

## **RG-50.002.0118**

### **Summary**

Lucie Jacobson (née Pressburg), born in 1925 in Vienna, Austria, describes being the only child in a Jewish family; her parents' interests in Zionism, sports, and education; growing up and going to school in Favoriten, the 10th district of Vienna; her family's apartment above a hardware store owned by two of her uncles; her extended family; her father's work as an architect; attending the same all-girls school as her cousin; the antisemitic atmosphere in Vienna; mandatory religious studies in school; competing in sports and belonging to a sports club; a visit to the school by the Archbishop of Vienna; experiencing increased antisemitism at school around the age of twelve; fighting a girl in her class after the girl called her a "Jewish pig;" traveling to Breslau, Germany (now Wrocław, Poland) to compete with her swimteam and seeing Nazi flags everywhere; her coach's comments to parents upon the team's return indicating that conditions for Jews living under Hitler's regime were not so bad; a 1936 visit from family friends now living in Brazil and their offer for her family to come live with them; her father's refusal to leave Vienna; the Anschluss in March 1938; how all but two of her teachers wore pins with swastikas after the Anschluss; the closure of schools, swimming pools, and parks to Jewish residents of Vienna; the arrest of her father and uncle in May 1938 and their time in Dachau; the annexation of the Sudetenland; the difficulty of obtaining permits to leave Austria; her aunt's job at a bank and this aunt's discovery that illegal transports of Jews to Palestine were taking place; this aunt's husband's escape to Palestine via this means; another aunt and uncle who escaped to Shanghai; the efforts of friends and relatives to leave Austria; how she and her mother were kicked out of their apartment and moved in with an aunt; moving to the apartment of a family friend in order to wait on potential visas to Brazil; Kristallnacht in November 1938; learning that her father had been moved to Buchenwald; her mother's efforts to find a way for them to leave Austria; her mother arranging for her to be part of a Kindertransport to England in January 1939; arriving in England and staying with the rest of the children from the Kindertransport until various Jewish families arrived to take them in; a memory of her mother being forced to clean the street; an uncle who was a soldier in World War I; the ways she and her friends kept up their spirits in Vienna; her mother's journey to Gestapo offices in Berlin to ask for her husband's release so that they could use their visas to Palestine; her mother's success in getting her husband as well as his two brothers released; receiving a phone call in England from her parents to tell her the news of her father's release; her parents' travels to Switzerland and then Palestine in March 1939; staying with a kind family in London that had five children; learning English; two family friends who ran a home for Jewish refugee children in Newcastle upon Tyne and moving there; obtaining a visa to Palestine through Jewish refugee organization; traveling to London, Paris, and Marseille before boarding a ship to Palestine; arriving in Haifa; reuniting with her parents; moving to the Degania Alef kibbutz and becoming a member of the Youth Aliyah; having to learn Hebrew; the many German and Czechoslovakian children who were in the group; working in the mornings and attending school in the afternoons; how she came to view her life in Austria as a bad dream; meeting Henrietta Szold and David Ben-Gurion with Youth Aliyah; learning bits and pieces of news about what was happening in Europe; spending time on her own in Tel Aviv before moving back in with her parents in Haifa; a friend who was in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force

and introduced her to her future husband, a Jewish soldier in the British Army; moving to England to marry her husband in February 1946; living in England for sixteen years until she was widowed; her daughter's birth in England; immigrating to the United States in 1962 after her husband's death; her parents' immigration to the United States in 1953; meeting her second husband and having a son; her two grandchildren; settling in Irvington, New Jersey upon arriving in the United States; not considering herself a survivor; the importance of Judaism to her; the importance of remembering that bystanders played a significant role in the Holocaust; immigration quotas in the time leading up to the Holocaust and World War II; and a friend who was taken in and saved by a Swedish family.