

Continue, Mr. Nachtigall.

I had asked Mae Salmond if she would write down her memories of the time that I arrived, what was going on in her mind and her family's mind, and she wrote this rather lengthy letter.

And I'd like to just read a few paragraphs that I think is clearly her viewpoint, her expression of what happened at that time. I think you'll be able to put it all together in the light of what I had told you of the events leading up to my being there. It started out to a week and then a extended period.

"When the matron explained that you were only eight years old, taken away from your family and had no one apart from your sister, but they didn't know where she was, both dad and mom said, bring the little boy to us. We will look after him.

"The following day, you came to the Salmond home. You were a frightened, sad little boy. We didn't have a lot of money, but we had a good comfortable happy home with good food and well-clothed. But above all, we were brought up with love, lots of love.

"Dad and mom explained to Bill and me how you were far from your mom and dad and we were to look after you while you were here for a holiday. At the end of your week when you due do to go back to Edinburgh, you asked if you could stay another week.

"Mom phoned the doctor and his wife and asked. They said, yes, it would be all right. At the end of your second week when, again, it was time to go, you asked, please, can I just stay one more week then I will go? Mom phoned Edinburgh. Yes, it was all right.

"Bill and I thought this was great. We had a little brother. He was special because he had come a long way to stay with us. Dad and mom had such a lot of love to give and more for three of us. They told us how lucky we were, we had so much, and we were to love Walter.

"Mom took you to school. Miss. [? Duncan, ?] your teacher, was very good with you and so kind to you. The kids all thought you were great.

"You kept following dad around saying he was marvelous. Mom said, why is Jimmy so marvelous? You said because he's so big. He could fight Hitler. My Papa was small and couldn't fight him.

"At night, we would sit around the fire talking and playing games. Sometimes you would say, Isa, I'm just going to have a cry. I'm thinking about my mama and Papa. But don't you cry. You Can't help it. So there we were all sitting together crying.

"Sometimes Lord Haw-Haw--

He was a German propagandist.

"--would speak on the radio with German propaganda. You would translate in English and say, Jimmy, he said the Germans are coming over here. You would sit on dad's knee. And he told you, no, they will never get here.

"Dysart being such a small, close-knit village, everybody knew each other. They all took you to their hearts. You sure were a celebrity.

"At Christmas, most kids hang up a stocking for Santa to fill. But Bill and I being spoiled, we hung up a pillowcase, and of course, showed you what to do. I can still see the look on your face on Christmas morning, you not knowing anything about Christmas. I think all of Dysart gave you a present.

"One Sunday, you were out playing and came in crying. Dad and mom wondered what was wrong. You said to Jimmy, who told Hitler that I was here? He has come for me. Dad held you and told you that Hitler wasn't here and would never come and take you away from him.

"You took him outside to show him the little red van like the one which took your dad away. But it was our male van collecting the mail at the post office. We had read in the papers and heard on the radio about Hitler and what he has done to the Jewish people. But I guess because Germany was so far away, we didn't know any of the people. It didn't get home to us.

"But after you came to stay with us, here was an eight-year-old so involved with all that horrific brutality. We paid more attention to the happenings. Dad and mom thought you had suffered more than enough in your young life. So they were going to do their best to give you love and security till you met up with your parents.

"I remember mom saying those poor Jewish families. They are all God's people. She could never understand how it could happen. Dysart's people then realized the sufferings and the tragedy which was put upon the Jewish people.

"And. I would say, yes, emotions were high because you were Jewish. And the feelings were very strong for your parents. The torture they went through plus having their children taken from them, not knowing where they were going, what kind of people they would be staying with, and would they ever see you all again, it must have been traumatic, the end of the world.

"In many ways, it was a sad time. But we all had happy times too. Dad and mom loved you as their own. Bill and I loved you as a brother. The love you had for the Salmond's was the richest payment.

"Not only are you a part of the Salmond family, but part of Dysart. People still ask for you and your family. You came as a small Jewish boy to a small village of Dysart and made us all aware of the sad plight of the Jewish people."

The love that I have for this family knows no bounds. Nothing ever-- There's nothing that I could ever do or say that comes even close to what they did for me.

Mr. Nachtigall, I want to thank you for being here today and sharing your story with us. Thank you very much. I'm sorry for--

No I don't know if they heard us.