "Israel". So that is the card that I had to have in order to emigrate and come to England from Germany on the Kindertransport.

Document 3

Well, this is my exit card from Germany, as well as my entry card to England, Southampton. At the top, you'll notice the stamp. Hamburg, from where I left Germany on a boat- on a boat called *The Manhattan.* And, it's dated 19th of April 1939 with the German Eagle stamp and then below that there is the English stamp, "landed at Southampton" with my photograph. And then at the bottom there's a rather interesting little comment, it says, "Leave to ground. Leave to land granted to the holder-" Sorry, start again: "Leave to land at Southampton granted to the holder, provided the holder does not enter any employment while in the UK, either paid or unpaid." Well, it is a bit of a joke because I was then ten years old, so it was I likely to take any employment, paid or unpaid?

[2:53:27]

Document 4

This is the other side of my children's passport with the 'J' in red, meaning 'Jude', dated Berlin the 15th of April with my name and again Hannah Sarah Kuhn. And from- dated Berlin. Taken at the police station, near where we lived.

Yes, what do we see?

Document 5

Well, that's one- World Jewish Relief, isn't it?

It's your case file.

This is my case file, held by World Jewish Relief, where they list all the visitors to the Aunts to make sure that I was properly looked after, and more or less giving information about my movements from the school, to a secretarial college et cetera. They kept very close touch with me really until 1947.

Please, yes-

Document 6
This is a follow-up really of the records that World Jewish Relief kept of all Kindertransport children. And you will see it's very precise, tell exactly who visited when. And the conditions the children were found in.

And does it say who sponsored you here? Who sponsored you?

Well, according to that the sponsor was Mrs. Franklin who was the chairman of the Hospitality Committee at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue. But as far as I was always aware, it was Millie and Sophie Levy of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue and part of their Women's Society, who did the sponsoring. So, it's a slight mystery.

And also, it says here that a Franz Kuhn was found in Berlin.

Ah. And also, I heard, after the war, that a Franz Kuhn had been found in Berlin. But in fact, it turned out to be a different Franz Kuhn, not my father, sadly.

Ann really thank you very, very much for- for your time and for sharing your life history-

Quite alright.

And your photographs and documents with us.

Quite alright.

Thank you very much.

It's alright.

[End of photographs and documents]
[2:17:15]