

**Lore Schwarz interview (on April 22, 2019):**  
**Translated by Sharon Deane on July 23, 2019**

- Lore was born on November 18, 1934 in Sprendlingen, Germany (close to Frankfurt am Main in Hessen)
- Before the war, Sprendlingen was a small city. Frankfurt was a big city
- Her birth name was “Lore Antess”
- Lore has a brother, Guenther Anthes, five years older than her. He is still alive and will be 90 years old this year
- Lore’s parents:  
Georg(e) Anthes: Born December 23, 1902  
Elizabeth Anthes (Schmidt): Born October 26 1904  
Both were born in Sprendlingen
- Lore’s father had one brother and one sister.
- Lore’s mother had two sisters and one brother.
- Grandparents (George and Eliza or Liza?) and Great Grandfather also lived with them in the same house.
- Only one of her father’s brothers lived in Stuttgart. He was a banker and learned the profession in Sprendlingen. He helped establish the bank in Stuttgart.
- All other brothers and sisters (or uncles and aunts) lived in Sprendlingen
- Lore did research on her father’s family tree and it dates back to 1542.
- Lore did research on her husband’s family tree and it dates back to 1742.
- Her grandfather worked in Frankfurt making things out of silver such as coffee cans and other tableware.
- In 1900, her grandfather was dismissed/laid off from his job.
- 1906/1907, her grandfather became independent and worked for a management firm that oversaw electricity, lighting, water, etc.
- 1907: Her grandfather got married and had two children
- Her grandfather was a strong, social democrat, as was most of her family.
- Sprendlingen was primarily social democratic and communistic.
- Family religion: Evangelical.
- Lore’s grandfather was friends with Catholics and evangelicals. He was good friends with the Catholic priest and the evangelical father. Catholics were politically- focused.
- Everyone in the city knew who her grandfather was. Grandfather founded/established the social democratic party in 1945 because it was not permitted during the war.
- Lore provides an example: After the war, American officers came to her grandfather as the spokesperson for the city. He helped to shape the city. Her grandfather knew who was a Nazi and who was not a Nazi. He was asked about this topic often.
- The house they lived in belonged to her great grandfather. He also founded the store that was located in the bottom of their house. The business was handed down from her

great grandfather to her father to her brother, Guenther, and currently her nephew. (4 generations).

- The oldest son, Lore's father, carried on the job business and then handed it down to his oldest son, etc.
- Lore's father served in the war starting in 1942; it was required. First, he was in prison in western France, second in Holland/Netherlands, and then in England. He was in prison for two years, 1945-1947. He did come back home, but Lore says her and her family did not know anything about her father being in prison at first.
- Her family received a preprinted card in the mail from the English, and her father marked it with a cross, and that's how they knew it was from him.
- When her father came back home, he said many German prisoners did not send the card because it was stamped with the official name of the unified armed forces of Nazi Germany.
- Her father was fortunate because he was one of the first to be released from prison. They were divided into groups A, B and C. Because of his last name, he was one of the first.
- Lore's grandmother (maternal side) died when her mother was nine years old.
- When WWI came, Lore's grandfather (maternal side) was called to serve. He went to war on August 1 (no year given) and by November he died (KIA). The same grandfather married after his first wife died (Lore's first grandmother on her maternal side). He had four children with his first wife. His second wife had two children. Her grandfather wanted to adopt the two children, but it never happened because he died in the war. His second wife (no name given) received pension for the four children, but not the other two children. She left the four children in Sprendlingen, and then she went with the other two children to live with her parents in Frankfurt. They owned a farming business.
- All of the children were divided among relatives and friends. Lore's mother was one of those children, so she did not have a pleasant upbringing.
- Her father was a Master Craftsman, a "Handwerksmeister." He was also a social democrat like his father.
- For example, during the war, it cost 20 pfennige to buy special stickers that their family wore to distinguish them as social democrats. It simply said "Ja" or "Yes" on the sticker. Her grandfather told the sales lady that he would pay 20 Marks for a sticker that said "Nein" or "No" on the sticker instead. This was her grandfather's way to say he did not agree with wearing a sticker or the war.
- There were others that did not agree with what was going on. They would meet in certain locations to talk about it. They were being watched and listened to, but no one was put in prison. Their community was so small and close with personal family ties.
- Lore describes both her father and grandfather as strong individuals.

- Lore was her grandfather's favorite. He spoke to her about things, and spent more time with her than her brother, Guenther. She listened because she was interested. Not just stories, but real stories and daily experiences.
- Her grandmother (paternal side) was a housewife. She died later than her grandfather did.
- Her brother still in the house in Sprendlingen today. It is the same address as during the war, "15 Frankfurter Strasse."
- Her son still lives in Sprendlingen. He lives on Hauptstrasse (the main street) and it used to be called Adolph Hitler Strasse during the war. It is called Liebknich Strasse today.
- Lore was with neighbor children (3 years older than her) in the community when they saw the synagogue burning in Sprendlingen on Kristallnacht, November 1938. She was almost four years old.
- Lore played with Christian children, and Jewish children that lived around the corner from her house – 300 meters. She played with the Bentheim Family children.
- Jewish families came into their house. They were in contact with the one son and one daughter of the Bentheims. The daughter was the same age as Lore's brother.
- Many Jewish neighbors came to Lore's house after Kristallnacht to tell her grandfather and family that Jews they knew were taken to Buchenwald, and Mr. Bentheim was in Buchenwald too. Mr. Bentheim reportedly screamed every night because he could not take the conditions or treatment, and he was killed in front of everyone in Buchenwald. A lot of neighbors were taken to Buchenwald.
- Mrs. Bentheim said she received a message that her husband died alone, a lie.
- Mrs. Bentheim and Lore's mother were good friends.
- Lore said the Bentheims were well placed and owned their own laundry business.
- Lore said, by 1939, no more Jewish business existed in Sprendlingen.
- The Bentheim Family wanted to immigrate to the US. Mrs. Bentheim lost the laundry business and obtained visas, but her husband did not come back alive from Buchenwald. She had no money and could not sell much of anything. Mrs. Bentheim divided up what she had and sold off things. She used to have a beautiful violin on the table. Lore went to visit her one summer day in 1940/41 and asked about the missing violin and Mrs. Bentheim said she wanted to sell it. It originally belonged to her son. A "Sprendlinger" bought it.
- Lore said she had a feeling what had happened was not right. It never felt right to her.
- Another neighbor-friend, the grandmother from David Hess, always came to Lore's house. She sold buttons, needles, and small items. She came every four weeks with her suitcase full of things. She would put her suitcase on the kitchen table and her mother and grandmother would look and buy things from her. Lore looked on and found it all so interesting. Everything was so pretty to her. She remembers her – in her memory.
- Lore visited their house very little. Mrs. Hess came more often to Lore's house than her or her family ever went there. Lore said she was a simple, good, and loving lady.

- Approximately 40,000 live in Sprendlingen today. Back then, during the war, 7,000-8,000 total lived in the community. It was small and everyone knew each other.
- Lots of Nazis were there starting from 1933. Plans to build “social housing” was already discussed in the 1920s, but when they were built the Nazis took them over.
- Lore’s parent-in-laws wanted to buy a house there. But her father-in-law’s grandmother was Jewish so they decided not to buy one because they were afraid that it would get out that they were Jewish. Her father-in-law’s grandfather was a mailman and died of natural causes. Everyone knew he was Jewish, but he was baptized and attended the evangelical church for 14 years before he died. Back then, that did not happen.
- Lore said several members of their community were Nazis, such as Herr Ott, Herr Fogler, and many others. After the war, Herr Fogler went to prison but did not stay long (approximately 3 years)/ She can’t remember exactly what happened to Herr Ott, but he did go to prison too. They both helped with the burning of the synagogue in Sprendlingen.
- There was a baker in town (nameless) with wonderful baked bread in his store. He acted like a good person. She had no idea at the time what he did. The truth came out later (around 1947), and he lived as nothing out of the ordinary happened. Hard to believe this “normal guy” was a Nazi.
- Lore remembers a time that she went into a store to buy “colored pens” after a friend of hers. Lore said “Good day” in German instead of “Heil Hitler” so the saleswoman did not sell her any pens like her friend bought just minutes before. [An example of how people treated others during the war]. Lore said she saw that woman after the war, and that same woman acted as if nothing happened.
- September 1, 1939: Beginning of the war, her father came to her bedroom in the morning and told her while she was in bed (almost 5 years old at the time).
- Lore said they were allowed to buy things such as food, One time her mother bought food items, and her mother said it was not enough, and remarked “that it will be a long war and it will not go by fast.”
- The Bentheims had to get out of their house in 1941. All of the Sprendlingen Jews had to live in two specific houses in Sprendlingen. One of the houses, a small one, belonged to David Hess’s grandmother; 5-6 Jews lived there. The larger house had 10-11 Jews that lived there.
- Some Jews went to the US, Brazil or Israel.
- 72-year-old Jewish lady had to move out of her big house to a small house. The Bentheims had to move from their house to one of the two houses for Jews only. Lore never went inside the two houses.
- During one night, Lore’s mother brought in a big trunk/suitcase from Regina Hess and hid it under her bed. Her and her brother were not allowed to tell anyone about the trunk or say who it belonged to. Not everyone had such a suitcase and it was clearly used for traveling overseas. The Bentheims wanted to emigrate but they did not end up

doing so. It was a big secret for two young children to keep. If the Nazis came and looked, they would know the suitcase belonged to a Jew.

- During the war, there were 2 groups for the youth and mandatory participation:
  1. Hitler Jugend (for boys) Her brother participated because it was required.
  2. Jugend Madels or Bund Deustcher Madel (for girls) Lore called it the former. They met in the former Bentheim house and store.
- The war ended before she was required to attend, usually at 10 years of age for both groups.
- Lore described the Hess house as follows:
  1. Blue window shutters
  2. Big roof tiles
  3. A pretty house
- David Hess' great grandfather built and sold property and his great grandmother ran a small store inside the house (no storefront). People would come and buy things located in a cabinet in the living room of their house.
- The Bentheims had an actual store. It was pretty with overhead lights and decorative.
- The Hess grandparents lived in the two house with the 72-year-old woman, and a 76-year-old woman named Lina Morgenstern. They all ended up at Theresienstadt.
- September 17, 1942: Lore saw them get picked up when she was riding her bike down the main street of Spremlingen. The truck came to get them. She saw the family of Regina Hess get into the vehicle, along with 13-year-old Edith Bentheim and her 18-year-old brother (nameless). They had a stepping stool for the people to use to get into the truck. She went to her house right away and told her grandfather that "the Nazis are taking the Jews away." He told her there was nothing he/they can do to help them. She knew it was not right. He had always helped before, but he said this time was different, and it was bad. She said they did not know anything, or where they were being taken. "It was so bad."
- A postcard came to Lore and her family from Regina Hess out of Theresienstadt. She thanked them for the package they sent and for the cake too. She said it tasted good. She also asked how the children are doing in school, and if they are still hard-working.
- Regina Hess also said in that same card that her husband dies in November 1942, but the card came on April 7, 1944 – 2 years later. The main part of the postcard was written in a different script, than the signature on the bottom. "Regina Hess" was written in Sudliche Deutsch (southern German, an old script). No package was ever sent to Regina; they did not even know where to send a package if they did. It was a lie. The postcard was addressed to Lore's father, along with the 15 Frankfurter Strasse address. Her father was serving in the war at the time.
- Lore's grandfather said, "If we answer, they will come get me." He wanted to put the postcard in a safe place and hold onto it until Regina came back, but she never came back.

- The last of the Jews in Sprendlingen were picked up on September 17, 1942. No more Jews in the community after that.
- 1940/1941: While Lore's father was working on a new building. Lore and her brother brought lunch to her father and to a Jewish man-friend. But they had to give it to them fast, so no one would see them. The Jewish man wore a Star of David on his arm and segregated himself from others on his own, He did not know how the other workers would react, so he did it willingly.
- Since 1940, there was a prison in Sprendlingen. It was called Franzosen. At the end of the war, the Polish slaughtered chickens there and made a mess of the entire area.
- None of their Jewish neighbors came back. They all perished. Nobody would talk about it in Sprendlingen. Her grandfather eventually helped other Jews that came to the area to help them get resettled. He would speak up for them and speak against those that were bad.
- During the war, there were other families that stood up for the Jewish families in their community, such as the Dreieischers (a region/area is named after the family).
- After the war, Lore's mother had a Jewish friend, Mrs. Finkelstein, that would come visit every year from America. Her father was a teacher in Sprendlingen, but her parents both died.
- Lore's mother still had the pretty suitcase/trunk from the Bentheims. Her mother had an address for a sister related to the Bentheims living in the US. She contacted the sister about the suitcase, and the sister arranged for a Frau Wolf to pick it up from Lore's mother.
- The sister told Lore's mother that she could pick out some stuff from the suitcase because she had held onto it for all of those years. Her mother took a purse, and three monogrammed handkerchiefs. Lore still has them today. She no longer uses them, and they are in very good condition. Lore thinks of the Bentheims often.
- Lore gave the special purse to a museum in Putzbach. Turns out the Putzbach museum curator is the grandson of Frau Wolf who picked up the suitcase. Lore emphasized all of the interesting connections.
- Lore's mother helped with a book about the Sprendlingen Jews that was published.
- Lore said that after the war, it took a while to get back to daily living...to buy, to sell, to have some personal things. They did not have a garden or much food like before the war. In 1948, they had money again. They received 40 marks per person from the government.
- The Strauss Family is on the mother's side of the Hess Family. The Strauss' got in contact with Lore. The woman lived in Leeds, England.
- Lore described the box and the postcard as follows:
  1. It is a small box made of wood that Lore's grandfather made with her initials, "LA," to hold the postcard that was written by Regina Hess from the concentration camp. It was dated April 7, 1944. Her grandfather made the drawer so it could not be easily found by

the Nazis or fall into their hands. It was made so the drawer was well-hidden and not easily detected from the front. Her grandfather made it so he could keep it safe until Regina returned, and ask her if she knew what she signed. The box was made to hide/disguise the postcard. Lore emphasizes that the Regina's signature was a completely different script than the main body of the written text. On the front, the postcard is addressed to Lore's father, George Anthes and with the name and address of their house and father's business.

- On the front of the postcard is a stamped note that says, "Ruckantwort nur auf Postkarten in deutscher Sprache", or "Answer back only with a postcard in the German language." In other words, no letter permitted and no contact with Jews permitted. It was not allowed.

**Additional information about artifacts mentioned during interview:**

- The small wooden box (it is not a jewelry box) belonged to Lore Anthes (Schwarz). It has her initials on it. The box was made by Lore's grandfather, and for the purpose to hide the postcard written by Regina Hess (a former Jewish neighbor-friend) taken to Thereisenstadt. It was received by the Anthes family, and addressed to her father "Georg Anthes" on April 22, 1944. Her father was required to serve in the armed forces, and he was away at war during this time. The content of the postcard was suspicious, and Lore's grandfather said that if he answered the Nazi's would come take him away too. Contact with Jews was not permitted.
- The postcard was written by Regina Hess from the concentration camp. Her grandfather made the box with the hidden drawer to the side so it could not be easily found by the Nazi's that stopped the house off and on or fall into their hands. The box was made so the drawer was well hidden and not easily detected from the front of the box. Her grandfather made it so they/he/she could keep the postcard for safekeeping until she came back. They wanted to ask her if she knew or if she wrote the postcard because the main note was written in one script and Regina's signature in another script. The box was made to disguise the postcard and to keep it safely hidden so they could show it to Regina when she returned. But she never came back.
- It was the Anthes' idea to make the box and keep the postcard. It was not a matter of entrusting.
- Mrs. Bentheim was good friends with Mrs. Anthes, and she was entrusted with a large trunk/suitcase filled with precious valuables. It was hidden in Lore's room during the war. Inside were different belongings such as a purse and (3) monogrammed handkerchiefs that she still has to this day. The belongings were eventually picked up by a friend of a sister who was related to the Bentheim's and lived in Leeds, England. The Hess Family and Bentheim family were Jewish and good friends of the Anthes'. None of them survived. The name "Julius" was never mentioned during the interview, but it must be Mr. Bentheim because Lore spoke about him. She just never said the name, simply called him "Herr Bentheim" several times during the course of the interview.