

**Time-coded notes for Interview with Paula Birnbaum
December 6, 1986**

1:03 Paula was born in Vienna in 1915. Her parents met in Vienna before the 1st World War. Her Father was a furrier and had his own business.

2:13 She was somewhat aware of antisemitic feelings, although they had many nice and friendly non-Jewish neighbors, and many of her father's customers were friendly and not Jewish.

3:03 People fled Germany and went to Austria when Hitler came into power. Her father frequently brought people home who had fled.

3:57 Paula's father was a Zionist, but never thought of leaving Austria until 1938.

4:32 When the Nazis marched into Austria the people gave them a fine greeting, cheering and waving.

5:05 The mizrachi organization made arrangements for her two younger brothers to go to Israel...

5:10 The maid that worked for them left because she was not allowed to work for Jews. People who had been their friends were afraid keep on being friendly.

6:25 When the Brown Shirts came into Vienna they walked through the streets stopped people and made them wash streets. They caught Paula in the street and took her to a soldier's barracks where they made her wash windows. She saw other people she knew also washing windows.

7:34 People were very frightened. One family she knew all committed suicide. Businesses were sealed shut and her father's store was closed.

8:00 She was married in 1937 living with her husband in her father-in-laws's home. After Kristallnacht her husband and father-in-law were taken away. She went to the Police to find out what happened to them, but couldn't get into the street. It was crowded and people were being beaten and blood was in the street. She was hit in the head and ran away and hid in an old age home for a few hours but the people there were afraid to have her stay. She went to a friend's house across from her parents. The Gestapo came there, took her friend's sister to another room for a while. When the two Gestapo men came out she asked them if they would take her across the square because people were being beaten outside. They took her across and she went into her parents' home. Her husband came home the next day but she doesn't remember the circumstances.

14:50 They bribed people to smuggle them across to Belgium and from there to France early in 1941. The men were interned in a camp in the south of France.

15:40 She went to Paris, Bordeaux and Marseilles. Her husband came to Marseilles after being freed.

16:44 They got affidavits from the U.S. and got visas. Went to Spain and then 9/21/41 came to the U.S.

17:44 Her mother was hidden by French underground. Both parents suffered in camps but lived through the terrible ordeals.

18:11 American Jewish soldiers met her father in a synagogue. One from Brooklyn sent a letter from her parents to her through his own parents. That was the first they knew that Paula's parents were alive. Paula brought them to the U.S.

19:14 Her Brothers are still in Israel. Her younger sister had escaped to England but came to the U.S. after the war. Paula had aunts, uncles and a grandmother living here before she came(?)

20:30 Life was quite different after Kristallnacht. Her mother's neighbor had a daughter who joined the Nazi youth movement and the neighbor admitted she was afraid of the daughter and what the daughter would do if the neighbor stayed friendly with Paula's mother.

25:00 Paula felt life in Vienna was lovely before Kristallnacht. The education was excellent, and school was fun. She participated in lots of sports. She enjoyed the theater and had very good memories of her childhood. However, she would never go back since there is nothing there to go back to except a few relatives' graves.