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Interview Transcript Title Page

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Interviewee Surname:	Brander
Forename:	Dorothea
Interviewee Sex:	Female
Interviewee DOB:	14 April 1924
Interviewee POB:	Berlin, Germany

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THE AJR AUDIO-VISUAL TESTIMONY ARCHIVE

INTERVIEW: 39

NAME: DOROTHEA BRANDER

DATE: 16 NOVEMBER 2003

LOCATION: BROOK, SCOTLAND

INTERVIEWER: ROSALYN LIVSHIN

TAPE 1

RL: If you could tell me first your name?

Tape 1: 0 minute 49 seconds

DB: Dorothea Brander.

RL: And what was your name at birth?

DB: Märzbacher. Shall I spell it?

RL: No, that is alright, we will have the spelling. And do you have any other names?

DB: Yes, I do have a middle name, Charlotte.

RL: And do you have a Hebrew name?

DB: No, I don’t think so. My brother, I think, did, but I didn’t.

RL: Where were you born?

DB: I was born in Berlin.

RL: And the date?

DB: 14th April 1924.

RL: So what does that make you now?

DB: 79.

RL: And if you give me your parents’ names and where they were born?

DB: Yes. They were both born in Munich in Bavaria and my father was Siegfried Märzbacher. Now he did have a Jewish name, I am not sure whether it was Isaac or - he had a Jewish middle name. He didn't use it, so. And he was born on 21st June 1883 in Munich. And my mother was also born in Munich. Her name was Lily Wilmersdörfer, a very long name, and she was born on 23rd February 1893, ten years later than my father.

Tape 1: 2 minutes 52 seconds

RL: Starting first with your father's family, can you tell me something about his family background?

DB: Yes, a little. His father, Eugene Märzbacher, was married to a lady called Rosa Jaffe. She came from Posen, which is of course Poland now, but was Germany in those days, from a very large family and he, I am not sure, I think he had just one or two sisters; he was a numismatist, a coin expert. He was a historian, but he had a coin shop, which I think was very well-known in Munich, because there were not very many coin shops. He died very young. He wasn't even fifty when he died of leukaemia, which left his wife with three children. My father had two sisters, Luisa and Elizabeth. And my mother ---. But they lived in Munich until my father moved later on to Berlin to study and to work.

Tape 1: 4 minutes 20 seconds

RL: What kind of education had your father have?

DB: I think he started -, I mean obviously he went to the Gymnasium in Munich, and he then studied, I think first in Munich. And he started to study archaeology but after a year he decided that was not for him and he switched to chemistry and he became an organic chemist. He studied partly in Munich and partly in Berlin.

RL: What did his sisters-? What happened to them?

DB: His sisters? Elizabeth, the older one, she ran, she was really a social worker in a way. They were both really social workers. I don't think they went to university. They took training looking after children. And she was quite a well-known figure in social work in Munich. She, when I knew her, she ran a home for apprentices, which was, I think, one of the first ventures in Germany for young apprentices. And her husband was a lawyer. She was called Kitzinger, Elizabeth Kitzinger. He was William Kitzinger. And they had three children, I think four, and one died very young. The last son of hers has only just died very recently. He was a very eminent art historian, Ernst Kitzinger, and he was a professor at Harvard, and died quite recently in America.

Tape 1: 6 minutes 13 seconds

RL: Your father's other sister?

DB: My father's other sister was Luisa. She was called Feistman. She married Willie Feistman, who died when her youngest child, she has four children, and the youngest child,

my cousin, was only six or seven when her father died. They lived in Berlin and were very close to us because, when her husband died, she spent every weekend with us. That is my next eldest cousin, her daughter, and we are still very, very close. She lives in London. My aunt, of course she died some time ago, also in London, and she and my father lived in London for a few years at the end of their lives. My father finally came here to Edinburgh before he died, but they lived off Finchley Road, Golders Green, in a pension, together. Before that, they lived in America. Again, they lived together because my mother died in 1963 and left my father alone, so he joined his sisters and lived with them for a while. The sisters lived together for a long time in America, in Washington, with this cousin of mine, who just died recently, the art historian and his wife. They had a wonderful household. They kept these two elderly ladies, which we were always amazed, you know, how they managed, but they did, and the two elderly ladies started very late in life a business mending oriental rugs, which was wonderful because very few people know how to do that. But they learnt that in their sixties and had a really good business, very good.

Tape 1: 8 minutes 30 seconds

RL: What happened to your father during the First World War?

DB: He was in the war but I think for a short time. He was a driver because, as a Jew, I think you couldn't be an officer. So I think he was just what they call a 'Gefreiter', you know, he wasn't an officer. But he drove - I always remember that because he never ever drove a car after that - during the war, during the First World War, he drove a truck. And I can always remember him telling us it didn't have any rubber tyres. It was just, you know, it was just metal. Very rough. That is what he did during the war. He then started work in a factory outside Munich making aspirins. It was one of the first concerns; I don't think it was Bayer in those days. I am not sure. That was his first job, making aspirins, and then later on he went to Berlin to work.

RL: What made him move?

DB: Well, I think a better job. He moved, I think he moved already, yes-. After they were married, they were married in Munich, my parents, but then they moved to Berlin. And my father worked for a very big firm, which was called 'die Auergesellschaft'. It is 'Gasglühlichtauergesellschaft'. I don't know, is your German good enough to spell it?

RL: I'll ask you later.

DB: They were the first firm to make gas lights, you know? And then of course electric lights later on. So 'Gasglühlichtauergesellschaft'. And, when I was little, my father was involved in making toothpaste, which was called 'Doromat', the toothpaste, and this factory where he worked was in Oranienburg, which became a very infamous place because it was the very first concentration camp in Germany, really quite a long time before Jews were locked up. That was for political prisoners and they weren't all Jews by any means. A lot of non-Jews in that concentration camp. And of course I can remember as a little child the people going through the street, you know they were herded through the street, to go to their work or whatever, so we knew that concentration camps existed right from 1933 onwards.

Tape 1: 11 minutes 30 seconds

RL: Just coming onto your mother's family now, if you can tell me something about her family background?

DB: My mother's mother died when she was only four years old. She had been an opera singer, or a singer anyway, and she died of consumption very young and left my mother's father to look after two children. My mother had a brother, Ernst, he died also when her children were very young. They had twins and I think she died in 1928 and left these twins with their father and my then my mother's father also brought up his two children. And he was a very interesting man. He didn't work, which just seems amazing how anybody can survive without working, but in those days there was enough money in the family, inherited. They were a banking family. I mean from far farther back, you know? There was money, so he didn't have to work. And he just brought up his children. And he was very forward-thinking. His children went to a very sort of reformed school. He wouldn't send them to any ordinary school. I think it was called Kerschensteiner. It was a famous free school in Munich. So my mother had a very advanced kind of upbringing really. And he was an interesting man. He used to have gatherings in his house every Thursday night, it was open house. Anybody could come and visit and chat and talk. And he had a huge library, which was lost during the Nazi time, but was unusual in those days. And he spent all his life just in the public library and then, when he was in his fifties, he decided to go to university, and took a history degree, and so he and my mother actually graduated the same time. He became a doctor, he took a doctorate, and she became a Kindergarten teacher. So they always told us they went to the same pedagogic classes, you know, the two of them, father and daughter, which was quite funny.

Tape 1: 14 minutes 6 seconds

RL: What was his name?

DB: He was called Theodor Wilmersdörfer. And his father, that is interesting as well, now wait a minute. Yes, it was his father, my great grandfather, was one of the first Jewish people to be knighted in Germany. He was Max von Wilmersdörfer. And he got his knighthood because both he and his son were honorary consuls for Saxony in Bavaria. You know, that takes you back a lot - Germany was not a united country, it was various countries. So, whenever the king of Saxony came to Bavaria, they had to attend to him. And I am not sure that that was the only reason my great grandfather was knighted for, but he was a knight. And then my grandfather could have inherited that but he refused. He was far too free-thinking. He didn't want to be 'Ritter von' or anything like that. He just was plain Dr. Theodor Wilmersdörfer. That is a very strange story, because he owned a very nice house in Munich, four storeys, and he had four grandchildren, the two of us, my brother and I, and my uncle's two children, twins, and, when he died, he left one floor to each of us, and when they opened his will, they discovered that it didn't belong to him already for years and years. He didn't have any money. He lost all his money during the First World War, during the Inflation. But my uncle's father-in-law was a very rich man. He was a silk merchant in Switzerland. And he kept him, but didn't tell him. So he kept him for something like twenty five years or more. He survived him and he just regularly sent him his pension. And the house was mortgaged but he didn't realise it. So of course we didn't inherit anything anyway. He died in 1936. That was

my grandfather. He was a very interesting man and I remember him well. But the only other person I remember is my father's mother and she had Parkinsons. She wasn't any fun for us children any more to know. I mean we used to have to go and see her just on her birthday or something but she was not very well at all any more.

Tape 1: 16 minutes 53 seconds

RL: What kind of religious upbringing did your parents have?

DB: My father comes from a very orthodox family and I always remember him saying that when they went on holiday outside Munich, his mother used to take a great big hamper with all the kitchen equipment – the plates and the cups, everything, and the food – because, you know, they had to keep Kosher when they were just a few miles away from home, they didn't go very far. So they took all that stuff. My father, he kept to it until he was about forty, and then he always described that on a train journey to Berlin, from Munich to Berlin, he got so hungry, he ordered a sandwich and it was ham sandwich. Well, he never looked back after that. He never ate kosher again, so he was never anymore religious. I mean, I have never been to a synagogue, except in a friend's house, where there was one, I will tell you later - we went there once or twice. And yet we had a Jewish education when I was little. We were sent to religious studies and a lady read the Bible with us and taught us Hebrew, both ancient and modern, but that was until we left Germany, I mean just for a short time. I suppose between the age of six and eleven.

Tape 1: 18 minutes 30 seconds

RL: So when your father was on this train journey, was he already a married man at that time?

DB: At that time he probably was just because my mother wasn't at all brought up in a religious sense. Having said that, I am sure they kept something. I am not even sure they kept Friday evening. I mean, we did at home, because my father still-. We had friends, a Russian-Jewish colleague, with a French wife, and, on a Friday night, they would come to us and we would keep the Seder. And, of course, I could read Hebrew in those days and I could read the prayers, but it didn't mean very much to me, you know, it was just, that was what was done. And we celebrated Chanukah. You see, in our family there were some very, very valuable artefacts, and we had one or two of them, but they all were lost during the Hitler time. People looked to see if they turned up in Frankfurt, in the Jewish Museum, but I don't think anything was ever found. I think all we have, somewhere, we have a photograph of a very, very beautiful 'Chanukah Leuchter'. But that was mostly my Jewish education.

RL: How did your parents meet?

Tape 1: 20 minutes 0 second

DB: Well, they were related actually. In those days, the German Jews all inter-married, I think. You will find very few, I mean it will be interesting to see what comes out of your research, because I think they seem to all be inter-married. So, my father and my mother were fairly, it wasn't very close, they weren't first cousins or anything, although both my grandfather married a first cousin and my great grandfather, so that we are still alright is

surprising I think. But my father and my mother were not so closely related, but they had a name in common: Obendorfer. Which you can see from the family trees, you know, how they were intertwined. It wasn't so far apart, so obviously the women all talked, you know – 'Who is going to marry whom?'- and they introduced them. I was not quite an arranged marriage but not so far off, I think.

RL: And when did they marry?

DB: In 1920.

RL: And how many children did they have?

DB: Two. Just my brother and I.

RL: When was your brother born?

DB: He was born in 1921.

RL: And his name?

DB: Is Eugene. After his grandfather, a family name.

RL: And where did you live in Berlin?

DB: Well, we never lived in Berlin. We lived in Oranienburg, which is about 30 kilometres outside Berlin. That is why there is this photograph of the station, because, when we went back, we remembered the station hadn't changed at all in all those years, it was just the same. There was an electric train from Oranienburg to Berlin. It took less than an hour, so we went to Berlin a lot. We had relatives there. But we lived in this small town, which had very few Jewish people in it. It had a few but not many.

Tape 1: 22 minutes 11 seconds

RL: And where did you live in Oranienburg? What kind of place?

DB: We lived in a house that belonged to the factory, you know, it was a tied house. My father had a flat in a very nice block of flats, where there was another chemist, and several people all working at the factory, and the ones below us, the other chemist, I am still in touch with them. We kept in touch all during the war and always, with his daughter, she is a little younger than me, so she is still a good friend.

RL: Can you describe the flat?

DB: That is destroyed. That is why there is this picture of me standing there where the house had been when we went back to see what had happened. You know, once East and West were united, my brother and I spent a few days in Berlin to find out. It wasn't there anymore. It had been bombed obviously.

RL: Can you tell me from memory what it was like?

DB: Yes. I remember it very well. We had a sort of double flat. Because my father was quite high up in the firm, he was allowed to have - we had six rooms - big rooms. It was a very nice flat, very pleasant. And every party had a garden. It looked like allotments nowadays, you know, but it was a bit bigger than that. And so all the children, of course, could play there. It was a very free and easy kind of childhood I had, really. There were lots of children to play with and it was quite near school. We could walk to school or sometimes go by bicycle. We did cycle a lot in those days as a family, you know, my father and mother and brother, we would all go out every weekend cycling, on proper cycling paths, and we would go swimming a lot in the river near the houses. I suppose, being so few Jewish children, you know, we never felt really persecuted, although we knew, maybe more than some people, what was going on. But we were sheltered in a way, until there was, of course, a Numerus Clausus in the school and they were allowed to have two or three Jewish children. It was just touch and go that some of us might have had to leave the school but we were not so many. I think we were only three or four in the whole school.

Tape 1: 25 minutes 3 seconds

RL: How big a Jewish community was there?

DB: I wouldn't think more than ten or twenty in that town, very few. We had one relative there actually. One of my father's cousins was married to a chemist in that same factory and that is a very sad story. He wasn't Jewish and they had a little baby at that time, when I was about six or eight or something, and he used to go skiing a lot. I think he was Austrian actually, but he was a very good skier, and one winter he was killed. That was already during the Hitler time. And she was left – by this time they had to move to southern Germany - with two small children – and she gassed herself, which was awful. What happened was the smaller boy died of diphtheria when he was very young, I think. The other one was six or seven and he was there when his mother gassed herself. She just stuck her head in the gas oven, I think. Now he set out - this must have been probably after we left Germany because if we had been there my mother wouldn't have allowed that, she would have gone and fetched him to live with us – but he set out and he walked and walked and walked, a little boy, until he was picked up by some Polish farmer or something, and he looked after him all during the war. After the war, his aunt, who had emigrated to England, found him through the Red Cross, I think, and through a friend in Germany. He is now a very eminent Professor of Physics in America. It's a sad story, very sad.

RL: What is his name?

DB: Klaus Tittel but he calls himself Frank now, he's changed his name to American, but I always still call him Klaus, but Tittel is his name. And he married a very nice Polish lady. Interesting because obviously he felt some affinity to Poles and she is a very nice lady and they have two children. And the aunt brought him over to England just after the war. She was a maiden lady, very stern, and she put him into an English school. He didn't speak a word of English and I think it was within two years he took 'A' levels and made a wonderful job of it and went to Oxford, studied physics. Very, very good. Quite amazing. She was an amazing lady too but she has been dead for some time now.

Tape 1: 28 minutes 11 seconds

RL: Was there any communal provision, Jewish provision, in Oranienburg?

DB: Yes, I think, yes. I mean, our doctor was Jewish and his wife was quite active socially, making sure everyone alright. My mother was always very active and busy to see that nobody missed out on anything. So there was quite a lot of -. There was also a lawyer, who was Jewish, a family. That is all I can remember: the lawyer, the doctor. There must have been two or three more. I suppose we kept, you know, we held together very much really. Then the other thing was there was a very, very small town near Oranienburg, it was called Lehnitz, and there was a home, a Jewish home, for - a kind of community home - for children really, but then it was also for elderly. The person who ran it - she was a great lady – was a very good friend of my mother and my mother helped her a lot and we were friends with her children and stayed there a lot. That is where I learnt a lot more about Jewishness than anywhere else. That must have been between eight and eleven when we spent a lot of time there. They had a synagogue in the house, you know, because it was a Jewish home. It was a very well-known Jewish home. What was it called? They had courses for young girls going to Israel. Martin Gruber came there sometimes to talk, to give lectures. I remember meeting him when I was quite little. They had a course for young girls - household, housework, and cooking - to get them ready for going to Israel. What was it called? The Aliyah or something, the Youth Aliyah, I think. Then they took children during the holiday and we just went and joined them, as we were very near. We could cycle there. So that was a Jewish influence. And these people have stayed my friends. I think only one of them is alive now. One just died recently in London. The girl, she died some years ago, also in London.

Tape 1: 30 minutes 59 seconds

RL: What was the family name?

DB: The mother, who ran this home so very successfully, you may have heard of her, she was one of the first ones to run a - what were they called? British Restaurants, were they? During the war, Second World War, you know, there was a special restaurant where you could eat cheaply. I think they were called British Restaurants. And she had a home, again she had like a boarding house. I think it was number 27 Belsize Park, in Hampstead. And she started this restaurant there. And she was called Mrs. Glucksman. She lived in Hampstead until about, I don't know, when she died, must have been about twenty years ago. But she really was like my mother when I came to this country. You know, if they hadn't been there, I would have run away, I think, I wouldn't have stayed. I was homesick. I was only 21 when I came here. But she was really like a mother to me and the children were just like brothers and sisters. We had to go to London a lot. We went to Scotland but I always had to run back to London to find a bit of family.

Tape 1: 32 minutes 19 seconds

RL: Were your parents interested in Zionism?

DB: My parents? Not really. My aunt, my father's sister, she went to Israel and lived there,

because her daughter was one of the very early pioneers in Israel, you know, she lived on a Kibbutz. And she was married to quite a famous rabbi in Germany, Geis was his name. Unfortunately, he died. They weren't married for very long when - now who died first? - She died first and then he died later. So it was very sad. Because she was already quite adult, quite grown-up. She went to Israel on a Kibbutz. She got her parents to come. This must have been during the war. And they lived in Israel. Her father died in Israel. Kitzinger was his name. And she died in Israel. Geis, I think he went back to Germany after the war. That's right; he became rabbi in Cologne or something. He was very well-known man; he was one of the chief rabbis in Germany. He was a very good man. But then he didn't live very long. Elizabeth, my father's sister, went to America to join her son there. So that is really the only close connection we have with Israel. When I was little, young, 15 or so, in Turkey, and, you know, Turkey was a difficult country for me, because I couldn't get a job there. I couldn't work there or anything, so I thought maybe I should go to Israel and learn the hotel trade or something. And I was going to go to that big hotel in Jerusalem, which was bombed. Lucky I didn't go, as I wouldn't be alive now. It was long ago it was bombed, wasn't it?

Tape 1: 34mm 27 seconds

RL: Did your parents belong to organisations in Germany?

DB: Well, no, they just belonged to a thing called the 'Kulturbund', which was very busy in Berlin, you know, it was a Jewish organisation. They did belong to that and they went to theatres and concerts. You know, it wasn't very comfortable to go to the ordinary theatres and concerts, so they went to the 'Kulturbund' with friends. But you see we left in 1935. We left Germany in 1935.

RL: What about you? Did you belong to anything in Germany? Any youth groups?

DB: No. Because it was such a small place, you see, there was nothing. But the strange thing is, of course, we were influenced. Because I thought all these girls, they belonged to the 'Hitler Jugend', how nice, they go on hikes every weekend and camping. And it was quite difficult to teach me that I couldn't belong to that, you know, because I mean I was brought up in a German school. I was told never to do 'Heil Hitler' but every morning of course you had to. And I was just standing there raising my arm. And I have just read - my father, he wrote his memoirs, and there is a story there, I can remember - I was invited to go and see a girl from my class whose father was a forester, he was quite a head man, he was a big man. They lived in a very nice house and she was a very nice girl and I was invited for tea. And my father said they wouldn't let me go, because they were afraid in case I would have been attacked in the road, you see. I would never have thought of that. It is only when I read it now that I realise I was in danger. I didn't realise I was in any danger. That was 1934 or '5 and it was already not safe then to let a Jewish child onto the street on their own.

Tape 1: 36 minutes 43 seconds

RL: How did you get on in the non-Jewish school?

DB: It was fine. The girls knew I was Jewish 'Oh, you are different', they would say to me, 'You're not-. You don't count' or something like that. And of course I thought that was rather

silly probably. I was so little. I was only eleven when I left. My brother, of course, he was three years older. But he was very, very - he was then but he's not now - very self- contained, he never needed any friends. He just had one friend and he wasn't Jewish. There were hardly any Jewish children.

RL: So who did you play with?

DB: Just the children in the house and this friend I am still friendly with, and another friend, who I am also still in touch with. And there is another one who just wrote to me actually recently. I know they were Nazis and yet she wrote to me recently: 'It was very nice to hear about you'. We all played together, you know? We were well looked after. We knew that things were happening. We did know. My parents never hid anything from us.

RL: These were non-Jewish children you were playing with?

Tape 1: 38 minutes 0 second

DB: Non-Jewish, oh yes, yes. The only Jewish children I would play with would be those ones I told you about in Lehnitz, in this home. Otherwise they were all non-Jewish children.

RL: Did you ever experience any anti-Semitism in those days?

DB: No. Of course that is not true to say because there would be graffiti and stuff and other things that I would understand, sure, yes. But not, you know, directly, I suppose. And then we came back to Germany. We left in 1935. And because my grandfather still lived in Munich, we came back in 1936 and also that was something. You know, they blocked Jewish money. When we emigrated, we couldn't take any money with us, I think a 100 marks or something. So my father had to put all his money into the bank and it was blocked. The only way he could use it was by coming back to Germany, so in 1936 we went back to Germany and I can remember that. Everybody had to think what we could buy, so we could use that money up. So we bought an expensive camera, I don't know, and a violin for me, you know, things like that, and took it back with us to Turkey. But that was the last time we were there, 1936, and of course we could feel a change there between when we had left and when we went back. Different.

RL: How were the teachers towards you in school?

DB: The teachers? We were-. The director of the school was a marvellous man and he said he would never ever let anything happen to the Jewish children. I mean he reassured my parents that we were safe. This was in the secondary school. But of course there was always the fear that he would be thrown out because he was so honest and he stood up against Hitler. But I think he must have been near retiring time, you know, he wasn't so young. So nothing happened to us in school really. Except obviously you had to be there when you they sang all those awful songs. I could sing even yet all these ghastly songs, you know? 'Wenn Judenblut vom Messer spritzt' and all that. But the tunes were good, you see, and we were quite musical children, so I suppose we joined in. I don't know. I guess when they got too bad, we wouldn't. But I remember seeing 'Der Stürmer', you know, that awful newspaper. And also my father was in a factory where they were making gas masks, so we knew. In fact, he was an

expert in poison gases, my father. So, when we were very little, we had gas masks and we had a shelter in the house where we tried out the gas masks. That was the first air raid shelter in Germany in our house, because the factory was making gas masks, and that is why my father got to Turkey because he was an expert in making gas masks. That is what he said in Turkey. He set up a factory making gas masks. So it is quite strange and he wasn't-. We didn't emigrate in the sense of just going without a job. We couldn't go to Turkey and not have a job, so his firm – who knew of course that because he was Jewish he wouldn't be able to stay in Germany - helped him by sending him to Turkey for a year. They paid for him. He was paid by Germany until 1936 and then the Turks took over his contract and he was employed by the Turks.

RL: So what was the reason for leaving? Was it economic?

DB: Sure. Because my father knew that, as a Jew, he didn't have a chance to go on working in Germany, so he was looking around. At one point we were going to go to France but unfortunately that didn't come off. And then, when this chance came to go to Turkey, he just took it.

RL: And had the families started to leave or were you one of the first families?

DB: No, I don't think we were by any means one of the first families. I think we knew other relatives of ours, who had left already or were about the leave. But we were among the first in our family, I think, probably. Yes. My cousins, my mother's brother's children, were left orphans because their father died when they were very young, and they had a stepmother but she wasn't Jewish, so they had to leave and they went to Switzerland about the same time as we did, maybe a year later. And then the boy came to England. So, yes. And we always had relatives in England already because some of my family came to England around the turn of the century. My grandmother and my great grandmother lived both in England for quite a long time. This is a complicated story, which I don't really know very well. But, at the end of the 1800s, our family was involved in some banking scandal, I think, in Augsburg. And so one of them, at least, or two of them, came to settle in London. Either that, or one of them became a banker because he learnt to be a banker in London, being the banking centre of the world in those days, so that family settled in London already a long, long time ago.

Tape 1: 44 minutes 43 seconds

RL: And then you say your great-grandmother and grandmother came over the London?

DB: They helped but this cousin of mine, my uncle's son, he was helped greatly by these relatives, who were settled in London, and he went to a Quaker school, Leyton Park, and studied and he became a barrister, a QC later on. He's dead now. He died. He's still got his family here. He has got his wife and children here. So he was brought up in this country completely.

RL: You know you mentioned how you had a bit of a Hebrew education in Germany.

DB: Well, yes, in a German school you had religious studies, and my parents wouldn't let us, of course, go to Christian religious classes, so we didn't go to those, and we had a Jewish

education, and once a week or twice a week a lady came from Berlin. I remember her name, Frau Kargo. She was a very nice older lady and she, well obviously, it was bible stories, you know, you can imagine, children love those. So obviously we had those and we also learnt Hebrew as well. And we also had little plays and things. But there were only five or six of us because we weren't very many Jewish children

RL: Did you brother have a Bar Mitzvah?

DB: No. I don't know whether it was because he didn't want it. I think my parents would be absolutely sure to ask him, you know, and he probably would have said he didn't want to be bar mitzvahed. Because those children we were friendly with, both the boy and girl, were bar mitzvahed. Unusual for a girl actually, isn't it? But she was too, I think. And certainly the boys were. But my brother, he was not.

RL: Was your father interested in politics?

DB: My father was always very interested in politics, yes, his big thing, yes he always was, and so he probably really knew a lot more than some people about what was going on round about us. And he had very good colleagues, not Jewish, who would warn him of things. Especially the director of that factory. He, later on, was a very - I can't remember whether he died still during the war but I know that his wife stayed in touch with my father long after the war and they wrote to each other - they would warn him and make sure he wasn't caught up with the Nazis really.

RL: Do you remember what newspapers he got?

Tape 1: 48mm 3 seconds

DB: Newspapers! It would be 'Berliner Tageblatt', I think he would be reading in those days. I think so. But then he also, I'm sure he also did have some kind of Jewish paper in Berlin, I think, probably. I can't remember exactly. As the Hitler time got worse, people got more and more involved with Jewish activities. And although we were on the fringe of that where we were, I am sure we did get involved. And we certainly knew about the concentration camps. I could never understand how many people ignored that that they pretended not to know that people were taken to concentration camps. Even though Sachsenhausen, that didn't exist when we were there, that was after we left, but only just.

RL: And did you have a radio?

DB: Yes, yes. I do remember that, when we first had a radio. And my parents, my father was a very keen listener to the radio. Yes. And we were taken, we had to go, that was awful, we were made to go, that was one of the worst aspects of going to a German school, that we were made to go and see those ghastly Hitler films, you know? And I mean, OK, if it was Leni Riefenstahl or something, that wasn't so bad, it was just sport. But I always remember one was called 'S.A. - Mann Brand', and it was awful. And we just had to go with the school, you know, we were made to go when we were quite little.

RL: What kind of support was there in the area for Hitler?

DB: I think there was loads. I think there was plenty. I mean obviously you knew the people who were reliable. I mean, we had a cook who was with us all the time. I can remember she was-. OK, we knew, in fact that is mentioned in my father's memoirs, in 1933 when they smashed up all the Jewish shops, she came home and said, 'Let the children stay at home. They are smashing everything up out there. Don't let them go out'. She stuck to us absolutely to the end and, as soon as the war was over, all during the war, we were in touch with her as Turkey wasn't in the war, but she came to look after my children when we went to live in Germany later on. We stuck to her and she stuck to us until the end. My parents always tried to send her a bit of money and keep her. We knew the people who would stick by us and we would stick by them.

RL: Were there others who had been friendly and then changed towards the family?

DB: Yes, I think there must have been one or two. I can't remember that as a child. I think I could remember my parents saying, 'Don't bother with them anymore, they are not reliable enough', but some stuck. My father in fact took with him some of the workmen in the factory when we emigrated, German, you know, they weren't Jewish, to set up the factory, and they stuck by him in Turkey. They didn't show any sign of becoming Nazis. No.

RL: Was there any Nazi activity that you witnessed in Oranienburg?

Tape 1: 52 mintues 9 seconds

DB: I can't remember but I must have seen shops smashed up and 'Juden Raus' and things like that, sure, I am sure I did. Yes. I must have. I can't remember going swimming, whether we were not allowed in the bath. I can't remember what happened but maybe when we went back in 1936 we noticed some of the things we wouldn't have been allowed to do. But we didn't go to Oranienburg very much then. We just stayed in Munich mostly. I think we just briefly went to Berlin.

RL: So, coming on to your move, what were you allowed to take with you?

DB: Well, I think just really, we did have what was called then a lift van, with furniture. It wasn't very big but we had enough. We just had the very basics, you know? We had beds and-. I remember my parents bought -. We weren't very well-off. I remember as a family, when I was little, and it was a big thing that my parents bought new things. Our house was just sticks that people had given us. During the First World War and after, you know, the Inflation, no-one had any money, so it was mainly just what you got from your relations. But then we went and bought some very nice furniture, modern with steel legs and pretty but not much. My mother was a very good pianist and we took a grand piano with us when we went to Turkey. That was the main thing. A grand piano and some very modern furniture and a few very old things, like some china. Very little. Just enough to be able to survive really. I have still got family silver. And my mother was very careful taking jewellery with her. We had some very good jewellery and she took that with her.

RL: So there was no restriction in taking articles out of the country?

Tape 1: 54 minutes 44 seconds

DB: I think there probably was. I can't remember exactly. But it was probably, I don't know, so many thousand marks worth of stuff or something. But we certainly couldn't take everything we had and we wouldn't have wanted to anyway.

RL: Did anybody have to supervise the packing of the articles?

DB: I don't know. I don't think so. You know for me this is difficult because we lived in Slovakia after the war and we were in two coups there, Communist coups, and I tend to get muddled up with what happened during the Nazis, which wasn't so different. I mean, there we were restricted and they didn't let us take everything that even belonged to us. Even though we were British and you would have thought they wouldn't have bothered. But we had to leave some things behind there. But, so, yes, maybe it was. I think I would have to read my father's memoirs. He is probably talking about that. And I also have something, but it is in our country house, it is not here - I have a whole trunk full of correspondence of my parents with all sorts of people. It really ought to go to somewhere like the Wiener Library because it is historically interesting. Because it really talks about the whole era just before the war and during the war, where my mother was often the go-between between Israel and Germany, because living in Turkey, you know, people would write to her and she would write to Germany. And so there is a lot of interesting stuff there and I have never had the time or leisure to - I should have really gone through it all. But you would learn a lot there about people who suffered, who went to Theresienstadt and places like that. It is interesting. I wish some young historian would come up and take it on really. Some day maybe.

RL: You were talking about packing up for Turkey. You mentioned the grand piano. Did you all play musical instruments?

DB: Yes. I learnt to play the violin when I was little and I went on with lessons when we were in Turkey. And my brother played the piano up to a point, not so much, but he did play a little. And my mother played a lot. She made a lot of music in Turkey. She had lots of friends there to play with. You know, they played Chamber Music. Her family were very musical. Her brother was very musical. She would have liked to have been a professional pianist but her father wouldn't let her. He said he felt so awful about his wife and the awful things she went through being a professional singer and it was such a hard life and he didn't want his daughter to be a pianist.

RL: Did she continue as a-? Because you said she trained as a Kindergarten teacher?

Tape 1: 58 minutes 10 seconds

DB: That's right. She had her own Kindergarten, in Munich, when she was young. I think that is maybe how she met my father because I think one of my aunts helped her in the Kindergarten. They ran it together, I think. They would all meet anyway. They all knew each other.

RL: And after marriage?

DB: No, she didn't work. That was 1920. And 1921, she had my brother. She always said she would never send me to a Kindergarten, you can do it at home, and she invited lots of our friends in, and then we were allowed to do all sorts of things, you know, she taught us all kinds of things, but at home just. No, she didn't work after we were born.

RL: How did you feel about going to Turkey?

DB: Well, I suppose we were quite excited, you know, being children, and it meant a trip on the Orient Express, which sounds so exotic now, but in those days of course - I remember it was a lot of eating, you were forever having to eat. Two days on the train and two nights, so that was exciting, I suppose.

Tape 1: 59 minutes 32 seconds

End of Tape 1

TAPE 2
Tape 2: 0 minute 35 seconds

RL: You were just telling me about the journey on the Orient Express. What was that like?

DB: Well, it was quite exciting. Of course I was quite young, only eleven. And when we got to Budapest, I remember my parents said they should step out for a little while and walk up and down the platform and they took my brother with them and I was absolutely terrified in case the train would go off without them. It was just an awful lot of eating and drinking and we were not used to that as children. It was strange but interesting, I suppose. And when we got to Istanbul, we had relations there and it wasn't so bad for us to arrive in a strange country. We were met by my - they are relations and not relations. They were my father's cousins but it is complicated. This person had married twice. The one who was in Istanbul was not his real cousin but he was a very, very good friend anyway, so they helped us a lot at the beginning. Although this was Istanbul and not Ankara, which is where we went to live. But I think we stayed there for a about a week in a pension, which was run by a Russian lady. She was a very funny lady. She spoke very broken German only and as children we thought it was very funny to hear this Russian woman talk German. I think she was Jewish. I am sure. Yes. Ehrenstein was her name, Frau Ehrenstein. And there were other people who had arrived there, emigrants, you know, who were going to go to Ankara, so we met some other people. And of course it is a beautiful city, you know, we looked around. And then we took a train to Ankara and we lived in a hotel first when we arrived, not for very long I don't think Ankara was a very small town then. It had a hundred and twenty thousand inhabitants. Now its' about three or four million, I don't know. And it was like a building site. Everything was being built new. There were hardly any old houses there, so as children, we found it very exciting to look for a flat. I can still smell the smell of fresh cement. And we eventually moved into a very smart modern block on the main road, opposite the Turkish Red Cross, which was called Half Moon, you know, it's not the cross obviously. And they were my father's employers eventually. So we lived in the middle really. Quite a small modern flat. We didn't have so much furniture, so that was fine, and the first thing my parents did was to look for schools for us. My brother went straight away to a Turkish school because he was fourteen then and they didn't want to interrupt his education if they could help it. So that was very hard for him

because he couldn't speak a word of Turkish and he was just plonked in there and he had to get a uniform, which was something he wasn't used to, as the Turkish children had uniforms. For me, they found a teacher who was teaching children in German and she was a wonderful lady, a German lady married to a Turk. Her husband was an engineer and she gave private lessons to any foreign children who wanted it and she taught them according to any curriculum they wanted to follow. So when I went to her it was just decided I should follow the Swiss curriculum in case the war should finish. Well, it wasn't war then. It was 1935 and there wasn't any war there, but in case Hitler was somehow got rid of and I could go back into German schooling. So the nearest they got to, as they didn't want me to have a purely German education, but we might be able to go back to Switzerland, and I could qualify, so I was brought up under the Swiss schools system really. She taught in very small groups. There were never more than three or four children in a group and she taught us absolutely anything. The only thing she said she wouldn't teach was botany, biology and, I think, geography. So I didn't learn either but otherwise anything you asked her, any language - Latin, Greek, maths, everything, everything. So I was taught by her for the next - until I was sixteen, from eleven to sixteen.

RL: Where did the lessons take place?

DB: In her house. In her house she had one room set aside as a schoolroom and I was taught obviously in different groups. I was never by myself. There was always one or two three others. Boys, girls, Swiss, Yugoslavs, Germans similar to myself. We were altogether. Probably the most she would ever have whilst I was there was twelve to fifteen children. And when I left she would be - she said she was to retire soon – that would be me, she must have been between fifty and sixty. Do you know she went on teaching until she was nearly 100? She died over 100. Maybe 98. After I left, of course, the war was over and the German Embassy had a school, but she didn't teach there, as she wasn't connected to the embassy at all. She wasn't a Nazi. But then, when the war was over, they took her on for their school and she ran it eventually and she went on and on and on until she was well into her nineties. She was an amazing lady.

Tape 2: 8 minutes 21 seconds

RL: Did you learn Turkish?

DB: Did I learn Turkish? Oh yes, I mean she taught us Turkish. That was one of the classes we had straight away. But of course I talked to the kids in the street and we played with children. And I learnt Turkish, yes, I learnt perfect Turkish. And my brother had to learn in school. And, when I was about sixteen, it was decided that really I had to get some kind of professional training or something because the Turkish law was such that you weren't allowed to-, I mean my generation -. Of course my father was employed by the Turkish state, and by the Red Crescent, and latterly by a bank, but the children weren't allowed to work. We weren't allowed to work. We had no nationality. You weren't allowed to become a Turk. It was very difficult. And, anyway, my parents didn't want to become Turks. And so the only thing that seemed to be allowed was millinery, funnily enough, for some reason, and so I learnt to be a milliner and that meant I had to go to a college, to a domestic science college, art college. So I had to take a Turkish school exam first. I flunked the first time and took it again. It was just the summer and, you know, you went to classes, and I passed it alright. It

was a middle school exam. And then I went to a Turkish domestic science school and learnt millinery and enjoyed it very much. I was in quite a small class. And that was it, that was my training. And then, when I finished it, they forbade people to become milliners as well, so I couldn't do that either

RL: Was there a Jewish community in Ankara?

DB: It wasn't just entirely Jewish, no, it was mixed, it was anti-Nazi. There were a lot of Jews in it but it was just a completely mixed community and that is what I am very sorry I haven't got here. The Germans have done a lot of research into this group, who emigrated to Turkey, and there is quite a large publication and there was a big exhibition, which we were all invited to in Berlin a few years ago, and German historians interviewed us, much like you are doing now, although it was mostly on the telephone. They didn't come all the way to Edinburgh to interview me. It was a very interesting group, who came to Turkey. There were a lot of university professors, experts in various things, politicians. And they weren't all Jewish I mean, there were a lot of Christians among them, just anti-Nazis. And that was what Ataturk was very clever about. He got all these people out of Germany. I think it was through a Swiss organisation specializing in getting people from German universities, who had to leave, because they were either anti-Nazi, half Jewish, or full Jewish, and he took them lock, stock and barrel. I mean something like, I think, two or three hundred families went to Turkey at that time. A lot to Istanbul, a lot to Ankara. So, in a way, we were part of that group, although my father was slightly different, having gone through his German firm to open up this factory, but we were certainly part of a big German community. And they were always called A and B. The As were the Nazis, because there was a German Embassy there all the time, you see? And the Bs were us, who had nothing to do with the embassy. Then there was the time in 193-, I am not sure, when they started taking away German citizenship from Jewish people. I think it was 1937. We were one of the first Jewish families to lose our citizenship, as my father, he wasn't prepared just to give it up just like that because he said we wouldn't have any passport if we give up the German passport. So he sent my brother to the German Embassy and he said, 'you just go and ask them for a letter, an official letter, saying that we were 'ausgebürgert', you know, that is what it was called, you know, you lose your citizenship. And the secretary at the German Embassy, he wasn't very much of a Nazi, he gave him a letter, we have still got it, which says 'Dr. Märzbacher and his family werden am so-und-so einen Tag ausgebürgert'. So we were stateless then in 1937. That was it. And the Turks gave us identity cards but never nationality. So we were stateless.

Tape 2: 14 minutes 15 seconds

RL: Was there ever any trouble between group A and group B?

DB: Between the A and B? Not that I can remember. I mean, I can remember playing tennis on the tennis courts and the German ambassador's daughter - you know it was von Papen, who was the ambassador there - she was there. I mean, we talked to her sometimes but not ever in any friendly way much. We would just say hello and that was it. No, we didn't have any contact with them at all, not really. But we were -, I mean, some people did have, because there were a lot of very eminent medics, for instance, who left Germany and who set up clinics in part of the hospital, and then later on at the university, and the Germans at the embassy, they were stuck for medical attention, so they used a Jewish doctor sometimes. I

mean, they knew them. So there was some coming and going, but not for my family and the embassy, never.

RL: How did the Turkish population receive these newcomers?

DB: I didn't, you know-. We were obviously foreigners to them, but we never felt any antipathy or anything like that. No, we were treated very well. Perhaps even, it's hard to describe, but they are very hospitable, the Turks, you've got to be polite and nice to a stranger, and that was always preserved. Of course they did dismiss my father, I'm not sure if he was actually dismissed, but he was made redundant at one point and was then employed by another agency. He was never without a job really.

Tape 2: 16 minutes 18 seconds

RL: Why was he made redundant?

DB: Oh, I can't remember. I think they just decided that they could do the jobs themselves pretty well. You know, he trained Turkish people, of course, to run the factory. And eventually they thought they could do this. And, when the war was finished, they didn't need the gas masks, so that was another reason why he wasn't needed anymore. He did have a fairly rough time, I think especially after I left. Of course I left him there for another two years.

RL: What were the different firms you father worked for in Germany?

DB: There was just the one firm, the one who actually helped him to emigrate, this 'Auergesellschaft', that was the only one I can remember he worked for.

RL: You mentioned the Red Cross.

DB: That was in Turkey.

RL: Yes.

DB: Red Crescent. Funnily enough, the gas mask factory came under the Red Crescent. I suppose that is understandable because, you know, it had to do with health. It was preserving you from getting gas if there should be a war.

RL: So at what point did the Red Crescent take it over?

DB: When we had been there for about a year, I think. My father's job went from Germany to Turkey. His salary was paid by the Turks.

RL: And then he continued with the Red Crescent throughout the war?

DB: Yes.

RL: How did the war affect the community in Turkey?

DB: Difficult to say. I mean, we didn't want for anything. We had plenty of food always. We were short of coffee, I think, and that wasn't any problem, because they made the coffee with peas or beans or something, I think, and that worked OK. And, anyway, that is something you can do without. Sugar became short at some point I remember and we again didn't have any trouble in Turkey, because we had so many raisins and dried fruits. So that wasn't really a problem. We just adapted. Otherwise we weren't short of anything. I suppose it was uncanny. The only thing I remember - we had blackouts for a short time. Maybe that was when Turkey entered the war at the very end, for about six months or something. And we had to get black blinds for the windows. That is the only thing I can remember. And then, it is interesting, when Turkey entered the war, they locked up all the Germans, who were there. So I suppose we were just lucky we didn't have any nationality. We weren't locked up. But the Turks didn't discriminate between Jews and Nazis. Germans were Germans and they sent them all off to two small Turkish towns. And a lot of our friends were affected by this even though they weren't Nazis. Some of them were half-Jews. I don't know if they locked up any full Jews. That I can't remember. But certainly a lot of half-Jews. And they locked them up for over two years, and the war was well over, and the people were having to stay. They weren't in a prison. They were sent to this little town and they had to fend completely for themselves. They didn't pay them any pension, nothing, nothing, nothing. And, if you didn't have any money, it was pretty hard. What can you do in a little Turkish town unless they want to learn German and give you money for lessons or something? So my mother was very involved there, and my brother, in trying to keep these people alive. We all, the people who weren't locked up, I think the minority, all regularly gave so much money. Every month you gave so much of your salary to keep these people and this went on for, as I say, I think about two years. They were still locked up when I left Germany.

Tape 2: 20 minutes 54 seconds

RL: So when did this happen?

DB: It must of happened about 19-. They sent them away in 1944, I think, and they were still there in 1946.

RL: And which were the two towns that they were sent to?

DB: One was called Kırşehir and the other was Yozgat. But Yozgat were really mostly Nazis, I think. But Kırşehir, it was a complete mixture, and we had a few friends there, and my husband, Donald, and I visited them there twice, and we got engaged there, which is quite funny. There were very, very good friends of ours there, who were locked up, and we went to visit them.

RL: How did you meet Donald?

DB: I met him, oh yes, I remember it well, he was staying in one of the hotels in Ankara when he arrived and very good friends of mine were looking for somebody to teach them English, so they asked me if I would like to join them and I did. One of them was actually a cousin of mine, and her husband, and then there was the wife - I don't know if you have heard of Karl Ebert, the man who was at Glyndebourne, he was a very famous opera producer, and he

worked in Turkey, and he was very good friend of ours, he was a neighbour of ours - and his wife, and this cousin of mine, and they asked me to join the class. So that is how I met him. He was my teacher then for a short time.

R: Why did he come out to Turkey?

DB: With the British Council. He was in the Air Force and the British Council were recruiting teachers, and Donald was a trained teacher, so he applied and he was taken on to go to Turkey as an English teacher. And he had a rough time. He was torpedoed on the way to Turkey and he nearly died. He then came via – that was off the Nigerian coast - and then they were flown to Egypt, and eventually by train and bus, via Israel, and they came to Turkey that way.

RL: So when was that?

DB: That was in 1943, he came, yes. He was there for two years, '43 to '45. So I met him in '43 and then we didn't get married until '45.

RL: And where is Donald from?

DB: He is from Glasgow.

RL: Coming back to the community in Ankara, was there any cultural activity?

Tape 2: 24 minutes 5 seconds

DB: A lot! That is why my whole education is very German because-. Well, first of all, it was German anyway with this lady. And then it was very organized. They had these professors, and people from all sorts walks of life, and they had regular meetings, I think at least once a month if not more, where somebody gave a lecture. So you had a lecture on Hittitology one week, and psychology the next, and then it was Sumerian, and then a lecture on the theatre. So we had an amazing background really as children. We were always taken along. We weren't so young, we were in our teens by this time. And it was always maybe thirty/forty people there. It was a fairly big community.

RL: How big would you say the community was?

DB: That would all be in those notes. In Ankara, if you took all the families, you know, I am sure it would be well over a hundred, yes, well over a hundred.

RL: Did you all live near one another?

DB: Yes. We lived in one particular part of the town, the New Town it was called. We more or less all lived in that part. Ankara was a very small town anyway, so it didn't really matter where you lived, you weren't very far from the next. It only grew later.

RL: Besides lectures, was there anything else? Any other cultural-?

DB: Well, just social, you know? I mean, for instance, we would have a coffee afternoon

every week on a Sunday, where we would have this teacher of mine with her husband, she would come. And then, I don't know if you have heard of Ernst Reuter, who became the Mayor of Berlin after the war, the first Mayor of Berlin. They were very good friends. They would always be there. He and his wife and his son, he was about my age, so we were actually taught a lot together. And lots of people, doctors. I would always go for a walk on a Sunday with a Professor of Dermatology. And then there was a paediatrician, they were very, very good friends, and their children are still very good friends of mine, they are in Cambridge now. So there was a lot, yes, I mean, tremendous. Of course, in Istanbul, there were lots of professors there, and very, very learned people and clever people, and as a child I would go there during my holidays, always to those relatives of mine.

RL: Did they all have jobs, these professors and doctors?

DB: You couldn't be in Turkey unless you had a job. You wouldn't be allowed, you see? They wouldn't have you. That is the thing. They employed people before they ever came to Turkey. They engaged them. I don't think there were very many people who came to Turkey and then got a job. That was not possible. I think that is why it was so awful, you know, that ship, those refugees, children, one Jewish, the whole ship was sunk off Turkey, I think. Because the Turks didn't want emigrants in that sense. They only wanted people who they could employ straight away.

RL: Was there any Jewish activity?

DB: I wouldn't say in our community particularly, no, I don't think so, but obviously there were a lot of Jews. I think there was quite a Jewish community in Ankara but they would be what we call 'Spagnolen', you know, the Spanish Jews. And I don't know that awful thing that has happened now in Istanbul, whether that would be mostly Spanish Jews, I think, because the Jewish community in Turkey was mostly Spanish Jews.

RL: Did you ever mix with them at all?

DB: I can't remember meeting very many. In Istanbul, yes, but not in Ankara, I can't remember very many. We had a dressmaker, a lady, she was from Yugoslavia, I think, she was Jewish. And I can't remember how her husband got to be there, but they were there. But, no, I can't remember very many.

RL And, amongst this Jewish community, was there any religious activity at all?

DB: No. You see, in those days, it was during Ataturk's time, and it was a completely lay state. There weren't any synagogues allowed. There weren't any mosques allowed. There weren't any mosques in Ankara. There were women, who were, not veiled, you wouldn't be allowed to be veiled, but they had a headscarf, but they were nearly all peasant women, they weren't educated people. Educated people were completely westernised in those days.

RL: Did you ever experience any anti-Semitism there?

DB: Not that I can remember, no, I don't think so. We must have somehow but I don't remember it. I suppose because we were such a mixed community anyway. I think we were

one of the very – there weren't all that many pure Jewish families amongst the immigrants, not many. Most of them were mixed. My brother, he was very lucky. He finished the Turkish school, and then he went to Istanbul, to the Turkish university in Istanbul, and studied Physics. With the jewellery my mother had taken out of Germany, that paid for it really, otherwise they couldn't have afforded to send him to university. Then, when he finished university, he was very lucky to get a job as a teacher in a sort of semi-private school in Ankara. It was called an American College, but they were taught in Turkish mostly. And at that time my brother couldn't speak enough English, so he taught in Turkish, I think. I think so. He did that for about a year or two after he finished university and then he emigrated to America. He got a scholarship through the Hillel Foundation, you know, the big Jewish foundation in America. They gave him money to go to Harvard and he took his doctorate at Harvard.

RL: How did he know about-?

DB: The Hillel Foundation? Well, you know, you found out. Most people in Turkey didn't think they were going to stay there forever. That was not the final-. You couldn't, because most of them didn't want to become Turks really, so what were you going to do? If you weren't going to really completely assimilate to Turkish life, you had to think of going elsewhere, so some people went to Israel and a lot of people went off to America, a lot of people went back to Germany, and one or two came to England, very few I think.

Tape 2: 32 minutes 17 seconds

RL: So when did you brother go to America?

DB: He went to America the year after I came here. I came in '45 to this country, and he went in '46, he got his scholarship through the Hillel Foundation.

RL: So, whilst you were in Turkey, how aware were you of what was going on in the war?

DB: Oh very, because we had completely free access to any radio station we wanted. I learned English from the BBC, Mrs. Minerva, maybe before your time. That was like what you get now all the time, East Enders or something. That is what I listened to every day. I had lessons from this English lady but I topped it up with that, and I learned a lot from the radio about English life, always listening to the BBC. And you could listen to Germany if you wanted, you could hear awful Hitler speeches and things, I mean, you could hear all that too.

RL: Were you aware of what was happening to the Jews?

DB: Oh, yes. Absolutely, absolutely. We had some relatives, very few, who were sent to Theresienstadt and who never came back. And my mother kept writing to them to the very end, as long as she could, she kept in touch. Oh, yes. And we also knew there were transports of Jewish people, especially children, through Turkey to Israel. I mean, there were connections with Hungary. Not my family particularly, but very good friends were very instrumental in these transports. And Swedish people, the Swedish Ambassador, they helped a lot of people through Russia to come to Israel, and all sorts of things. We heard all that.

Tape 2: 34 minutes 30 seconds

RL: When would that have been?

DB: Probably, I should think it wasn't until '44 or something like that.

RL: Did you actually see these trains?

DB: I, frankly no, I myself didn't see them. We weren't really supposed to go to the station to see them. I think some of our friends went, adults, but I was too young to be involved in that. I mean you did often feel that you were being spied on, you know? I mean, you worried about that, that they spy on you from both sides. I remember my mother when she went away. They didn't leave until 1947, they left a year after my brother. And they sold the piano, the grand piano. And that man, Cicero – did you ever read that book about the British Ambassador's valet who was a spy? - he bought my mother's piano. She kind of wondered about who this guy was. So there were a lot of shady characters about in Turkey. You weren't sure if they were on this side or that side and what were they doing. It wasn't always very comfortable. On the other hand, what peopled suffered in the war, you can't compare it. We had a much easier time.

RL: Was your father involved in politics?

DB: Not in Turkey. Only to the extent that he and this Ernst Reuter and this teacher's husband would talk about politics endlessly, all the time, as that is what their interests were, but actually actively you couldn't be involved in Turkish politics.

RL: So what did your mother do in Turkey?

DB: She was very much a housewife but she also helped anybody who needed help. She ran this fund. There was a health fund for anybody in our community who needed it. My mother helped run that and then they ran a book club for a while, as people wanted to read German novels. My brother would distribute the books. She worked a lot in the community.

RL: Did you ever have any entertainment?

DB: Oh, yes. Lots of parties. Everybody would invite everybody else. Home entertainment and then of course concerts, wonderful music. Because they brought German conductors and German and Austrian musicians. The Turkish Conservatory was completely staffed by foreign staff. A concert every week, we went to a classical concert every week. Then there was opera when Ebert started up the opera school. Very nice opera. Lots. Concerts on the radio. Very good musicians.

RL: Besides Ankara and Istanbul, did you visit any other places?

Tape 2: 38 minutes 16 seconds

DB: We weren't allowed. We were strictly kept in those two places. We weren't allowed. It was only after the war that I got to know a bit more of Turkey. Donald travelled a lot because

he was allowed. He was officially employed by the British Council. He was English, well Scottish, so he travelled all over the place.

RL: Where and when did you marry?

DB: In Ankara. In 1945.

RL: What kind of ceremony was it?

DB: Civil. But because you couldn't get married in a church, or in a mosque or religiously, the Turks made rather a big thing of the civil marriage. You know, it was a really nice room. So we got married. And then it was actually on VE Day we got married. It just so happened it was that day, so we had to go - normally the Consul would have come to the marriage and done the thing for the British marriage certificate, but of course because they were so busy with getting the champagne bottles opened, because it was VE day, he couldn't come. So I remember we had to go up the embassy and he just signed the register on the stairs. Very informal. He was a very good friend of ours, we knew him, the Vice Consul. Then, in the evening, we didn't have a marriage party. We just went up to the embassy to the victory party. Very good. We had a big party in my house in the afternoon. All my friends came.

RL: And where did you live after marriage?

DB: Just at home. We left very soon after. We were married in May and we left a week or two later. We were booked to come back to this country, which was very new for me of course, so we just stayed at my house. We didn't live anywhere else. We had a little - I think a week we went to Istanbul to stay with friends of ours and then we had a honeymoon in Cyprus. That was my first flight in an army plane, with chairs just tipping off the floor. And we stayed three weeks in Cyprus. That was in 1945. And then we got another plane to Cairo and we had to wait a month before we could get a ship. I think we were in the first non-convoy, you know, they were all convoys in those days. Our ship was a troop ship but not in convoy.

RL: Do you remember which ship it was?

DB: Oh, I don't remember the name of it, no. And you weren't together. The men were sleeping in hammocks and the women were in the officers' quarters in bunks.

RL: What do you feel about your stay in Turkey?

DB: What do I feel? To me, it is very much home. I have been back since. To me, it comes very much like my home really. But I get very worried about Turkish attitudes. What was it? Just recently, I read that book by William Dolland, have you read it? Where he talks about the Armenian massacre. I mean, that is almost worse than the Jews in Germany. It is terrible. I must admit it gave me a kind of jolt. I mean, I realized that it happened but I was never quite aware of how many people got killed there. There was always some sort of ambivalence. You never felt you quite belonged, but yet, going back, I do feel a lot of affinity with the Turks. I can still speak Turkish, not very well, but I can. But I haven't got really very many friends there any more. So it is kind of strange. But then Germany is not really my home either. Although we did go back there. You see, Donald got a job in Germany after the war. He

worked there for the British Council.

RL: So, first of all, you say, you came to Britain?

DB: Yes. When we came to Britain, we came into Liverpool, and I thought it was lovely because I had never seen green grass, red houses and white fences, I remember. I thought, 'What a beautiful town!' Of course we didn't stop there. We got the train to Glasgow and that was not so good. Of course his parents came to meet us and that was very strange for me because it was a completely different culture and that was when I had to keep going to London to see my friend because I was pretty unhappy when I first came. I didn't like it at all. I think if it hadn't been that the situation was so difficult, I would have turned round and gone back to Turkey.

RL: So what did you find so different?

DB: Well, for one thing, you know, there had been a war here and there was rationing and I was hungry. I wasn't used to not eating properly and they weren't eating properly in those days. It was hard. And I was pregnant and that was all very strange and I went to find the doctor. It was just hard really. But the main thing was Glasgow, it was such a horrible town, I thought, absolutely awful. However, Donald realized. He gave up his job with the British Council then. He was pleased to give up his job because he was very keen just to stay at home and go back to teaching. And he couldn't find a job, so we went to live in Arran, you know, the island of Arran, where he had friends. And that was very good because they had a farm and they had children about my age, young people my age. So we settled there and we lived there for nearly a year while Donald was looking for a job all the time, but he worked on the farm and we had enough savings. We weren't stuck

RL: How did you fit into that community?

Tape 2: 45 minutes 32 seconds

DB: Well, it was strange obviously, but they made me very welcome. It wasn't bad at all. It was enjoyable really but some of it was a bit hard, like getting to grips with fire places and stuff like that, you know, it was a very different life. And, of course, , my oldest daughter, was born in January. We arrived in August and she was born in January and that kept me busy.

RL: Were you in Arran by then?

DB: We were in Arran then but I went back to Glasgow as I preferred her to be born in Glasgow, not Arran. She was born there and we went back to live in Arran again and then the British Council asked Donald to go back to them as he couldn't find a job teaching. So he rejoined the British Council and he was called to go to Slovakia, Bratislava. That is where we went in August 1946. We went to live in Slovakia.

RL: How did you feel about being on the move again?

DB: That didn't worry me at all as we were used to moving. I was quite happy to go. It turned

out it was very nice because Slovakia had been the paradise of the Nazis, so it hadn't been touched. You could eat as much as you like. There was plenty of food. And I could speak German there, which is strange, that they didn't mind speaking German there. I didn't find it hard here either because I was so much in London with German-Jewish people and we spoke German anyway. In Slovakia, I had a German cook, a German-speaking cook, although she was Slovak. In the market, you could speak German, anywhere.

RL: Just coming back to your trips to London, how long would you stay in London?

DB: Just a few days. However long they would have us. About a week

RL: And what was the community like there that you were visiting?

DB: Very much German-Jewish refugees. It was Finchley or Hampstead, where everyone spoke German. German-Jewish.

RL: And were they relations you were going to?

DB: No. These people, who we knew when we were in Oranienburg, that I told you about . But of course relations too. But they actually didn't speak German. Those relations were completely British, you know, they had been here forever. They didn't speak German.

RL: And what part of Finchley were they living in?

DB: Belsize Park. But my relations, no, they lived in a hotel all during the war. I think the house was bombed or something. They were quite well-off, so they just moved to a hotel, so as not to have to be bothered. And then they moved, they lived near Baker Street in a flat, which is where I visited. And then I had my cousin, the one who became a barrister. Of course I would see him.

RL: Did you ever think of moving to London?

DB: I had three or four cousins in London at that time. Did I ever think-? No, because Donald wouldn't have wanted that. I've never lived in England. He is very much of a Scotsman. Abroad is alright but England isn't. No, that is not quite true, that is silly, but London he wouldn't have liked. No, that was too big for him.

RL: Just coming back to something else you mentioned, when you were in Turkey, the letters your mother used to receive. Can you tell me a little bit more about that?

DB: As far as I can remember, she almost re-wrote them. She had to. She couldn't just send a German letter on to Israel. She was kept busy. She would re-type them and sometimes things would be veiled a little bit. You wouldn't dare to say exactly. Especially if you wrote to Germany, you wouldn't. You would have to be very careful what you say. It was quite a job sometimes. Even sending letters to England, you knew it was going to be censored. You had to be careful what you sent. She was kept busy with that correspondence.

RL: And who was the correspondence between?

DB: They were nearly always relatives - uncles, cousins, or it would be-. My grandfather, for instance, he had a housekeeper, she wasn't Jewish, so she would be writing to her quite a bit 'til she died. And then some of the friends, who weren't Jewish, who were in Germany, she would write to, like that maid of ours, you know, I think we were in touch with her nearly all the time.

RL: So you went to Slovakia. And where were you living there?

DB: We lived in what was called the British Institute. They had taken over the houses after the war from all sorts of people and this place had belonged to a Hungarian-Jewish family or something. But it was a beautiful house and the state just took it over and we lived in a very grand kind of house there. There weren't too many rooms, because we had to share it with the British Institute, they had a library and offices, but we had a very nice place. It is interesting of course but you'll be here for another week or two! Because we went back there recently to see where we had lived. It was very interesting. It was a nice place but the life wasn't very nice, because we were in Slovakia during two coups, communist coups, and that wasn't very pleasant.

Tape 2: 53 minutes 1 second

RL: So which town were you in?

DB: In Bratislava.

RL: And what shape was it in, the town, when you got there?
DB: It hadn't been touched. The Germans had protected that area very much. I think parts had been demolished, or bombed, but not much I don't remember. And economically it was very good. We had a very easy life when we went there, you know, plenty of food and drink and everything, and then it gradually got worse and worse and worse. Then eventually there was rationing, quite tight rationing. But that made me always very angry because the communist idea of keeping the foreigners there was to give them what they called diplomatic rations. So we were living very well indeed. We would get a pound of butter a week or something, but ordinary people, no way. And I always thought, if that is communism, you know, to give one lot everything and their own people got nothing, that's terrible. But that is how it was. And then, I may be getting muddled up, but there was one coup and then another coup, when really the Russians came in. But that wasn't 'til much later. My son was born in Slovakia in 1947. He was born in Bratislava. And by that time, things had become more and more difficult. You couldn't see the people you wanted to see and you were very restricted. But we still had plenty of friends, mostly foreigners, but also some Slovaks, but gradually they didn't dare to even speak to us, so life became very hard.

RL: So, who were these friends?

DB: Well, our friends were foreigners. And funnily enough, the good Slovak friends we had were actually communists. They felt more free to speak to us than people who were non-communists. And the non-communists, all they wanted from us is really help with escaping, which was very, very difficult. I can remember a neighbour of ours came one day and she said

first she wanted us to smuggle out her fur coat, I think. We could go to Vienna because we had diplomatic passports in those days and we could travel quite freely, not completely freely, but we could travel back and forth between Bratislava and Vienna. It was only an hour, so we went quite often to the opera, but you always had to go through a Russian zone. There was a Russian zone. So a lot of those people asked if we could take our quota to Aunty So-and-So, and they will keep it until they got out. There was some money there. In the end, we hardly ever did do that, as it was so dangerous. This woman asked us to smuggle her baby out. She said would we please take her baby out. She would swim the river to get out. We had to say no. Then she said, 'Bad luck on you. The Swiss have taken it out'. The Swiss consul took it out in his boot, the baby to Vienna. Then a friend came, he was a good friend, and he said, 'Would you take all my furniture, please?' As he was going to escape now. And he had a whole house full of Chinese furniture. He had been a missionary in China. And we said no, we couldn't, not possibly. What would we do with all that furniture? He said that he had to do something, so he gave it all to the British Council and everybody in the British Council got a piece of that furniture. And we got that cupboard there, and actually a bed and a table, which we later on auctioned for nothing at all. Things like that happened all the time, so the people who were actually communists were much better friends because they were quite happy to stay there and we could really speak to them. So we had a few communist friends. Then we moved out of that institute into a villa, this time for four years. This was 1949. But we knew we were being spied on the whole time. Donald was a lecturer at the university and eventually he became a professor actually there, of English. And he was working alright but I know I was being followed the whole time in the street by someone who was spying on us, and you got to know the people. It was always the same person. And one night somebody came to the door and produced a gun and Donald opened the door and he threw himself at this man because he was afraid that he would harm us, me and the children, and the man tried to run away and then shot Donald. And he was hit in three places. It was just about Christmas-time and I was baking in the kitchen. I heard the dog barking. I went into the hall and there was Donald dragging himself back into the hall, bleeding, and I was too stupid to know what to do, but he said, 'Make a tourniquet on my arm'. And I tied him up and then I phoned immediately a very good friend of ours, who was a surgeon locally and I told him to send an ambulance for Donald.

RL: I just have to stop here because the film has nearly finished.

Tape 2: 60 minutes 0 second

TAPE 3
Tape 3: 0 minute 35 seconds

RL: So you were telling me of the incident when your husband was shot?

DB: Yes. So, he was taken to hospital and a bullet was removed by this surgeon-friend of ours but he said he couldn't remove another one, which was lying too close to his main artery, as it was too dangerous. They kept him in hospital for two weeks, while I was there with the children in the villa. Fortunately, we had a very good friend with us, who helped me look after the children, and she stayed on all this time. We had some bad times because we both said we were too scared to stay in the villa in case this guy came back. So they put police army people, I don't know, to guard us. They were there sitting outside our bedroom all night. One

night, I remember going to the loo and thought what on earth they were doing there, reading Russian books. I think they must have been Russian soldiers or something. Once Donald came out of hospital, they said we had to leave, as the British Council wouldn't entertain keeping us there any longer. So I had Christmas there with the children and friends in Bratislava, whilst Donald was in hospital, but then we came back to London, and of course I had to pack up in a hurry

RL: Can I just ask you about this, first of all? Who had shot him? Did you ever know?

DB: Well, this man claimed he was coming to see his girlfriend, who was living upstairs in our house. There was a room let to another lady, I don't know, and he claimed that he had come to get engaged to her as she was his sweetheart. But that was a made-up story. They caught him and locked him up, they said, but three months later some friends of ours said they saw him in the street. I think it was all a made-up story. They were really worried that Donald was a spy or something, because we had been going back and forth to Vienna. But of course that didn't come out then at all. I had to attend an identity parade to see if I would pick the man out because he had been coming to our house regularly to eat with the woman, who lived below us. It's a pretty messy story. But the upshot was that we were not allowed to stay on in Slovakia.

RL: Can I just ask you about your time in Slovakia? First of all, was there a Jewish community there?

DB: I was not at all in touch with any outside community really. It is true some of our best friends-. I remember one old lady, in fact I had her photograph in my hand today, she was terribly kind to me. She was an old lady and I was just a young woman really. She was Jewish. That was a Jewish family. There were several friends we had, who were Jewish

RL: And had they been in Bratislava during the war?

DB: Some of them hiding, most of them really in hiding. The interesting thing is the lady, who helped me with the children, who was also a secretary to Donald, she very sadly committed suicide about a year after we left. We offered to take her with us because we knew that she was in danger. She was Jewish. She said she didn't want to go. We offered to take her with us as one of us. She was a very clever woman and she would have eventually got work here. That would have not been difficult in those days. But no, she said Slovakia is her country, and she had hidden all during the war in the woods, in the forests in Slovakia. And her sister is one of my very best friends now. She is alive and lives in Switzerland. She has just written the story of their life, hiding in the forest, but unfortunately I haven't got it yet. So it will be interesting to read. All during the war, running hither and thither in the mountains. Very hard life. Terrible.

RL: You say you weren't in touch with the Jewish community as such?

DB: As such, no. Not being an observant Jew, it didn't make any sense for me, and Donald is not Jewish.

RL: But you did come across these Jewish-.

DB: Yes, I knew when people were Jewish and they knew that I was Jewish and the people's house we stayed in, where Donald got shot, were Jewish people. They had emigrated to Canada. My doctor was Jewish. Another friend was Jewish. Oh yes, we had quite a lot of Jewish friends there.

RL: And how were you received by the Slovakian population?

DB: Very difficult to say because obviously the ones who wanted to befriend us were wonderful people and some of them, it was very sad, you could hardly say hello to them in the street, as you were afraid that you were compromising them. And so it was a difficult situation and not very nice a lot of the time.

RL: Was there anti-Semitism?

DB: I am sure there was. There must have been because I mean the Nazis were very strong in Slovakia. I suppose, with us being British, we didn't sense it so much. But I am sure there was.

RL: So how long were you there?

DB: Four years, from '46 'til '49.

RL: And you said there were two coups whilst you were there. Did they change life for you, those coups?

Tape 3: 7 minutes 58 seconds

DB: well, yes, very much so. Because, at first, we were completely, I mean they loved to have us there at first. And then it got more and more difficult really for us to, for Donald to do the work. He could work in the university because he was just teaching there, that was alright. But at the Institute, it was very hard, he was also director of the British Institute there, and people weren't really supposed to go there and read in the library or get English classes. You know, that wasn't really what they were allowed to do. And that became more and more difficult. We did have this funny old German cook all the time. She stuck to us. She was a Slovak lady, but German, of German origin. Whether it was out of stupidity or whether she was just a kind woman, I am not sure. But she was very funny and she was very nice with the children and she stayed with us all the time.

RL: So you had to pack up and leave?

DB: Yes, we just had to pack up and leave. We never had furniture there of our own, you know, it didn't belong to us, so it was just all of the other things. Still plenty of stuff to pack up, but I had two small children, but not Donald to help me, but friends were kind and some colleagues came to help. And then we came back to this country and the British Council wouldn't send Donald abroad. And, first of all, we came to Glasgow, and he had a big operation to have the bullet removed. Luckily this was alright and then it was decided he should stay in this country for a bit and they gave him a job in Edinburgh to run a place called

International House. It was mainly for foreign students to meet Scottish students. He loved that job. It was very nice. During that time I had my youngest daughter. She was born in Edinburgh and that made the family complete.

RL: So when was it when you moved back to this country?

DB: End of 1949. So we were here 1950 and 1951, 2 years, in Edinburgh. I had been in Edinburgh before and I really liked it very much and I remembered my grandfather saying his wife, the opera singer, she thought it was the most beautiful town she had been in, so I suppose that stuck a bit, and as I didn't really like Glasgow, Edinburgh was nice for me to be in. In Glasgow I didn't like the filth, the griminess. A horrible town. It doesn't strike me like that now. It is partly because I am used to Scotland and I now look at the better parts of Glasgow. But we didn't live in a very good part of Glasgow. We didn't live there. We just stayed with my in-laws. It wasn't very nice. They were fine. I didn't get on very well with my father-in-law but I got on fine with my mother-in-law and the rest of the family. My father-in-law, not that he wasn't a very nice man, but he comes from Aberdeen, and I literally couldn't understand what he was saying. He had a very thick Aberdonian accent.

RL: You were alright with Glaswegian?

DB: Well, it was a bit easier. Not quite as bad.

RL: And how did you find Edinburgh?

Tape 3: 11 minutes 58 seconds

DB: At first we lived in a horrible place, which we rented, in a very nice part of Edinburgh, but it was a horrible flat. That wasn't so good. We decided to buy a flat of our own, a very nice flat, and the children were jolly. It was a bit hard because Donald was hard at work and not much help to me.

RL: Who did you mix with there?

DB: I didn't have much time to mix with three very small children, but I suppose friends I made through the children. You meet people at school and Donald had a very good friend, you know? And he met a lot of people at International House, so we got to meet a lot of people then.

RL: You say you were only here for a short time?

DB: Two years.

RL: And did you become involved in anything during that time?

DB: Nothing that didn't have to do with the children really, no, not really.

RL: Were you in touch with other refugees at that point?

DB: At that point, I think I met one lady. She wasn't a refugee. She was a German, who had come to this country a long time ago. Refugees, no, I don't think so. It could be that I met some people but nobody sticks in my mind very much really. No, I don't think so.

RL: How were you received by the Edinburgh people?

DB: Alright. I suppose some of them were a bit sort of strange because they thought I was German. We had a lot of neighbours. I did have one very good friend then already, in our house where we lived. She remained my friend for the rest of her life. She is dead now. She was a Hungarian lady and she was married to a Scottish minister and her daughter and my oldest daughter have always remained friends and she is a very good friend now of ours. He was a very interesting man. He was working for the Church of Scotland Foreign Department. He was having to go all over the world, as they own property all over the place. He was a very clever, interesting man. She was, I was almost sure, funnily enough we never talked about it, she was a Hungarian Jew, and he got to know her when he was working in Hungary as a missionary and got married to her. She was a wonderful lady. She was a very, very good friend. You only really need one.

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RL: And why did you move from Edinburgh?

DB: Because, working for the British Council, you never stay anywhere very long. You get moved. So, after two years, we were posted to Germany, and Donald got a job as a lecturer at Göttingen University.

RL: How did you feel about going to live in Germany?

DB: Well, I wasn't very sure how that would go really, you know? I suppose it didn't seem so soon after the war then, but now, when you think of it, it wasn't very long after the war. That was 1951, that we moved to Germany, 1952. Alison was just a baby. Göttingen, you see, was in the British zone and it was a British garrison city really, so there was a huge contingent of British army people, and we just got absorbed into the army crowd. The only German friends we had would be people Donald met through the university. We had one very good couple of friends. She was American and he was German. I think he was half-Jewish, but I think he had been in Germany all during the war. She was certainly Jewish. She was New York Jewish. They were very good friends. And then we had more German friends. I taught English for a while to German doctors. It was an interesting time. I was hoping that the children would then learn German, which they did, just playing with children, but they went to a British school there, they went to the British Army School. Alison went to a German Kindergarten because she was only two. Her language was really German. We had a German maid, who spoke to her. That was always slightly - the maid, I wondered if she had been a real big Nazi, but she wouldn't show that to us of course. But I was always a little bit under the impression that she might have been a Nazi and the other strange thing for me was that we lived in accommodation that had been taken away from the Germans. When the British army moved in, they just took all the best houses for the British officers, and we were part of the British government people, we got one of those houses, so we lived in the house of an old, really old Nazi dentist, and they were not too pleased to see me there, I am quite sure. They wouldn't say anything but I got the feeling that-. I met them only once or twice and they were not pleased. Opposite us, we had the German physicist, Otto Hahn, living there. I don't know if

you have heard of him. He was really the father of the atomic bomb. A really famous physicist, a very nice man, and we became quite friendly with them. And when we got fed up in this house of the German dentist - it turned out that their house had been taken from them, the Hahn house, and they were living in a smaller flat - they said that, if we wanted to, they would see if we could get their house, and that is where we lived for the rest of our stay, which was a bit more easy for us. It was alright. The children being in a British school too, you know, it was easier for us.

Tape 3: 19 minutes 30 seconds

RL: How much did you have contact with the German population?

DB: Oh, a lot, yes, yes. I mean they wouldn't know I wasn't German because my German is perfect. Unless they knew me very well and knew Donald, they didn't think anything different but that I was German. It was kind of a funny situation. But, of course, when they heard me speaking to the children, I would be speaking English. But we did have some very good friends, another one, a writer and his wife. I mean, you know, face it, there were an awful lot of non-Nazis in Germany and they came out of the woodwork after the war.

Tape 3: 20 minutes 17 seconds

RL: Did you travel around in Germany at that time?

DB: Yes, a lot, yes. First we had a little old banger, which we bought very cheaply, and then later on we had a better car and we really travelled a lot around Germany. It is a very beautiful area there, the Harz Mountains and the Weser Bergland. And we went to Berlin a couple of times, which meant we had to go through the Soviet Zone, which was a bit of a bother. But we did go twice to Berlin. Then my parents came to visit. They had emigrated to America. My brother had got them to go onto America. So they came to stay with us in Germany. So we travelled with them actually to visit the old Jewish cemeteries in the places where our ancestors came from, Bayreuth and Bayersdorf, in Bavaria. It was interesting.
RL: When had they gone to America?

DB: They went in 1947.

RL: And whereabouts in America?

DB: They went to Newark, New Jersey, and that was because my father had a Jewish colleague when he was in Germany and that man had emigrated to America and set up a chemical factory there. And when my father - when they had to leave Turkey really- he gave them an affidavit and he gave my father a job. So he started working there for this old colleague of his in Newark. And my mother got a job also in a factory next to it, which was run by the brother of Kissinger, Henry Kissinger. They were very nice people.

RL: What was she doing there?

DB: She was just dogsbody, I think, secretary. The first job she really had in her life at the age of 60, I suppose.

RL: So was that the first time you had seen them since leaving Turkey, when they came to visit you in Germany?

DB: No. I took the children when we were in Slovakia. I took the two, as I didn't have Alison then, to America, for a visit. That must have been 1948. Stayed with them for a couple of months.

RL: So, coming back to Germany, how involved were you in life there?

DB: Not so much because most of the life really revolved around these army families. They were so sociable, whether you liked it or not, but they were forever giving parties. There was a big crowd there. Then we also had another colleague, who ran something called 'die Brücke', which was previous to the British Council in Germany. They had a separate sort of cultural organization, where they were running lectures and country dancing, and so we were involved with that. We were going to the theatre a lot because one of the best German theatres at that time was in Göttingen. So we did go a lot and to the cinema and concerts. Göttingen in those days was a good place culturally.

Tape 3: 24 minutes 7 seconds

RL: Did you ever come across any of the displaced persons that must have been around or had they all dispersed by then?

DB: We came across a lot of people, who said that they had been raped by Russians. A lot of women, who claimed they had been really very badly done by Russians, very often. Displaced persons I don't remember very much. I don't know but there might have been a camp or something near Göttingen. I am not sure. No, I can't really remember that.

RL: And how long were you there?

DB: We were in Germany for four years, from 1952 until 1956, and then we were posted to Iran. Donald went first just to see if he could find a house and I went back to Scotland to stay with the children and then joined him and we were there for just two years.

RL: Where in Iran?

DB: In Tehran.

RL: And how did you find life there?

DB: For me - Donald hated it, absolutely hated it – but I really quite liked it, because it was like being back home, like going back to Turkey, a bit. Of course I couldn't speak, I couldn't speak Persian, but I tried to learn it. And there are a lot of Turkish-speaking people, it's not quite the Turkish spoken in Turkey, but it is what they call Turki, the Turkish spoken by the Turks from Turkmenistan. There were lots of them in Tehran and so I wouldn't have any trouble going to the market. If I could just speak a little of my Turkish, and they would say, 'Oh, you come from Istanbul', you know because it's a different dialect. And I had a maid who spoke Turkish. And I quite liked it but Donald didn't like it at all, just hated it. It was

much too busy. Everyone wanted to learn English and it was like running a factory. It was not very nice for him. We had a very nice villa in the suburbs up in the mountains. The climate was wonderful. We were very high up and out of the town. But he had to go down to the town every day and it was horrible, but where we lived was quite nice. The strange thing was that it was very unsafe for children. There were gypsies and all sorts of people, who were stealing children, so you had to look after the children the whole time. The only safe school to send them to was the German school. The British school was no use and very small and nothing. I think there was an American school too, but the only people who really looked after the children really were the Germans. So our children were in a German school in Tehran because they spoke perfect German and they were sure they brought them back in the bus. It was a hard life for the children. They were really cooped up, they were like in prison. We couldn't let them out at all.

RL: Did you make any friends there?

DB: Yes, lots of friends. We had a lot of Iranian friends, and American friends, and British friends. Big communities, you know, a lot of social life, but not very good for the children really. Our children were used to running around free, wherever they wanted to, and suddenly to be cooped up was hard for them.

Tape 3: 28 minutes 44 seconds

RL: Did you come across any Jews?
DB: Yes, indeed. Very interesting. Our landlord was Jewish, he was a lawyer, and we were very, very friendly with his parents, who were Jewish, but they became Bahá'ís. That was the case with a lot of Jews in Iran. They turned Bahá'ís. I don't know why. The Bahá'í central place was at the time Chicago and Jerusalem, I think. But these people, they were a wonderful couple, older people. So was our landlord, but they had gone to Switzerland, and that is why we were in the house. They didn't like living in Iran anymore. It wasn't easy for them, so they emigrated, but the parents were still there. We also had another couple of friends, British-Jewish people. Originally she was from Vienna. He was a British doctor working for the American-Jewish organization, who did a lot of work there, as it was still a Jewish ghetto in Tehran and they were sanitizing it, the ghetto, laying the water pipes. Must have been one of the worst slums in the world until the Americans came and put piped water into the place. Very interesting what they did. But they were a very primitive Jewish community there in Tehran, very. And the ones who weren't primitive didn't stay, they emigrated.

RL: Did you come across that community?

DB: Yes, through this doctor. It was very interesting.

RL: Was there any anti-Semitism there?

DB: That, again, I wouldn't know, because I wouldn't be involved in that, being mainly with other Europeans just, but there might well have been, I think. Although they were very segregated in that ghetto, the Jews, but obviously not the educated ones, they lived anywhere. But, as I say, I never heard that these people who had become Bahá'ís were in any way persecuted. But, well, maybe, because they were quite different from the usual Iranian people.

Interesting country.

RL: And how long were you there?

DB: Just two years and I mean, we came back during the summer, so it wasn't even two years. There was a big long break in the middle.

RL: When did you come back?

DB: We went in 1956, and we moved again in 1958. And from there we were posted to Italy.

RL: What part?

DB: Milan. We were only there for a year. It was very nice. And again the children went to a German school as it was the best school in the place. There wasn't any British school there. So they had a year. Altogether they were in German school for three years, two in Tehran and one in Milan. And I spent two months of that year in America with my parents and I took my youngest daughter with me, so she went to an American school for a bit.

RL: And you left the other two children?

DB: I left them with my husband and the Italian maid. They were fine. Children who move around like ours are very easy in a way, they are so used to foreigners and strangers. Doesn't bother them. As long as they have got somebody they really know well, like their father or mother, with them, they are alright. We never liked to send them to boarding school until they were bigger.

RL: So how were you received in Italy?

DB: Oh, they were wonderful people, great, lovely. We could have done with staying there longer but it was only a year.

RL: Did you meet any of the Jewish community there?

DB: Not that I am aware of but again with three kids, you know, you don't get much time to meet with anybody beyond the circle of people that you have to meet. And in our job you have to do a lot of official entertaining, you know, which is very different from just friends. A lot of your time is taken up with having dinner parties and going out officially and we didn't have much time. The only friends you really usually make are your colleagues. Occasionally somebody else but not so much. So Italy was fine. We went to Switzerland a lot from there, we were just on the Swiss border, we did a lot of camping with the children. Very nice. Lovely. And then from there, we were posted to Iceland, and that is when the crunch came and we had to send the children to boarding school, as we couldn't inflict the Icelandic language on them. It would have been too hard. The two older ones went to boarding school then. No. What am I talking about? I came home, because I didn't want to send the children to boarding school. So I decided to stay here in Edinburgh. So I stayed here for two years and Donald was in Iceland.

RL: And how often did you used to see each other?

DB: Oh, quite often, I mean two or three times a year anyway, holidays.

RL: So you were on your own?

DB: I was on my own but I wasn't on my own. For one thing, I had the children anyway. And my parents came for a long visit. They stayed with me for several months. My father had to have an operation in Edinburgh. So they were with me and other friends came from Germany and I wasn't alone. And I had my Scottish relatives anyway, a very good sister-in-law and several nieces and nephews. All sorts of people. I wasn't lonely.

RL: And what school did the children go to?

DB: They went to local Edinburgh schools, just the local schools. Keith, my son, after a bit he took his Eleven Plus and then he went to the Dollar Academy, you'll not have heard of it, it's a very Scottish boarding school, not very far from here. We chose that because it was co-educational, so eventually went there as well, and then later on Alison.

RL: So you were only here 2 years and then?

DB: And then I went to Iceland and I took Alison with me and I taught her for a year, which was a disaster, because I am not a teacher and the poor girl didn't learn anything. But she had a nice time and made some nice friends. And we then sent her to the same boarding school as her brother and sister. And I was in Iceland for seven years.

RL: Which part of Iceland?

DB: Reykjavik.

RL: How did you get on there?

DB: Very well.

RL: How did you manage with the language?

DB: Not very well. I did learn a bit but everybody speaks English. But it would be good if you could speak Icelandic. There are older people, who maybe don't, but most speak English. I did learn some Icelandic. I can read the paper enough but not to speak. They are very fussy. You have to pronounce everything absolutely accurately. It is not an easy language. But we had a wonderful time there. They are very kind, nice people.

RL: What kind of social life?

DB: Oh, quite a lot of social life. I wouldn't say it's informal, it's quite formal, but because it is cold so much of the time, they have enormous lighting all the time, and night and day is all one. You can be invited to an Icelandic house at ten o'clock at night and they think that's perfectly normal and they give you an enormous coffee or tea with an enormous cake and you

sit there until two o'clock in the morning. And then the children go to school in the morning at eight. The mother doesn't even get up to see them off, they just manage themselves. And then life begins at 10 o'clock maybe. It is a very easy life, very, very friendly, nice. We made lots of friends.

Tape 3: 39 minutes 40 seconds

RL: Were the friends mainly amongst colleagues?

DB: No, there it was mainly, well yes, Icelandic colleagues. We had of course friends in the embassy. It's a very, very small British community. We knew all of them of course but most of our friends were Icelanders and mainly the people in the house we lived in were just wonderful people, very, very wonderful people. We knew them very well. It was just like we lived in one house together and lived together almost, it was so friendly.

RL: So what years were you there?

DB: I was there from '60 'til '67.

RL: And then?

DB: Then Donald retired. He retired a little early and I knew my time had come to get going and get a job or training or something. Before we came back, I decided to apply to do social work. That is what I did. Donald got a job teaching very quickly and he taught for a long time after that in this country. First in an ordinary school and then in a blind school for many years and I trained as a social worker. I went to what was then Murray House and is now Murray University, a teacher training college, and trained for two years, plus a year of voluntary work. I then trained for two years and I took what was the last qualification to be given out from the Home Office. It was called Certificate in Childcare, I think, but it was the last one and after that they became generic social workers. I got a job right away in those days. As a social worker, you can still get a job straight away. I got a job with Midlothian, what was then Midlothian County Council and worked for them for two years. After that, I got a job with an adoption agency, called Family Care, and I worked for them for ten years, I think.

RL: Was this all in Edinburgh?

DB: All in Edinburgh. Well, the Midlothian job was outside, as a social worker. I retired in 1984.

RL: Since you have been in Edinburgh, have you joined any groups or societies?

DB: As soon as I retired, I started the OU and took a degree in arts. I also joined something called Crime Victim Support and I am still doing that. I have been a volunteer longer than I have worked. Other than that, I joined the odd group, history society, nothing significant. My main interest is in victim support and now the University of the Third Age. I am laughing because I am nearly the fourth age, but anyway. I am quite involved with them. I go to Spanish classes and take a German conversation class and I go to a Shakespeare reading, so that keeps me quite busy enough.

Tape 3: 44 minutes 25 seconds

RL: Have you been involved in any refugee organisation?

DB: For the last year or so with the AJR group formed in Scotland. Not before really. I got involved because my father had joined the AJR as soon as he came to Britain, when he came from America, and when he died I felt it only right that I keep up his subscription and I have just been doing that ever since. My aunt, his sister, eventually lived for a while in one of their homes in London, in Bishops Avenue. And I have just kept the subscription up and, when they started here in Scotland, they just got in touch with me and 'Did I want to join their group? And I did.

RL: So did your parents come to live in this country?

DB: My mother never did, just my father. My mother died in '63 in America and my father moved to Britain. He died in 1973, so he must have moved here about 1969 or 1970. He latterly lived in Washington, in America, and came to live with my aunt in Finchley Road. I suppose he must have joined the AJR when he came to Britain because I don't think it existed in America. Although he always did have some sort of Jewish paper, maybe a German-Jewish paper he was reading.

RL: What is this group that has been started up here?

DB: It's very loose. Always the same people. There are so few of us in Edinburgh. There are only about twelve or fifteen of us who come. There could be more but they don't come. But it's not a big Jewish community in Edinburgh, I don't think. We have quite a hard time to find something to interest everybody because some of us are pretty much - not young anymore- difficult. We have had musical evening, poetry one night. I don't know. I am just wondering what to do as next time is my turn. I will have to think of something. We meet only about every two or three months, not very often. Usually about twelve. They don't all come. If they all come, there may be about twenty. It is interesting as second generation people come. I admire them, because it must be a bit of a bore coming to listen to us old fogies, but two or three of them come. My daughter came once, the one who lives in Wales, only because she happened to be here at the time. She found it very interesting.

RL: How interested have your children been in your background?

DB: Quite interested because they have lived with it. We are a very close family although we are spread all over the world. Most are in America or England and not in far-flung countries but we all, there are not so many of us left, the few who are left, we do know of each other, and my children have met all their American relations and have visited them. We are all very mixed. My brother is married to a Christian lady and very few of us are purely Jewish. But we do keep together and the children are interested. This grandson, who lives in Edinburgh, I have only just got the one grandson in Edinburgh; he was talking about it earlier. His father is German, half Jewish; his mother was Jewish, so he said that is alright, as the child is Jewish if his mother was Jewish. So these things are quite interesting.

RL: Just tell me about your children and who they married and what they did after?

DB: Only one is married is the girl, the one you saw the picture of. She is a barrister now, has just become a barrister, she is just joining the chambers, so she is really working now. That's my oldest granddaughter. And then there are her twin brothers. The one who is here, Matthew, and he has got a job, don't ask me to describe it, it is a very modern job, doing project reports for a firm. I am not sure. He has a very nice partner, who works for the British Council, funnily enough. And then his brother lives in Amsterdam and he's got a Chinese girlfriend. He is an economist and works in one of the universities in Amsterdam. She is a banker. That's that family. My older daughter has got the three children. Her oldest daughter, Anna, is a history graduate, but finds it very hard to get jobs. She works abroad and lives in Spain, Barcelona. She is very, very bright. She will be alright someday, I hope. And her sister is a fitness trainer, she is a very sporty girl, and she works as a fitness trainer for a rugby team, Saracens. And their brother is studying poetry, which amuses Donald, who doesn't know how you can study to be a poet, but he is trying very hard. He is at Norwich, at the university. And then, my youngest ones, there's Hughy, he doesn't know what to do with himself, and he works in a shoe shop near here. And his sister is still at school but she is very focused. She has already got a job in a shop at weekends and she'll be alright. She is a bright girl. He is bright too but he just doesn't know what he wants to do with himself. And the youngest is this girl, she is still at school, Aly, but she is finishing now.

RL: Is that your youngest son's children?

DB: Yes. I haven't got any great grandchildren, luckily, yet.

Tape 3: 52 minutes 0 second

RL: So what did you children-?

DB: Oh, my children? My daughter the oldest, she is an art historian, and she teaches in Swansea, it's really like an art college, a technology college, but it is part of the University of Wales now. My son is a marine biologist and works for an organization called ICIS, International Council for the Exploration of the Seas, which is situated in Copenhagen, so he lives in Denmark, and travels a lot, travels all over the world arranging meetings and seminars. He got that from Iceland, that impressed him so much there, the fish science, so he became a marine biologist. Quite interesting, he has been very, very focused on that. The youngest one, she qualified as a textile designer. She had a job before the children were born but hasn't been able to really get work as that anymore. So she works at the school assistant, not a teacher, but an assistant teacher. She likes it a lot. In a primary school in Melrose, near Edinburgh.

RL: And who did they marry?

DB: , the oldest, married somebody she met at university, who is an historian, Hugh. Not Jewish, very English. Very, very nice man. And he teaches at Swansea University and has done forever. And Keith has married, I should say Patricia, I like Patsy, she used to be called Patsy, but she doesn't like being called Patsy any more. She is the one who has got German father, a German, half-Jewish father, and an English mother. She is a zoologist by profession

but she works at all sorts of interesting things. She works for the Danish Foreign Office and the Red Cross. She is a great trainer, and devises courses for people, and counselling. She is an interesting person, very interesting, very hard-working. She learnt very good Danish, they've been living there for quite a while and she speaks perfect Danish.

RL: What part of Denmark?

DB: Copenhagen. And then the youngest, her husband is a Scot from Glasgow, very much the same area as Donald really. Des is his name. And he is a textile technologist, who works at the textile college in Galashiels, which is part of Herriot Watt University. But has semi-retired now. My brother is a physicist but I did say that. I think that raps it up

RL: Do you think your experiences have affected you in any way, having to leave Germany and go at a young age?

DB: Oh, I should think so, how could they help doing that? I think everybody's experiences affect people; don't think you can help that. You would have to be shut off or something. I am sure they affected me, for good or bad, not necessarily all good, I'm sure.

RL: Anything you can put your finger on?

DB: No. Sometimes I suppose-. You know that book that I was telling you about, that the Berlin historians published, you know what its name is? 'Heimatlos.' But spelt the Turkish way because it's all about Turkey. But I think I very often feel that. I haven't got a home. I am 'heimatlos', much more so, I think, than those people who have come here as children. Because, although I was very young, I wasn't a child.

RL: So, in terms of nationality, what would you describe yourself as?

DB: I don't know. What would I say? I wouldn't say I was stateless, as I know I am British, Scottish. Hard to tell.

RL: Who do you identify with?

DB: I think British people. I think so. Definitely not Germans even though culturally I am interested in German and read German books and I can write German quite well. But I wouldn't say I was German. It's too long ago.

RL: And what do you feel towards Israel?

DB: Anger, very much anger, I think. I could see Sharon far enough. I just think, honestly, I don't like that man. I can still remember when he was a terrorist, you know? Makes me very angry.

RL: Have you ever visited?

DB: Never. That is not because I haven't wanted to. We couldn't go there when we were in Turkey and since then I have not had any opportunity. But I feel very bad about Israel.

Tape 3: 59 minutes 0 second

End of Tape 3

TAPE 4
Tape 4: 0 minute 36 seconds

RL: We were just talking about identity and who you identify with and really who you feel most at home with?

DB: Definitely people here. Oh yes, definitely.

RL: Is there anything that you miss from your childhood and upbringing?

DB: That is quite difficult to say, as I am so old now. There must be things I do miss. I often think about things we had in our childhood. I have a very good relationship with my brother, even though he is in America. And we speak every week. Email is a great thing, so we keep in very close touch, and he reminds me of things and I remind him of things. I also have this very close cousin in London, whom I speak to frequently, and then I have another, a very close friend in Germany, with whom I am in touch. She is like a younger sister to me, who was very friendly with me in Turkey. We didn't meet in Germany. I have quite a kind of network of people I am very close to and speak to freely. On the whole, I was accepted here, but I still feel I am not one of them. As soon as I open my mouth, they ask where I come from because I have an accent. Then you say, 'It is difficult to say', and you say, 'Originally Germany', and they say that they thought so, and that is the end of the conversation. They may say that they have a friend in Germany but that doesn't mean anything to me. Strangely enough, I was very well accepted by Donald's family, and I often thought how very hard that must have been for them. For him to bring a German-speaking woman, to whom he is getting married, couldn't have been easy for them. They were very, very good. His father I couldn't understand anyway and then he became ill and died quite soon after. But now I get on very well with all his family.

RL: The Jewish side of things, what does that mean to you nowadays?

DB: Well, I find that quite hard sometimes now because we have nothing to be proud of anymore. I really feel quite upset about what is going on in Israel. I know one shouldn't just say, well, there are far more Jewish people outside Israel than there are in Israel. It is hard, I think. And I often wonder, 'Where is it going to end?' You know, I feel I am Jewish, sure, there is no doubt about that. My family all know it.

Tape 4: 4 minutes 42 seconds

RL: Do your children have any kind of Jewish identity?

DB: Well, I think maybe Kirsty the most, the oldest, more than-. Yes, I think so. I don't know. I'd have to ask them really. Funnily enough, these grandchildren seem to be more interested in it, but that is maybe because they are Jewish on both sides, you see? That's only

the one family, my son's. Alison, the youngest, she has often said that she sticks out, that people say to her, 'Where do you come from?', you know? They think she talks different to normal Scottish people, which seems amazing to me because she has hardly lived anywhere else very much. But I don't know whether it is Jewish or just foreign-ness. I don't know. I would really have to ask them. I couldn't answer for them.

RL: Is there anything else you would like to mention?

DB: No. I would just like to thank you very much. I think you have been wonderfully patient and amazingly friendly and I have really enjoyed talking to you. Thank you.

RL: Thank you very much.

Tape 4: 6 minutes 29 seconds

END OF INTERVIEW

Photos

1. My grandfather, Eugene, who was born in München, in Munich, in 1845, with his sister, Amalia, two years younger. And the picture was painted when they were about 6 and 8 years old.

2. This is my mother and my father, Lily and Siegfried Märzbacher. My mother was born Wilmersdörfer. And the picture was taken in Göttingen in about 1954.

3. This is a picture of my brother and me, Eugene and Dorothea Märzbacher. It was taken in Berlin in, I think, 1928.

4. This is me, fourth from the right, at the front. In Oranienburg with a lot of children from the local area, my playmates. It would be taken in 1930, I think.

5. My primary school and my secondary school in Oranienburg. The one on the left is my primary. It was built in the Dutch style because Oranienburg has a great deal Dutch influence. And the one on the right is much more modern. It was a Realgymnasium in Oranienburg. The photos were taken in 1995, I think.

6. My Turkish marriage certificate. We got married on 9th May 1945 in Ankara. It's a civil marriage certificate.

7. My brother, Eugene, and I, in Chapel Hill, USA, in 2001.

8. A photo taken of Keith, my son, and his family in 1985, I think. From the right, there's Patsy, then it's Matthew, Luke, Keith and Ruth. Taken in Beccles, Suffolk, England, where they used to live.

9. My eldest daughter, , in Swansea, in 2002

10. The two girls are Anna and Leah's daughters, and it was taken a long time ago, in the early '80s, I think, or the late '70s. And below is Hugh, on the left, Alison's son, about 1997 maybe or 8, and Joe,'s son. The bottom one was taken in Edinburgh and the top one was taken in Swansea

11. In the year 2000, at Ruth's wedding in Norfolk. From left to right, there is Aly, Alison, Matthew, Eugene, Mary, Hugh and Des.