

INTERVIEW WITH: Walter Louis Gluckman, Harry Gluckman,
Alice Gluckman

INTERVIEWER:

Catherine Stettler, Carol E. Freund

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MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: My name is Walter Louis
Gluckman, formerly Gluecksmann, in Germany spelled
G-l-u-e-c-k-s-m-a-double n. Born on the 7th of June, 1904,
in Breslau, it was Silesia, in Germany.

MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: And I'm Harry Gluckman.
I was born in -- October 1929, in Berlin.

THE INTERVIEWER: All right. Well, can you --
(inaudible)

MRS. ALICE GLUCKMAN: I was born in Breslau,
Germany, on March the 3rd, 1908, Alice Gluckman.

THE INTERVIEWER: What was your maiden name?

MRS. ALICE GLUCKMAN: Barber, B-a-r-b-e-r.

THE INTERVIEWER: All right. Mrs. Barber, can
you tell me a little bit about your life, before the Nazis
came to power in Germany? Can you tell me a little bit
about what it was like?

MRS. ALICE GLUCKMAN: We had -- well, we moved
around quite a bit in Germany. The last we were in -- living

1 Stuttgart, and we had a very pleasant life.

2 My husband was working and I took care of my
3 two children by the name, now Harry and our daughter, Marian,
4 who passed away about 18 years ago and left four children.
5 They're living now and we have very, very pleasant days now
6 in the free country of the United States of America.

7 THE INTERVIEWER: Now, before you were married,
8 can you tell me a little bit about what you did and how your
9 life was then?

10 MRS. ALICE GLUCKMAN: I lived with my parents
11 in, last in Berlin. I have one sister, and we were married --
12 I met my husband and I was 14 years old.

13 THE INTERVIEWER: You were very young.

14 MRS. ALICE GLUCKMAN: And we had --

15 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: In Breslau.

16 MRS. ALICE GLUCKMAN: In Breslau, and we had a
17 very, very pleasant life. My parents and my sister, we were
18 very, very close.

19 THE INTERVIEWER: And what did your parents --
20 what did your father do?

21 MRS. ALICE GLUCKMAN: My father was an
22 accountant, and he was one of the first ones that lost their
23 work and their job and whatever through the Nazis, because he
24 could not work for the government anymore.

25 So he went -- they went, my sister left us in

1 1934 and went to Palestine.

2 And my parents left in 1936 and went to, also
3 to Palestine.

4 THE INTERVIEWER: Did they stay there long then?

5 MRS. ALICE GLUCKMAN: They stayed there until
6 my father passed away in 1942. And I saw him the last time
7 in 1937 when we visited Palestine to immigrate to Palestine
8 as well.

9 My mother lived until 1964, and I visited her
10 on, in 1960, for her 80th birthday.

11 THE INTERVIEWER: When you say you had to -- you
12 went to Palestine, you knew then --

13 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I couldn't hear you.

14 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible) They will hear me
15 actually, enough for transcribing purposes.

16 When did you, when did you know that you were
17 going to have to leave? When was it -- what, what was it
18 that, that your family, that you knew you had to leave?

19 MRS. ALICE GLUCKMAN: My husband lost his job,
20 too, and he couldn't work anymore. He worked through a
21 Jewish committee carrying rocks and sand.

22 THE INTERVIEWER: When was that?

23 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Construction.

24 MRS. ALICE GLUCKMAN: Construction.

25 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: In 1938.

1 THE INTERVIEWER: Go ahead. You try.

2 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: What my wife said I want
3 to complete a little more because what she said -- she was
4 born in Breslau, but her parents moved 1926 with her --
5 1926 with her sister and her to Berlin, and I was working for
6 the same company in Breslau, and in the factory there very
7 close by, they had different places. I moved close to
8 Hamburg, and then from Hamburg over to Berlin where my wife
9 and I got married in 1928.

10 And there our son Harry was born. And in 1932,
11 my wife and I moved with Harry, formerly Heinz, to Stuttgart
12 where I was working for this same company with the name of
13 Schlaseschiff von Nierverge (Phonetic). That means veneer
14 in English. And I was in charge of the business in South
15 Germany there, target to visit customers and so on.

16 And then Stuttgart in 1935, our daughter, Marian,
17 was born.

18 Marian was only three, a little over three
19 years old when we gave her away. That means she was the
20 first one --

21 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Wait a minute. Gave her --
22 what do you mean? Let's clarify "gave away." In English it
23 doesn't come out quite the same, Dad.

24 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: No. We had to separate --
25 let me say it this way, we had to separate from her to save --

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1 to make a beginning of saving some of the family from the
2 Nazi persecution, because of -- my wife mentioned already her
3 father lost his job the first as an --

4 THE INTERVIEWER: Accountant.

5 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Accountant.

6 I could work until 1938, till the company was
7 pretty well-known and the company in Germany was --

8 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Taken over.

9 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: No. Taken over, you say --
10 how did you say it? I don't know.

11 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Appropriated by,
12 appropriated by the German government.

13 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Not by the -- yeah.

14 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yes, by the Nazi party.

15 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Taken away from the
16 original owners, as my father was one of the original owners
17 of the company.

18 THE INTERVIEWER: Was it, was it, was it just
19 said it was because they were Jews and --

20 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Sure. Sure, on account
21 of, like all Jews' business, had to give up, and they were
22 taking away from the Jews.

23 And so I lost my job, too, and as my wife
24 mentioned already, of course, already years ago we made tryings
25 to get out, but we could not find any possible way.

1 My wife and I went, in 1937, to at that time
2 still Palestine to visit my wife's parents and her sister,
3 and we tried over there every possible way, but there was no
4 way, because children could ask their parents to come over
5 but not the other way around.

6 My parents-in-law could not get any way to get
7 us over. So we had even planned if possible, as many many
8 Jews did, to go the illegal way and try it before to save
9 our children in sending them out with the so-called
10 children transports from Germany. And that was the first
11 way we were successful, that a family in England took over
12 to take our three and a half year old girl, Marian, in their
13 home.

14 THE INTERVIEWER: In England.

15 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: In England, in Sheffield,
16 England. And --

17 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: And I'm digging for a
18 newspaper clipping which appeared at that time in the
19 Telegraph, which was a newspaper in Sheffield, England, which
20 might be of interest, upon her arrival together with, I
21 guess several hundred Jewish children from Germany.

22 THE INTERVIEWER: What year was this? I'm
23 sorry.

24 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I think the date is on the
25 paper, July 13th, 1939, is the date on the paper here.

1 THE INTERVIEWER: Mary Gluckman?

2 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah. Well, this all
3 came --

4 THE INTERVIEWER: That's in German.

5 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah.

6 THE INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

7 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I don't imagine either of
8 you reads that.

9 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: This family is a lady we
10 never met, but calls --

11 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Let me, let me interrupt
12 for a second, Dad, because I -- since you brought this out
13 it might be of interest.

14 You can see it says, "Sheffield Coordinating
15 Committee for Refugees," and it's written on behalf of the
16 Lord Bishop of Sheffield. And it is -- it says, "Dear Mrs.
17 Gluecksmann," and it says that, "I can report to you that
18 your daughter Marian has arrived and has arrived and has
19 been placed with these people. They're very good, kind
20 people. She will have a wonderful life." In other words,
21 trying to --

22 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Console.

23 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Rest, rest at ease and
24 console the parents who may or may not ever see their
25 daughter again.

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1 THE INTERVIEWER: Mr. Gluckman, were you
2 worried (inaudible) --

3 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Yeah, of course.

4 THE INTERVIEWER: How did you think you ever
5 were going to see your daughter again?

6 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Yeah. When she left, I
7 put a little note in her suitcase what was saying, "Dear Mr.
8 or Mrs. So and so," because we didn't know any name, "Please
9 do us a favor and let us hear as soon as possible that-- our
10 little girl was all our sunshine, arrives and let me know
11 that she is well taken care of.

12 And this lady what my son just translated, the
13 letter from the German, it is written --

14 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: She's a secretary of the
15 Sheffield Refugee Children's Committee.

16 Interesting, she writes a P. S. in English,
17 I don't know if you knew that. "We shall meet little Marian
18 in London today and we will write to you each week about her."
19 Which I guess they continued to do until communications were
20 cut off.

21 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Of course, the mail was,
22 in the meantime, by war, was interrupted. We couldn't get
23 anything. We found relatives in Holland. They tried to give
24 us and send our mail to there, so let me -- (inaudible)

25 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Let me add here, as I said,

1 this newspaper clipping indicates July 1939. It was not too
2 long after that that Germany attacked Poland, and Britain
3 had declared war on Germany.

4 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Of course, that was the
5 beginning of our save -- to save some of the family, and we
6 have even notes and letters from the lady as she tried very
7 hard also to get our son over. It would have maybe been
8 possible a month or two later.

9 But in the meantime, we have tried to arrange
10 everything possible to get out ourselves and we found what I
11 will explain later maybe to you, a funny or strange way to
12 get an affidavit in America, and to find a way to get here.
13 We didn't get any other possibility.

14 THE INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Gluckman, when you sent
15 Marian and packed her suitcase and kissed her goodbye, well,
16 what was, what was what you were thinking? Can you tell us?

17 All right. Well, you must have been very
18 worried for your son.

19 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: I think it was the worst
20 day of our lives when we put her into the train, as you can
21 imagine. Not even four yet, three and a half years old.

22 When we said goodbye, we didn't know if we would
23 ever see her again.

24 THE INTERVIEWER: My question is, why did you
25 have to split the family up? Why did you have to --

1 MRS. GLUCKMAN: Save the children.

2 THE INTERVIEWER: You knew already that you --

3 MRS. GLUCKMAN: Yes.

4 THE INTERVIEWER: -- needed --

5 MRS. GLUCKMAN: Yes.

6 THE INTERVIEWER: And that was one reason you

7 wanted to --

8 MRS. GLUCKMAN: Yeah. We wanted to get the

9 children out and have them safe. What happened to us, we

10 had our life before, so we were not too worried, but we were

11 trying to go illegal and we could not take those small

12 children. He was nine or ten years old, and the little girl

13 was three and a half. And that was the idea of sending her

14 out.

15 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Let me add something here,

16 because I think anyone who, who hears this has to understand

17 clearly why people were not getting out -- because of the

18 Catch-22 situation.

19 And I think it has to be understood that the

20 Germans in their clearly diabolical way, wanted the Jews out

21 but didn't -- it was go but don't go, and thereby there was

22 a number system.

23 I think what also has to be understood, what

24 hasn't been said in the United States often enough, is that

25 the major criminals in Germany at that time were the

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1 American consuls, who were dealing in Jews, were dealing --
2 the American consul in Stuttgart, who was an appointee of
3 Franklin Roosevelt, became one of the wealthiest men in all
4 of Europe as a result of this. And I think that's what
5 needs to be said here. It was said in some of the later
6 things that were written about Roosevelt's time.

7 Therefore, if you had a very high number -- it
8 was a lottery -- you had a high, a high number that you drew
9 where your time would come up to apply and to possibly be
10 allowed to leave, there was no hope. And consequently,
11 people were dealing in these numbers. If you had a very low
12 number, well, you were going to go, and your chances of
13 getting out were good.

14 THE INTERVIEWER: Now, you're talking about --
15 what time period are you talking about?

16 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: From 1936 until the gates
17 slammed shut in 1940 or thereabouts.

18 I mean, we'll come to that later, but we were
19 amongst the last that were able to get out in a quasi legal
20 way.

21 THE INTERVIEWER: Can you backtrack and tell
22 us --

23 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah.

24 THE INTERVIEWER: -- a little bit how their
25 parents got out with this baby?

1 A SECOND INTERVIEWER: Yes, that's very
2 interesting how they got out.

3 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Well, that I think my
4 mother and father will have to do.

5 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Let me.

6 MRS. GLUCKMAN: Let him talk. Let him talk.

7 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: We tried very hard to
8 find a way, as I mentioned before. Just more or less by
9 coincidence, we found a Gluecksmann in New York who was
10 willing to give the affidavit, as you know, kind enough
11 to take the responsibility to do this.

12 THE INTERVIEWER: How did you find this
13 Gluecksmann?

14 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: I don't know. I shouldn't
15 mention this too much.

16 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah. You don't have to
17 give a name. I think it's important.

18 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: It sounds very strange,
19 but it is --

20 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Dad, excuse me, I think
21 it's characteristic of the desperation at that time to do
22 almost anything to get out, because it meant you didn't get
23 out unless someone in this country was willing to give an
24 affidavit and vouch for you, as it still exists today.

25 And most people wanted another affidavit under

1 the table that, that released them from the legal document,
2 which is also true in our case.

3 But --

4 THE INTERVIEWER: That's fine. (Inaudible)

5 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: We won't mention the names,
6 but my father, through a friend who had immigrated earlier,
7 with whom he played cards in Germany, was able to search the
8 telephone directory in the community where he was living for
9 a name that appeared to be similar, similar enough to have
10 been changed with the umlaut dropped and that sort of thing.
11 And there are many versions of our name.

12 Is there something wrong with that? I'm not
13 going to identify the party, probably he's been dead for many
14 years in any case, but -- okay.

15 He was willing to give --

16 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: No, it was a little
17 different. We ourselves, my father tried very hard to help
18 us out as we tried even our children out.

19 My father and I divided the number of
20 Gluecksmanns we found in the telephone book from New York,
21 and the book led us to I think about 30 or 40 people. On
22 these letters, we only got two answers, two Gluecksmanns
23 answered, and showed a certain interest, and what my son
24 just mentioned, one friend who immigrated before us from
25 Stuttgart, went after them and he found one willing to give

1 the affidavit to help us out.

2 And from this point on, we found a legal way,
3 what my son mentioned, by the American consul, to get the
4 paper, little by little. First we got the number --

5 THE INTERVIEWER: When did that happen?

6 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: In 19 -- I don't know,
7 it was '40 already, or end of 1939.

8 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: No, huh-uh, before. It
9 was -- it had to be before, before Italy entered the war
10 against Britain the first time.

11 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: We found, we found -- we
12 got the number from the consul and the numbers were very, very
13 wide open, you know, until we got it, it was beginning of
14 1940.

15 As my wife said, in the meantime, I was ordered
16 by the government to the Jews organization to work on street,
17 street --

18 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Construction project.

19 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Construction project.

20 And so, if I wouldn't have gone, probably they
21 would have put me in concentration camp or so.

22 But this was all before what I didn't mention
23 or what we had not mentioned at all yet, that I was lucky
24 enough not to be called to concentration camp, because once
25 when the Nazis came, it was in the famous Kristal Night.

1 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: November '38.

2 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: And even a second time --

3 THE INTERVIEWER: You were in the
4 Kristallnacht. Can you tell us a little bit about it?

5 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Oh, yes. Only too well
6 I remember, because when the Nazis came in the front of the
7 house, I jumped out of the window in the back and this
8 probably saved my life.

9 And by the second time, when they came looking
10 for the Jews, my father, who still lived with my mother in
11 Breslau, even came by train from Breslau to us in Stuttgart,
12 but we were living in another house with friends not to be
13 caught. So --

14 THE INTERVIEWER: Non-Jewish friends or Jewish?

15 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Jewish friends where the
16 husband had already been taken away to a concentration camp,
17 so there was some feeling that they wouldn't come back to
18 that place.

19 THE INTERVIEWER: At the time.

20 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: At that time.

21 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: So one has nothing to do
22 with the other.

23 Of course, going back further, this hour --
24 didn't want to be too, too long.

25 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: No, that's what we're here

1 for, but we're -- while we're on the subject of Kristal Night,
2 let's talk about that for just a second, because I have a
3 recollection that I've never shared with anyone, and I think
4 it might, might well be on the tape.

5 And you mentioned what you did. Maybe you
6 ought to take a break and let me talk for just a minute.

7 I remember, and I've written about it so it's
8 very clear in my mind.

9 As a small boy, and a very impressionable boy,
10 I came out of the house that, that day.

11 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: In Stuttgart.

12 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Stuttgart being very much
13 like San Francisco, a city of hills, we lived reasonably high
14 up on the side of a hill.

15 And when I came out of the house and I was
16 waiting for a friend to go to school with me, I guess I have
17 to say first that this being after the Nuremburg laws, Jews
18 were not allowed to go to public schools, so a Jewish school
19 was created next door to the synagogue as part of the Jewish
20 community, and part of the synagogue.

21 THE INTERVIEWER: Did you have a religious,
22 orthodox upbringing?

23 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: No. No, not at all.

24 THE INTERVIEWER: Was the school that you went
25 to then a first kind of reaffirmation of the Jewishness for

1 you? Was it strange? Was it --

2 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I had never known
3 anything else, so, you know, I had not gone to anything other
4 than --

5 THE INTERVIEWER: (Inaudible.)

6 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: By the time I, I started
7 school -- by the time I was of school age was 1936, or 1935
8 I guess -- in other -- in any case it was after the Nuremburg
9 laws and that was the -- the year that I started school was
10 the first year that Jews were not allowed to go to public
11 school.

12 So from the time I started school in Stuttgart,
13 I was at the Jewish school. It was called the Jewish School
14 of Stuttgart.

15 And the morning of, the morning of Kristal
16 Night, I came out of the house. And as I say, we were up on
17 the hill, so we could look down over the center of the city,
18 which is where the synagogue and the school were.

19 And we saw flames and we saw smoke. And we
20 realized right away that it was the school and the synagogue.

21 And my friend and I hopped on our bicycles. I
22 don't know if my parents ever knew that. But we went down
23 there, and being curious little Jewish boys, we, we went
24 right on the street and we were right opposite the school and
25 the synagogue and we were there when they dragged our Rabbi --

1 and I'm having trouble saying this, because I was there when
2 they brought out the Torah and set it on fire and held it up
3 in the air and they marched around and paraded around the
4 Rabbi and made him watch this, this desecration of our, our
5 holy place and our holy document. It's something that one
6 doesn't forget. It's sort of etched. Well, I'll deal with
7 the rest of it later.

8 THE INTERVIEWER: (Inaudible.)

9 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Just as quickly as I was
10 able to get home. We thought we could see -- even as small
11 as we were, we could see quickly that it was not a healthy
12 place to be, so we got the hell out of there. I think that's
13 the only way I can say that.

14 That's pretty much it. I think, just as an
15 addendum to that perhaps, as I returned to the street that
16 we were living on, we came down the street on our bicycles,
17 as the, the open half tracks, the army vehicles with the
18 soldiers on the back had rounded up some of the Jewish men
19 and they were sitting inside and were being taken away.

20 So of course, our first feeling -- you don't
21 remember that either. You weren't outside on the street. I
22 was outside on the street.

23 My father at that point was in hiding I guess
24 in -- you went to the woods. I think we lived near the, what
25 was called the West Bahnhof, the western railroad station in

1 the city, and it was near the woods.

2 I don't know if that's where you went. I have
3 no idea. I'd like to -- maybe Dad recalls. I don't know.

4 In any case, I was out in the street with my
5 friend. I don't remember who that was. Do you remember,
6 Mom?

7 MRS. GLUCKMAN: No.

8 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Anyway, a friend with whom
9 I rode a bicycle to school in the morning.

10 And as we came down the street, we saw the
11 Gestapo and the, the SS in their uniforms, and they had taken
12 some of the Jews on the -- so, you know, we sized up the
13 situation.

14 And at that point, some of my Christian
15 friends with whom I played football or soccer, came to me
16 and across the street, the grocery store, the bakery -- I can
17 see it at the corner, and they came and said, "This isn't a
18 good place for you to be. I think maybe" -- and I went in
19 one of their homes with them at their invitation because
20 they said that "This is not a good place for you to be."

21 I don't remember beyond that. All I remember
22 is that one of them was kind enough -- I don't remember his
23 name or anything, but he thought that this was not a place
24 for a Jewish boy to be, and, and -- yeah?

25 THE INTERVIEWER: Mr. Gluckman, what are your

1 recollections?

2 MRS. GLUCKMAN: We went to --

3 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I think we went to the
4 Einsteins, yeah, right.

5 MRS. GLUCKMAN: Right away. We got a call
6 from court.

7 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Was that (inaudible)

8 MRS. GLUCKMAN: And we went there and before
9 we left, we had a call from your father from Breslau saying
10 arriving at this and the time.

11 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: A telegram, yeah.

12 MRS. GLUCKMAN: A telegram or something, or a
13 call.

14 And we left the house and we went to a friend's
15 house who was picked up before from the S -- Gestapo.

16 And we stayed there for at least two weeks
17 until it was safe. I had my beds open and I had the coffee
18 pot on the table and that's the way we left the house.

19 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: That's the only time in
20 my life what I can remember, as long as we are married, that
21 my wife left the coffee standing there and the beds not even
22 down.

23 THE INTERVIEWER: Why were you in the woods?

24 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Hiding, that they couldn't
25 find me. But I cannot make the difference anymore because it

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1 was two years in a row.

2 MRS. GLUCKMAN: That was a year later when you
3 were in the woods.

4 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Oh, yeah. That was in '39.

5 MRS. GLUCKMAN: Yeah.

6 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Okay. Please keep them on
7 that side. Trying very hard to --

8 THE INTERVIEWER: All this time when you were
9 trying to get the children out, you were trying to find ways
10 you could get out. You found Gluecksmanns in New York that
11 would help, that would sign the affidavit. You came to
12 America then.

13 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: No, it was not so fast as
14 you say and as you think it was.

15 THE INTERVIEWER: And so tell me then, how was
16 it.

17 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Because to go on with my
18 long, long story, I even don't remember, as Harry must help
19 me, what time it was. It was still in '39, because Marian
20 left in '39, in July, I think, '39, and came to Sheffield.
21 And this very nice Mrs. Selaus (Phonetic) in Sheffield
22 helped us or wanted to help us to get Harry out, too, but she
23 was not successful anymore.

24 THE INTERVIEWER: (Inaudible.)

25 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: No, you keep talking, Dad.

1 He got a little closer.

2 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: And I don't exactly
3 remember the dates now, and Harry said it might have come
4 already into 1940 when we finally -- when finally our number,
5 or so to say due at the Consulate, and we were invited to
6 come there and we get our American visa.

7 I think it was in February '40, but even when
8 we had the visa, that was not enough, because we didn't have
9 any way to get out.

10 In the meantime, I think Harry mentioned this,
11 before the war --

12 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I thought we had -- I
13 thought you had passage booked on an Italian ship.

14 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: No. No. No. We had no
15 book, because there was no way anymore because the war broke
16 out, and even the last possibilities from Italy or from
17 Poland were broke off. There did not go any ships anymore.

18 So now we finally, we were so happy to have a
19 visa, and now we had not a way to get out, and were very
20 much afraid and had to be very much afraid that the visa
21 expired because they were only, I don't know, three or four
22 months.

23 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: It did run out.

24 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: And they did run out, and
25 we were very, very lucky that we got them extended for a

1 second time.

2 In the meantime, my father found a way that was,
3 I think, the last given possibility by -- I cannot say for
4 sure how it was handled, for some international companies
5 or something to transfer some money somehow, to make
6 transportation on ships possible.

7 THE INTERVIEWER: You had to pay money then.

8 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: And that was the only
9 way, and the same way -- I must say it -- the same way as we
10 had tried first to save our children, that my good parents
11 tried to save us.

12 And he, my father, we should not forget it, made
13 it really possible to pay the transportation for the three of
14 us from Germany to America. And it was a very, very long
15 way. It was by train all the way from Berlin to Russia, and
16 Poland, what was still part of it --

17 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Poland didn't exist anymore
18 at that time.

19 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Russia, all the way by
20 train, Russia, Korea to Japan, and to go from Japan on the
21 Japanese ship here to America.

22 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Let me add a couple of
23 things here, because --

24 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: It's a long story, yeah.

25 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: -- it's a longer story than

1 it sounds the way you sound it. It's -- and my father --
2 well, we were just talking about the dates, and what my
3 father took out is this diary that he kept, this day by day
4 of the trip. I think we just found out a little while ago
5 before you arrived that we left on September 11th, 1940 --

6 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Excuse me, one thing,
7 and I have to interrupt because that might be important.

8 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: That's fine.

9 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: As I said before, in the
10 meantime, the war had broken out, so we even lived through the
11 war already in Stuttgart and were witness already from the
12 bombing of the English planes in Germany, and already in
13 Stuttgart we had to go to the basement, to the cellar to live
14 two nights where the bombs --

15 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: And stand on the roof and
16 cheer the British planes when they were able to get through,
17 which was a delight. Yeah.

18 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: So, but if it is, if it
19 is worthwhile, if it is worthwhile to mention, or is it -- do
20 I cut you off now?

21 THE INTERVIEWER: Go ahead.

22 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: And even in the last week,
23 we had -- we left Stuttgart, I think it was -- yeah, it was,
24 must have been end of August for a visit to my parents in
25 Breslau, to say goodbye knowing most probably that we will

1 not see each other anymore.

2 And as I said before, when our daughter left,
3 it was a hard day but it might have been even harder.

4 And from Breslau we went to Berlin and put
5 stay there in a so-called pension for the last week because
6 we had to stay there as we only there got our several visas.
7 I had gone from Stuttgart before even for a few days to
8 Hamburg where I got hold of some of the necessary visas,
9 and the last week where we stayed in Berlin, beginning of
10 September, we were there from this week, I think it was about
11 eight or nine days, we stayed every night in the cellar
12 because the English planes came.

13 And the only, the only night when my wife think
14 it was not necessary to take -- to go to bed or anything,
15 the only time was when the English planes did not come.

16 So --

17 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I think, getting back to
18 the, the trip, the fact we were able to get the papers, I
19 think what has to be understood also is that there were a
20 few companies still willing to buy and sell Jews for Deutsch
21 Marks.

22 And one of the provisions of this, this able to
23 get out was the fact that the entire trip, from departure to
24 arrival in San Francisco Harbor had to be paid in advance in
25 Deutsch Marks or you didn't go.

1 That, I don't know. Maybe my father would.
2 But along with what you're saying, I don't know
3 what the cost of it was, but we were allowed -- Jews at that
4 time were allowed to take out with them per person ten
5 Deutsch Marks, which at that time was worth about, a little
6 more than three dollars per person. So -- was it four-twenty?
7 Okay, I missed it a little bit. But I was going by, because
8 we all remember that we arrived here with just a little bit,
9 between the three of us, a little bit over three dollars --
10 was it \$2.40 or was it three dollars and something? I don't
11 remember. But it was around three dollars that we arrived
12 here with.

13 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: (inaudible)

14 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: But -- well, we were going
15 to talk about the trip and my father just sort of glossed
16 over it, because the enormity of the trip is hard to
17 understand.

18 When one boards the, the -- first of all, we
19 crossed what had been independent countries and had already
20 become part of the Nazi empire and part of the Russian
21 empire, because we went through Latvia and Estonia, and
22 Lithuania.

23 We were welcomed --

24 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible.)

25 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yes. You want to

1 backtrack a little bit?

2 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: I have it here in front
3 of me, we left -- oh, yes, we left Berlin on the evening of
4 the 11th of September, 1940.

5 And when the train left Berlin, at the same
6 time, the English bombers bombed Berlin and we heard the
7 following days that they were kind of successful. They had
8 even bombed the famous Brandenburg Tor in Berlin. It was the
9 very same night when we left.

10 On the 12th of September, we came in the
11 morning to Königsberg and to the German border in Eitkow.
12 And I think the three of us will never forget what happened
13 there, because -- now it comes all back to my memory, too,
14 things you didn't want to think anymore and remember.

15 I went out of the train on this frontier
16 station and -- I want to ask if I'm correct in English.

17 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah, I was, I was going
18 to talk about that, too.

19 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: And the frontier --

20 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: The, the --

21 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: -- station, because we
22 had a little bit more money in our pocket, and I at least
23 wanted to send this back and some postage stamps and so on
24 to my parents, as they were not too well off anymore, either.

25 MRS. GLUCKMAN: The food stamps.

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1 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Food stamps, too. That
2 is right. My wife remembers better than I do.

3 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Not food stamps, ration
4 coupons.

5 MRS. GLUCKMAN: Ration coupons.

6 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Ration coupons.

7 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah. It's a little
8 different in the modern vernacular.

9 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: And when I came back,
10 wanted to go back to the train, there came a Nazi in uniform,
11 with very hard looks, of course, "Where did you Jew go?"

12 And I saw my wife and my son standing in the
13 train at the window as white as here this piece of paper,
14 because they were afraid, and so was I, that he would never
15 let me go back to the train.

16 But another came, was more a conductor of the
17 train, said, "Oh, let him go. Let him go." And I was
18 fortunate enough I could enter the train again. And there
19 we went on to No Man's Land for us.

20 I don't know if I should go so much in detail.

21 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: No. But I think we have
22 to explain that we crossed -- we crossed Germany -- when we
23 left Germany we crossed Russian occupied territory, now all
24 part of Russia, of course, and we were welcomed with what
25 was left of the remnants of the Jewish community in -- what

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1 was that -- in --

2 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Minsk.

3 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Minsk. We went from Minsk
4 to Pinsk. I, I -- my recollection of it is, is very vague,
5 and it's sort of like a deep dark dream. I, I -- as a small
6 boy, I only recall some of the little, the little rooms that
7 they put me to sleep in were, which were wooden shacks. I
8 remember wooden sidewalks, and the, the -- really, what I
9 guess you could describe is the, the old Stetl paintings
10 that one sees of Lithuania and Poland.

11 THE INTERVIEWER: Had you ever been to
12 Lithuania before?

13 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: German Jews didn't go to
14 Lithuania and Poland.

15 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: I have written down a
16 lady from the interest committee came and ordered another --

17 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: They locked us up in the
18 train with the lice.

19 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Orders another train,
20 locked up without light, nothing.

21 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Also, there has to be an
22 explanation of that. You have to -- let, let me clarify
23 that a little bit before we deal with that, because we were
24 locked in these, these cattle cars for a reason, and the
25 reason was that the, the good will agreement between Stalin

1 and Hitler had about run its course and the Russians knew it.
2 And they were rushing troops to the front.

3 The trains were literally running 20 to 22
4 hours a day through the day and night rushing troops to the
5 front to stem this tide that they knew was coming.

6 So people going the other way, tourists or
7 refugees going in the other direction were shunted off
8 through a railroad siding and had to sit.

9 And since the trains were needed, they could
10 only put us in those cattle cars.

11 You're going to change tape?

12 What we're doing -- are you in operation there?

13 Okay.

14 Because I think one has to understand the
15 enormity of this trip, because in those days -- and I don't
16 know if you've ever taken a train across the United States,
17 as I did once, and it was four days and four nights, but when
18 one gets on the Siberian Express in Moscow, one spends 21
19 days and nights. We were three weeks on that train across
20 Russia. And that gives a little bit of the enormity.

21 I think my father might mention some of the
22 towns that we -- I think after Minsk and Pinsk, my
23 recollection of it is that we went around the largest lake
24 in the world, Lake Baykal.

25 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: In Moscow --

1 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Oh, we still haven't come
2 to Moscow. Let's --

3 THE INTERVIEWER: Why don't you --

4 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah.

5 THE INTERVIEWER: Why (inaudible)

6 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I think you ought to cover
7 that, yeah.

8 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Moscow, of course, was
9 very, very interesting, and the trip was not a pleasure trip
10 even, but we were there, well taken care of from a committee,
11 and they gave us even a little money and some coupons and
12 so on, and they let us make a ride on this very interesting --

13 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: The Moscow subway.

14 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Moscow subway. It was
15 very impressive and one of the highlights of the otherwise
16 not so very pleasant trip.

17 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: You could eat off the
18 floor and you could get sent to prison for life if you dirty
19 it.

20 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Then in the train, I
21 have written down we were 113 people, 100 Jews, immigrants;
22 some non-Jews; an English couple and six Japanese. And there
23 started a big trouble with the meals in the train, as the
24 people even fought themselves -- is it right to say?

25 And this time, I had to go over and divided

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1 them in groups that they didn't fight each other who comes
2 first and who didn't get so much anymore.

3 There was a very nice locating city, Novosibirsk,
4 and of course, I don't want to go too much in detail.
5 From all the places, whenever possible, we send
6 telegrams to both parents, my parents in Breslau as well as
7 to Telaviv where my wife's parents were living.

8 And then came the pretty famous city of Irkutsk,
9 and I had very tough luck because I sprained my ankle on the
10 station there, and then we moved along, what Harry started to
11 say already, on the very beautiful Baykal Lake, and we found
12 out --

13 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: In the Ural Mountains.

14 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: That is Siberia, yeah.

15 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: The largest lake at that
16 elevation.

17 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: I wanted to mention that
18 we, at this occasion found out --

19 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Makes Lake Tahoe look like
20 a duck pond.

21 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: That is not only that we
22 always talk from the very cold weather, because it was there,
23 very beautiful, some of it. But we, of course, had no
24 possibility to witness in any way.

25 But in the train, in the meantime, about, it

1 was the 22nd already, almost two weeks, we came in Manchuria
2 to the well-known city of Harbin.

3 And the coincidence was that there a cousin of
4 my wife was living, a former, former dentist in Breslau, and
5 I think we had written to him that we came. And so he took
6 care of the three of us for the few hours we were there.

7 He took me some place what I never forgot in
8 this ricksaw to go someplace, I don't remember exactly where
9 it was, and took us, the three of us to his home where we
10 finally, after so many days, got a chance to have a shower
11 or a bath and clean up a little bit.

12 And he tried to even talk us into not going
13 along any further, and staying there with him, maybe we would,
14 maybe find some other chances, but we didn't want to do it,
15 go to any risk.

16 So on the same night, we went out on with our
17 train trip, and came to the border --

18 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I have to interrupt here
19 because there was a pretty frightening experience arriving
20 at the train station and having missed the train, missed the
21 group that we were with, and now here you are, the only non-
22 orientals in this whole damn city, and not able to read or
23 speak or anything. I'll never forget that.

24 Did you want to say --

25 THE INTERVIEWER: This was in Manchuria.

1 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Oh, in Manchuria, Harbin,
2 Manchuria. I think my father did say that.

3 THE INTERVIEWER: He did, yeah.

4 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Okay.

5 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Then don't -- I don't
6 know which is what.

7 THE INTERVIEWER: You missed your train, so --

8 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: We, we were by ourselves
9 then in another train, not with -- no, we were no longer
10 with the group. We had been separated entirely from the
11 group.

12 THE INTERVIEWER: Well, you would have been
13 separated in Harbin.

14 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah, because we stayed
15 over there and they went on. And why are you shaking your
16 head. Of course it was.

17 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: You don't remember why.

18 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I was too small. I don't
19 remember. I can plead ignorance.

20 THE INTERVIEWER: Go on.

21 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: But continue.

22 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: It's hard to read for me
23 anymore anyway.

24 There we even met this couple from Berlin with
25 their son.

1 THE INTERVIEWER: In Harbin?

2 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: No, in the train. And
3 we got kind of friendly and we saw for many, many years here
4 still.

5 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Oh, yes. That's right.

6 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: The former doctor in
7 Berlin. He passed away in the meantime --

8 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: His son did, too.

9 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: And his son did, too.
10 And the boy's got very good friends there, and they even got
11 friendly with some of the officers in the meantime.

12 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Are they Japanese?

13 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: In the train, I don't
14 exactly remember what it was. Maybe you're right, it was
15 Japanese or something.

16 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah. There were Japanese
17 soldiers. They taught us Japanese. We learned a few words
18 of Japanese before we arrived in Japan.

19 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: In the meantime, we came
20 to Mukden. I don't know what this is Korea already. I
21 guess --

22 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Hmm-mm. Mukden is
23 Manchuria. But from there we went down into the, the land
24 of the blossoms, which was then called Chosen. It was not
25 called Korea yet.

1 And to the southeastern tip of Korea, which
2 borders on the China Sea, there we boarded a ferry boat.

3 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Yeah. On the border,
4 they have very big formalities with the passports and
5 questionnaires for Japan where they wanted to know everything
6 special from us. I have this written down even.

7 Harry was very much interested for the ship
8 already, and they let him see that. And we came -- that
9 must be the ferry what you --

10 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: That was the ferry boat,
11 which took us to Shimonoseki in Japan, along with several
12 hundred other people, one of those huge ferries that you
13 read about all the time that sink everyday.

14 THE INTERVIEWER: What did you know about the
15 rest of the world at this point? What was the news you were
16 getting about the war?

17 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I didn't know anything
18 about anything. But, yeah --

19 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: I have written down here
20 when we came to Shimonoseki --

21 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Crossing on the train,
22 the Japanese kept, kept the shades down. You were not allowed
23 to look out.

24 THE INTERVIEWER: It was a European train.
25 You were segregated then.

1 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Siberia Express. They
2 did not let us look out. They had the shades pulled down,
3 and nobody was supposed to see anything or to talk anything
4 or something.

5 So I have written down here when we came to
6 Shimonoseki and we sit in the real Japan. Shimonoseki must
7 have been Japan.

8 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: That's the entrance point
9 in Japan, yeah. And then we boarded a train there, a
10 Japanese train after we left the ferry, which took us to --

11 MRS. GLUCKMAN: We pulled the shades down, too,
12 in Japan.

13 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah. In Japan itself, in
14 Japan proper.

15 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Beautiful, beautiful
16 train, wagon I have written down.

17 THE INTERVIEWER: How did they treat you, the
18 Japanese; do you remember?

19 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: This was still the same,
20 same people. The people in the train didn't change, the
21 officials in the train.

22 THE INTERVIEWER: Then you didn't get off?

23 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: No, it wasn't the same
24 train in Japan. No. No. No. That was an entirely different
25 thing.

1 Until we arrived in Korea -- but by the time
2 we boarded the ferry and arrived in Japan, we then got on a
3 different train, and that train -- that was a rather short
4 trip, just to -- across Japan to Yokohama.

5 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: I only remember very
6 distinctly --

7 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: No, to Kobe, to Kobe,
8 excuse me. To Kobe.

9 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: I only remember very
10 distinctly just talking from the personnel in the train,
11 when the train left -- or when we left the train, the moment
12 all the Russian attendants or personnel, they stripped down
13 their uniforms and we saw that in reality they were all
14 Russian soldiers and not just train personnel. This I
15 remember very, very distinctly.

16 So on the 27th of September, shortly after
17 six o'clock, we arrived in Kobe, Japan.

18 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: 1940.

19 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: 1940. It was, as I said,
20 about three weeks, from the 11th until the 27th. It was a
21 pretty long train ride.

22 And there, in Kobe, there very soon taken over
23 from the committee.

24 THE INTERVIEWER: The Committee was there then,
25 too?

1 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Well, I think the committee
2 was part of Hias (Phonetic) at that time. It was a reception
3 committee that was set up in Kobe and in Yokohama.

4 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: We were very well taken
5 care of, I have written down. They gave us to eat and to
6 drink there in the garden.

7 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Took me to the dentist.

8 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: And it came like fast,
9 like coming to have enough, of course, after this long, long
10 ride, and not much to eat and to drink.

11 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Go ahead.

12 THE INTERVIEWER: Go ahead.

13 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: That shows how small the
14 world is, my wife had to ask in the committee, because she
15 has a heavy, a pretty heavy toothache, she wanted to be taken
16 to a dentist. And to show how small the world is, when she
17 came to this dentist, she found out that he originally was
18 from Breslau, too, and did know my mother very well in
19 Breslau. So, but that is one of the funny coincidences
20 that came along.

21 And on the 28 of September, we finally boarded
22 the ship, the Japanese ship, Hyumaro (Phonetic), a Japanese
23 boat. I have even written down the cabin number, six beds in
24 it, and --

25 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Cabin is sort of an

1 exaggeration. It was sort of in the hold of this, this
2 freighter.

3 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Never forget this very
4 moment --

5 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: And the line was -- I
6 think we ought to --

7 THE INTERVIEWER: How long were you in Japan
8 then?

9 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: A few days. You'll have to
10 look, but it was the Nipon-Yusan-Kisha line, which still
11 exists, the NYK line is still shipping out of San Francisco.

12 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: It was the next day from
13 our arrival in Kobe. In Kobe we did stay only two days, but
14 I have written down, it is the last what I wrote down, it
15 was a very, very memorable feeling, of course. It was fast,
16 it was leaving the old world and everything behind us, what
17 was fresh in our memory. And of course, knowing especially
18 that my parents and a few relatives were still left, were
19 left behind.

20 From Kobe, the ship went to Yokohama and there
21 we again stayed a few days, and had, of course, to look for
22 the few little things that we had taken along, not leaving
23 and missing anything, because it was very, very little things
24 what we had, what we were allowed to take along, but we were
25 witness from several things what nobody ever wanted to believe

1 us here until today I can say because at twelve o'clock noon,
2 when we were in the streets in Yokohama, the whistle blows
3 and everybody had to stay under curfew, on the, on the curves.

4 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Curb.

5 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Curb and did not, could
6 not go on because there were air preparations already. That
7 was, as I said, the last days of September, 1940. In other
8 words, 14, 15 months before Pearl Harbor.

9 And the night when our ship left Yokohama, and
10 this was Japan, there were no lights on, everything dark.
11 The ship left in complete darkness as they had, as I
12 mentioned before, this kind of air raid preparations, so they
13 must have been prepared for war already at this time.

14 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: It was also that night
15 that we -- that's something else that I recall, because it's,
16 it had a lot to do with shaping what I am today. It was
17 airefor shashanah, was also my 11th birthday when we sailed
18 out of the harbor of Yokohama.

19 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

20 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I think my mother should
21 put that on tape.

22 MRS. GLUCKMAN: On the ship, we were told this
23 will be the last ship that will be leaving Japan to the
24 United States, in 1940.

25 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Of course, the life on

1 the ship was not very pleasant either.

2 THE INTERVIEWER: How long were you on the ship?

3 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: We were three weeks on the
4 ship, but not as people now make pleasure cruises, but we were
5 living --

6 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: In the hold of a freighter.
7 We were allowed, sure, we had the run of the ship, but the
8 ship was first and foremost a freighter, and when my father
9 said it was no pleasure cruise, it was neither pleasure nor
10 was it a cruise.

11 The food that they gave us, we were treated as
12 cattle, and naturally whatever they didn't feed us wouldn't
13 cost them anything. So we were fed -- and I'd like to describe
14 the breakfast except I don't want anybody here to lose their
15 dinner. We were fed raw fish and stinking, rotten, raw fish,
16 mostly rotten eggs.

17 My father earlier mentioned the young, young
18 boy with whom I became friendly. There were other young
19 people on the ship, one of whom I still see who lives down
20 the peninsula.

21 Those of us who were pre-teens, 11, 12, 13, 14
22 years old sort of took it on ourselves to find our way into
23 the kitchen when the crew was not around and we were able to
24 raid the galley and to get some of this food into the people,
25 the Jewish refugees who were waiting there to eat.

1 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

2 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: There was a large group.

3 How many people were there? I think it tells in this, there's
4 a very interesting article which appeared upon arrival in the
5 San Francisco news, and I think it'll tell you probably.
6 See how many, take a look at how many people there are in a
7 minute.

8 But anyway, we were able to appropriate this
9 food, and one of our great pleasures was one of us would be
10 the lookout at the door for when crew would be coming, and
11 the rest of us would take the rotten food and heave it right
12 out through one of the portholes.

13 So it was quite an adventure for young kids.

14 What transpired on that ship, what you're looking
15 at there is a newspaper, as I said, the San Francisco news,
16 which covered the arrival of this refugee ship, and the
17 picture of the group, and my father's pointing to my picture
18 which appeared in the, the newspaper and which had a very,
19 very important, also very important aftereffect in our lives
20 here in San Francisco.

21 How many people were on that ship? It was, it
22 was, it was covered by the San Francisco papers primarily
23 because there were five deaths on board, including a, the
24 suicide of a Japanese woman who had been sold to marriage
25 by her parents to someone here in the United States.

1 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: There's no number in that
2 one thing.

3 THE INTERVIEWER: No number.

4 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: There was no number given?
5 Okay.

6 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: When our ship arrived --
7 when our ship arrived in Hawaii, that was, of course, for
8 us, the first, the first light of Heaven, because we saw there
9 the first American flag. And what this meant we will not
10 forget because it meant finally freedom.

11 And there it was kind of very nice and amusing
12 for us, too. We had to swim in the ocean there, what was a
13 big earn to us. From there it was still -- today you make
14 it in four or five hours by plane, but from there it was
15 still I think another week to go.

16 And finally, we arrived in San Francisco. And
17 when --

18 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

19 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: And when we saw San
20 Francisco, I think most of us went to our knees and thanked
21 God, because that is, of course, not to describe with words
22 what that meant, and we sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge
23 into the United States.

24 And here --

25 MRS. GLUCKMAN: Here I am and here I'll stay.

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1 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Those were the words what
2 my wife said, "Here I am and here I stay." And that is still
3 today what we did.

4 On the same afternoon, we were greeted by the
5 Committee, by the --

6 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: No. It was the, the --
7 and I'll be forever grateful to the Council of Jewish Women.

8 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Council of Jewish Women.

9 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Who welcomed us and --

10 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: They welcomed us on
11 California Street in their home for some coffee and cake or
12 whatever it was.

13 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: And I got deathly ill
14 because we couldn't handle the rich food. We'd never -- I'd
15 never eaten some of these things.

16 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: And the lady from the
17 Council came around to serve us, to help us, and she found
18 out that we are coming from Stuttgart. She said, "Oh, wait a
19 moment. I have a cousin here who was living in Stuttgart,
20 but he knows already that you are coming on the ship."

21 I say, "How is this humanly possible? We never
22 heard anything."

23 I was bowling together with him in Stuttgart,
24 but he had seen in the newspaper what came out around noontime,
25 as my son mentioned already, San Francisco News, that had got

1 out already in the newspaper a picture from us, Jewish
2 refugees, because a reporter came ahead on board of the
3 ship and they put this picture already in there.

4 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Incidentally, can I
5 interrupt to talk a little bit about this article?

6 First of all, I think it, it's, it should be
7 clarified that the group that was -- the group of refugees
8 that was on the train, on the Trans-Siberian Express, the
9 majority of them were not as lucky as we and they had papers
10 only as far as Shanghai, and that was back to all the --
11 yeah, from Mukden, they then headed north to Shanghai.

12 With, with the ship, however, it indicates
13 that there were a hundred and sixty refugees aboard the
14 Haiyo-Maru (Phonetic), half of whom -- and I'm quoting the
15 article here -- "half of whom were to debark here and in Los
16 Angeles, and the others at Mexican and Latin American ports."

17 And at the end of the article, last part of the
18 article says, "The vessle was due to continue her voyage to
19 Valparaiso, Chile, tomorrow."

20 So I think that tells a little bit, because
21 there were a lot of these --

22 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

23 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah, and the majority of
24 them, in most cases, at that time, did go on to Latin American
25 ports.

1 You want to talk about --

2 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: I don't know (inaudible)

3 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Okay. Let's stop for a
4 second. Just -- let's put this on tape, and let me preface
5 it to say that this really is -- this, yeah, but I want to
6 say something here because it's important to, to future
7 students of, of the Jewish society in America and how it was
8 shaped by the immigration of, of the European Jews, the, the
9 pre-holocaust -- the refugees like us who came out literally
10 five minutes before midnight, before the gates were slammed
11 shut.

12 And it has a lot to do with, with where we are
13 today in the United States as Jews, politically and socially
14 and economically, because in those early days, the, the very
15 reason that not many Jews were saved who could have been
16 saved by the, the, the lack of political clout, of political
17 strength of the Jewish community and the divisiveness of the
18 Jewish community at that time. It also had a lot to do with
19 the attitude of the Jews who had come earlier, who were not
20 willing to accept refugees into their midst, who were not
21 prepared to assist in any way because it endangered their
22 social and their economic position, and this has been true
23 of every immigration to this country over the years. It's
24 evident now in the lack of welcome for the influx of the
25 orientals and the separation -- and I think with that we get

1 into where we were when we arrived here with \$2.40 for the
2 three of us, and somebody said, well, here you are, and the
3 Jewish community -- and I would put community here in quotes
4 and underlined, because it really wasn't a community, it just
5 sort of, it just happened here.

6 There was the Jewish Family Service, which in
7 those days we endearingly called the Eureka, if you've ever
8 been there you know the words over the door -- they were of
9 some assistance and did help us in getting located in terms
10 of loaning.

11 But I think we ought to talk a little bit, and
12 let my father talk, and maybe my mother as well, about the,
13 the difficulty of reestablishing a life here and finding a
14 way, because it didn't begin in this house with, with nice
15 furniture and, and it began a lot different, and I really
16 don't want to continue talking here because my recollections
17 are quite different.

18 I'd like to come back and I'd like my father
19 to take over here and talk about that, that start, because
20 for me it was very easy. I went to school and I learned --
21 in three weeks I learned the English language because, because
22 I was fortunate enough to have a couple friends. But let's,
23 let's -- the, the starting over and the finding of a job was
24 an extremely difficult thing.

25 And I just want to say one other thing on that

1 and then I'm going to let my father take over and I'll rest
2 my voice.

3 I think it's important that we record how
4 difficult it was. One of the, one of the requirements for
5 getting a number, a visa to leave Germany, it was a
6 requirement of the American, in addition to the affidavit,
7 which meant that someone here would vouch for you and that
8 you would not become a burden on the state or on the country,
9 was that you had a, a trade with which you could support
10 yourself when you arrived.

11 My father mentioned earlier that he worked for
12 a firm in which his father had started as an apprentice in
13 his youth and had gone all the way to the, the chairman of
14 the board of president or whatever, a large firm. But it's
15 one, a trade which my father learned as an apprentice, and,
16 and worked all of his working days in Germany, but not a
17 particularly marketable commodity in the United States because,
18 if you're familiar with what veneer is, it just isn't used
19 too much since, since the advent of vinyl and plastics and
20 all the other things.

21 So it meant not having a trade when he arrived
22 here.

23 Before we left Germany, my father retrained
24 as a baker and confectioner, and that -- the hope was that
25 this would provide employment and sustenance when we

1 arrived.

2 And he paid someone who, who came to our home,
3 our, our apartment in Stuttgart and they bought machinery
4 and bowls and all sorts of mixing equipment.

5 And every night I remember as a kid, I used to
6 hate the sound of these damn machines running, these, these
7 whipping whipped cream and mixing. I used to say, God, why
8 do we have to live -- it was like living in a boiler
9 factory. And while it's amusing now, looking back in
10 retrospect, it meant the difference between getting these
11 papers and having a viable trade when we arrived here.

12 So having said that, I think it's important
13 that now we hear from my father what happened when he
14 learned this trade and trying to break into a job here now.

15 San Francisco, of course, was in those days
16 blessed with not only the Langendorf bakery, but the
17 Waxman Bakery and the Ukrain Bakery and in those days, there
18 were fourteen major Jewish bakeries. And I'm underlining
19 Jewish here, Jewish-owned and Jewish-operated bakeries.

20 Now, my father is wrinkling his nose, which
21 means he's going to take over the microphone, so I'll rest.

22 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: No, I didn't mean that,
23 because I didn't, don't think it's too much to go in details,
24 because as Harry mentioned already, of course, my wife
25 started working on the third day when we arrived here, found

1 a job in a household, household help, to clean, wash, whatever
2 possible, and Harry started right away the next Monday to go
3 to school.

4 The only thing what I could do was to look for
5 jobs, to go shopping, where I at this time could get day old
6 bread for five cents a piece or --

7 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

8 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Three heads of lettuce
9 for ten cents or two for five or whatever.

10 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: And a five pound sack of
11 potatoes for three cents.

12 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: I remember very well, we
13 were living the first time in an apartment. It was a two-,
14 so-called two-room apartment with a lady, she was with us on
15 the ship together, and we made \$25 a month.

16 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: But I, Dad, I want to add
17 I also started to work right after that. I didn't just start
18 school. No, I wasn't selling newspapers. In those days
19 we sold magazines, and I sold Collier's, Saturday Evening
20 Post, Liberty and I even later took in a line of comic books
21 that I sold door to door. So it was in the drencher.

22 THE INTERVIEWER: You learned the language
23 quickly.

24 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Very quickly.

25 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Quicker than his father,

1 of course. It was much easier.

2 But the main trouble for me was -- I cannot say
3 a law but it was habit that all the bakeries all were union
4 jobs, and they took only member of the union and gave them
5 work.

6 But the other way around, you could not get
7 in the union, become a member of the union when you could
8 not prove that you have a job.

9 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Well, that was exactly the
10 same Catch 22 that existed when I got out of high school, and
11 I had a job, I wanted to be a cabinet maker or carpenter,
12 you remember. I had a friend of my parents' who was willing
13 to hire me, but I had to be in the union first, and this
14 is the same situation. You had to be in the union first,
15 but you couldn't get into the union until you had a job.

16 And that's how they kept you out.

17 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: It was the first beginning
18 I think it's going too far. I started to make my own
19 business so to call. I baked in the kitchen.

20 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: At home, in the apartment.

21 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: At home in the apartment
22 where I got up at three o'clock and baked and my wife bought
23 some cookies and something in a small, in a small store
24 where they bought this, and I was very happy when I made \$5
25 in the week, and was baking late at night --

1 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah, I think we need to
2 say that. I think this is part of San Francisco history.

3 There was an opportunity shop. It was -- and
4 I think it should be on this, I think you may not have heard
5 it, but it was on Polk Street, and I was just there a couple
6 of days ago with my wife, we were looking at that location.
7 There's another store there now.

8 It was between, just below Sutter Street
9 towards Post on Polk Street. And it was principally for
10 this purpose. They sold -- people knitted and people baked
11 and people did other things and brought them in there and
12 they brought them. It was called the San Francisco Opportunity
13 Shop. And it existed for many years that way.

14 THE INTERVIEWER: So you --

15 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Then I was looking
16 around, of course, all the time for other jobs and one of
17 my main purposes at the same time was to find something what
18 might have given me the opportunity to go around, because I
19 had found here some old family relations, I cannot say
20 family anymore, but I had brought a picture along that my old
21 aunt or my grandmother, whatever it was, and I found their
22 son. And after many, many, many tries and visits to see him,
23 he was a lawyer here in San Francisco. I finally got from
24 him the affidavit or the fees for an affidavit for my
25 parents. This was my main trying, of course, still to save

1 the life of my parents.

2 I'm sorry to say I was not successful anymore
3 and it was too late. And I took jobs especially for this
4 purpose of delivery driver here. I was driving around San
5 Francisco for all different kinds of jobs, especially for --

6 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: The Shumate Drugstore,
7 up near the Mount Zion Hotel.

8 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Yeah, from store to store
9 and so on.

10 And going in this detail, we hardly had any
11 connection anymore, of course. There was no mail in a long
12 time, and the sad end of it, of course, is that my parents
13 were brought to concentration camp in Poland and probably
14 to -- I don't remember the names now -- and that was the end
15 of it for them, as well as for other relatives we have left,
16 and friends. We never had heard anymore, maybe very
17 occasionally some note from the, that course, but that is
18 the only memory we have besides a few letters and what we had
19 received here.

20 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah, what am I supposed
21 to say.

22 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: I hadn't --

23 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Well, do you want to talk
24 about how you finally got the job that --

25 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: No.

1 THE INTERVIEWER: Harry, when you came here,
2 and people knew that you were refugees, they knew that you
3 had come from Europe, Europe was at war and you were escaping,
4 that you were, what, you were Germans, you spoke German.
5 What did you tell them when you told them you had to leave
6 because you were Jews because we were afraid of our lives.
7 Did they believe you?

8 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. They
9 believed us, but we were, we were, we were in this legal way
10 we were still German, and I can even tell, in this respect,
11 I can tell you that we had, we were under the law, we had to
12 have a curfew. We were not allowed to go out at night for --

13 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

14 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: -- I don't know how long
15 it was. And we had --

16 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Alien registration card.

17 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: -- alien registration
18 card.

19 THE INTERVIEWER: Going through Japan.

20 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Of course, we had the
21 right away filed for the first papers, and, of course, after
22 five years became, became American citizens.

23 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah, but in the early
24 days -- and I think what, what you were alluding to, and
25 let's talk about that a little bit. First of all, it was a

1 long time, as an 11-year-old -- as a 12-year-old, that I
2 could stop from shaking when I heard sirens or heard footsteps
3 during the night, you know, that sort of thing.

4 Going to school, it was, it was very exciting
5 starting school right away, learning the language and in a
6 very short time, I became a very popular figure in the
7 school because having played soccer in Germany, I became a
8 very star player here because of that -- the other kids,
9 soccer was not a big game here in those days.

10 A different kind of an effect was that, as a
11 result of my conversations with some of my classmates, there
12 were Jewish classmates of mine who for years were forbidden
13 to have anything to do with me or to allow me into their
14 homes, because I told them terrible stories and they couldn't
15 sleep. And they didn't -- yeah, I was going to say, they
16 didn't believe it. I had -- I was joking with an old
17 classmate of mine, whom you might know, is Merla Zoellerbach,
18 who did some writing for the Chronicle. We were kidding about
19 it one time, and she recalls -- because we were classmates
20 all the way through grammar school and high school, and some
21 of the other kids were forbidden by their parents to have
22 anything to do with me, because after they heard these stories,
23 they couldn't sleep at night.

24 What my mother said is true, and most of them
25 didn't believe it until -- well, it was just, no, it was --

1 MRS. GLUCKMAN: I was in the house of a Jewish
2 lady --

3 THE INTERVIEWER: Sit down, be comfortable.

4 MRS. GLUCKMAN: I was working in the house of a
5 Jewish lady. She spoke German. My English wasn't very good
6 then.

7 But I told her they're putting the Jews in
8 concentration camps, and they put them in the gas chambers.
9 But they said it could not be that bad.

10 When we told them that it's in Japan, they're
11 preparing for war, they said, "You're kidding."

12 And I said, "It is true." We were told on the
13 ship, no Japan -- no ship will leave Japan after the one we
14 came on. We don't know, we didn't keep any track of it, if
15 it happened or not. But that's what we were told, that's
16 what we told them here and nobody wanted to believe it.

17 That's the story.

18 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Let's put that on tape,
19 please, because I think this is very important because at --
20 first, what we're talking about, what we're discussing is, is
21 getting my sister to rejoin the family here after four or five
22 years, and obviously a young girl, she was then not yet ten
23 years old was not allowed to travel alone and would have to be
24 accompanied by an adult.

25 So my parents moved Heaven and Earth and wrote

1 letters all over the place to wherever they read in the
2 newspaper that some performer was going to England to enter-
3 tain the troops.

4 And among others -- well, first were performers
5 who were regular travelers back and forth by ship, and we have
6 a letter to, a pleading letter that was written to Deanna
7 Durbin, who was at that time scheduled to entertain troops in
8 England and pleading with her to perhaps bring my sister to
9 the United States.

10 There was an exchange of communication with the
11 wife of President Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, who had
12 become somewhat of a world traveler and was scheduled to
13 travel to England.

14 And a, an answer back, not from Mrs. Roosevelt,
15 but on her behalf from the United States Department of State
16 indicating that this would be impossible. If you read between
17 the lines, the reason it was impossible is because it was not
18 desirable on the part of the Democratic party for the wife
19 of the President to bring a Jewish child along during an
20 election campaign for the presidency. I mean, that's, that's
21 a parenthetical note. I think it needs to be said, however.

22 I don't know if there's anything else to say on
23 that subject, except that finally my parents made -- did make
24 contact with someone in England who was planning to make a
25 trip to the United States and then did -- well, don't shake

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1 your head. Correct me on the tape.

2 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: I think it was, I think
3 it was with the help of the committees again.

4 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Okay.

5 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: They brought children
6 back and finally, in summer of 1945, --

7 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: '45, just short of ten
8 years old, yeah.

9 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: She was, she was --

10 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Six and a half years after,
11 yeah.

12 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Yeah. So finally --

13 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Well, no. No. Let's get
14 the exact date when it actually was, because they want this
15 on the tape and I, I apparently said '45 and it was wrong.
16 If it was wrong, let's correct it.

17 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: She was born in '35.

18 In summer of 1946, we were finally informed
19 that she was coming back on this, I think it was also a
20 Holland ship, and I had to go to New York to meet her, the
21 daughter we didn't know anymore.

22 Of course, I went by train. My wife and son
23 brought me to Oakland to the train. I left here on a
24 Saturday night. I remember it almost it would have been last
25 week. Arrived in New York on Wednesday morning. It doesn't

1 sound possible anymore today that you can make it in five
2 hours, but it was this way.

3 And there in New York, I spent a few days with
4 some good friends of mine, and these friends took me on
5 Monday morning to the harbor in New York where some other
6 people with me were standing, waiting.

7 And of course, this other moment I never will
8 forget as long as I live. When the ship arrived, and there
9 some youngsters, some children stormed down the way, some
10 where the parents knew them and some that they did not know
11 them.

12 Of course, then, one of them was I. I didn't
13 know now who is she, and there's she coming now.

14 So, we found each other, and on the same
15 evening I left with her with the train going back to San
16 Francisco. It was not easy. She was very strange, of course,
17 very shy. And when I asked her, "You want this?" "No, thank
18 you," or "Yes, please." Very, very well educated and brought
19 up, but as I mentioned before, shy.

20 I would offer her something to eat, or what she
21 didn't want. Of course, it was not so easy. I'm not very
22 perfect up till today with the English language, and she
23 speak real English.

24 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yes, I remember it.
25 Tomatoes and potatoes.

1 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Potatoes, some water, and
2 so on.

3 But, we got friendlier with each other, got
4 acquainted, and on -- again on, I think it was a Friday, I
5 don't know for sure anymore, I should find the date -- we
6 arrived here in San Francisco, on the 17th of May, 1946.
7 That is according to my wife helping. She has a better
8 memory, absolutely correct on it, 17th of May of 1946, she
9 arrived with us.

10 And although this was not very easy, all in
11 the small apartment, and I don't want to miss this occasion
12 to mention that we have to thank our son Harry, who made it
13 very much easier for us, as the difference in age was not
14 this big, of course, and he brought us as a family together.

15 Of course, I don't want to miss to say that
16 she, of course, wasn't directly home with us because coming
17 with three years old to this other family in England that
18 were more her parents than we were here.

19 But as her foster mother in England has
20 mentioned and written to us several times from the very
21 first day, we will never let her forget her real parents.
22 What was remarkable, but we never will forget it was this
23 way, and little by little she got acquainted here with us,
24 maybe Harry got in here, because now she had to start here
25 going to school, the same school what Harry went first, and

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1 in 1948, we bought our little house where we still are living
2 today, and as little as it was, it was big enough for the
3 four of us.

4 But Harry had to marry, it was in a big rush,
5 the house was not too small and not too long after this, he
6 got married, so that there are only three of us in the house.
7 Maybe he will cut in here, I don't know that it's anything
8 special to mention about the first time with Marian.

9 THE INTERVIEWER: Marian, did she know why you
10 had sent her. Was she confused?

11 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Oh, yes. You are
12 absolutely right. That is a very important point.

13 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah. It was a very, very
14 difficult transition for her, and it was -- she understood
15 it but she never really did, and it, it was a long, long time
16 before she really understood it.

17 I think she was an adult before things began
18 to fall into place.

19 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: In fact, this has to be
20 mentioned that this was not a Jewish home in England.

21 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: She thought she had been
22 rejected and --

23 MRS. GLUCKMAN: She thought we had sent her
24 away for good. I can't speak.

25 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Okay.

1 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Besides this, it has to
2 be mentioned in this respect, that the home in England where
3 she was living was not a Jewish home. That had made a tiny
4 little bit difference, too.

5 We never were very --

6 THE INTERVIEWER: Wait. They were Quakers?

7 MRS. GLUCKMAN: Yeah.

8 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Mm-hmm, Quaker. It was a
9 Quaker family, a very devout, religious Quaker family, and,
10 yeah, I do recall that.

11 And so the transition into, into a -- it was
12 a whole -- it was not a different place, it was a different
13 world. It was like had she come to another planet, and
14 culture shock is probably the best way to describe it. She
15 was a very unhappy little girl when she arrived. And the
16 politeness that my father mentioned along the way extended
17 later, later to our dining room table when we had meals. It
18 carried on for a long time, because kids just don't say
19 thank you and please and may I have when they feel at home.

20 So it was, it was a long time in coming. It
21 was a very difficult thing for her.

22 THE INTERVIEWER: Did she know she was Jewish?

23 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I don't think she knew
24 what being Jewish meant. It had no significance for her at
25 the --

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1 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: (inaudible)

2 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: -- at the, at the age of
3 11 it didn't, but -- well, I was just going to say that she
4 did, she was sent to a religious school, as most kids -- kids
5 don't go to religious school, they're sent.

6 And religious schools by nature are not a very
7 good vehicle for learning. They're, they're a type of reform
8 school.

9 So, the, the learning of, of new practices that
10 came very slowly. One would have to say we were not, we were
11 not orthodox by any means. We observed the holidays, and
12 that was about it.

13 THE INTERVIEWER: Do you remember the holidays?

14 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Do I remember the holidays?
15 Of course, but what's there to say about the holidays?

16 THE INTERVIEWER: Well -- (inaudible)

17 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: They're holidays. We did,
18 we did attend services. We attended services.

19 In the first days when we came here, and before
20 and shortly after my Bar Mitzvah, I did go to services every
21 Shabouth, until I was turned off by a Rabbi.

22 But that's another, that's a whole different
23 story that doesn't belong on this tape.

24 I'm not sure I can add much to that. She did,
25 she did go to -- yeah, she was Bat Mitzvah, and she attended

1 Sunday School until shortly after that, I guess, too.

2 THE INTERVIEWER: You said when she got in
3 town that she understood for a while, that she felt rejected.
4 When did she overcome that feeling about how and where she --

5 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: That's a tough question to
6 answer. I'm not sure, and, and, and my parents will disagree
7 with this, but in some ways I don't think she ever did in
8 her subconscious mind. I don't know. That's too difficult
9 to answer.

10 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: I don't think so. My
11 wife --

12 MRS. GLUCKMAN: She wanted to go back to England
13 because she said, "You didn't want me. You sent me away when
14 I was so small. Why did you ask for me to come back to you?"
15 In the very beginning when she came, we told her the reason,
16 but she didn't, she didn't understand it.

17 And it was very, very hard. The first year was
18 very hard. We had fights and we had tears and it was not
19 very easy for us. I had to work, he couldn't work. I had to
20 take her along to the jobs that I had. I had three different
21 jobs a day; one in the morning to clean a house, one in the
22 afternoon to clean a house. In the evening I went babysitting
23 for 25¢ an hour, and got 10¢ car fare back and forth from the
24 job.

25 I went home at three o'clock in the morning and

1 started at six o'clock the next.

2 And some places I took her along, and the ladies
3 knew what was happening, and they were very nice and polite.
4 In most houses, I was by myself. She was sitting down with
5 a book, either reading or when she went to school, she was
6 very unhappy, too, because she had the English accent and the
7 kids were laughing at her.

8 In England, she was very unhappy because she
9 was a German girl. She was a Jewish girl, and she was not
10 very happy in the beginning.

11 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Germany already she was a
12 Jewish girl.

13 MRS. GLUCKMAN: Yeah.

14 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: In England,--

15 MRS. GLUCKMAN: And came home when she was three
16 years old with a hole in her head, and the boy next door said,
17 "You, Jew, go home." And she said, "What is that? Why did
18 he hit me?"

19 It took, it took about a year and a half, two
20 years until we were getting close and closer. And she, and
21 she made friends, they came to the house, and so on. That's
22 it.

23 THE INTERVIEWER: Tell us about her getting
24 married.

25 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: That's going too far.

1 That's going too far.

2 THE INTERVIEWER: Maybe off tape.

3 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: But now you told about
4 your jobs, I don't know it's from any interest (inaudible)

5 THE INTERVIEWER: It is important, that, that --
6 what you had said before about them not believing.

7 MRS. GLUCKMAN: Yeah. That's, that wasn't the
8 worst.

9 (inaudible conversation.)

10 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Working for 28 years till
11 I retired. Is this worth to mention, however?

12 THE INTERVIEWER: What do you do for the last
13 28 years?

14 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: After about 12 or 13 jobs
15 what I have the first two years, I finally found a job in the
16 well-known company of Joseph Megnine (Phonetic), as a shipping
17 and receiving clerk and started there in 1942, and stayed
18 there for the coming 28 years till I retired in 1970.

19 And that is more (inaudible)

20 THE INTERVIEWER: Harry, what did you pursue?

21 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yeah. That's, that really
22 is what I wanted to say. Are we back live and in color?

23 I made some, some remark earlier about -- and
24 I guess it's, we are what we are, and some things along the
25 way that really shaped my whole, my whole life, even now,

1 today, some of the -- some of my experiences as, as a youngster
2 in Germany, and particularly the day we left that my father
3 talked about, and the adventure at the border with, with
4 being stopped and the thought that the train was going to
5 pull out with my mother and myself on board and my father
6 left behind under arrest, I, I sort of made an unspoken vow
7 that day never to set foot on German soil again, which
8 interestingly enough, I don't know if it belongs on this
9 tape but I'm going to say it. I'm about to break in a few
10 days almost 44 years to the day that we left. I'll be back
11 there next week. It's a lot of years and there's a lot of
12 reasons for it.

13 Some of my experiences when I came here as a
14 youngster in San Francisco, as a Jew in San Francisco, and
15 as a different kind of a Jew from those other Jews who were
16 here had a lot to do with, with shaping my life.

17 The non-acceptance by, by other Jewish kids
18 had a lot to do with my outlook on the Jewish community.
19 Sure.

20 THE INTERVIEWER: The Jews that were here
21 established the San Francisco Jewish community (inaudible)
22 but what about, what about that? Can you (inaudible)

23 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Well, in San Francisco,
24 as in most places in the United States, but more so in the
25 west coast, there were several Jewish communities, and you

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1 just mentioned there was a Russian-Polish-Jewish community,
2 and a German-Jewish community, and just within the German
3 Jews, there were those that came here during the gold rush
4 and many of whom, the Weinbergers and others, who today are
5 influential Christians in the political scene who in those
6 days had grandfathers who were Jewish merchants who were
7 peddlers, and if you scratch most of those people deep
8 enough, you'll find Jewish blood.

9 They didn't take too kindly to, to the refugees,
10 and, and --

11 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

12 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: No, they didn't believe a
13 word about what I told them, and the, the -- and I'll mention
14 some of the kids I went to school with, because where we
15 lived, we lived near Mount Zion Hospital in the, in what's
16 called the western addition. You want to check your batteries?
17 Or change --

18 THE INTERVIEWER: When they go, they go. Sorry.
19 Continue.

20 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: What -- well, no, I think
21 this needs to be said for historical purposes because it had
22 a lot to do with shaping the Jewish community in San Francisco.

23 You asked me if kids believed what I had told
24 them about what I had seen.

25 THE INTERVIEWER: You are survivors of the Nazi

1 Germany.

2 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: We, we had a very peculiar
3 and different story to tell, and even today it's different
4 from those who were less fortunate than we were. We were
5 amongst the very last, lucky ones to get out.

6 The people who tried three or four weeks after
7 us to get out didn't. They went to the camps and many of
8 them didn't survive. Many of my parents' friends and relatives
9 of ours, I guess our family was about, probably numbered 60
10 to 80 people, and I think we're -- other than those who went
11 to Palestine, and I don't like to use the word "Palestine,"
12 let's call it Israel, pre-state days Israel -- are the only
13 survivors. And that takes us full circle to why I'm going
14 to Germany next week after making that vow.

15 Let, let me deal first with the question about
16 people in San Francisco. Jews in San Francisco, not only
17 didn't believe what we had to tell, but they weren't even
18 remotely interested in what we had to tell, and that really
19 is the important thing. Jews were not unified at all. Jews
20 were not Jews in San Francisco until Israel victoriously
21 celebrated the six-day war. There was no Jewish community
22 in San Francisco until 1967.

23 I have said this from the pulpit of a temple
24 and I continue to say it until I die. Jewish kids, the
25 Fleishachers (Phonetics) and the Zoellerbachs, and other

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1 kids with whom I went to school in San Francisco, because I
2 went to school at Grant School and I was friendly with kids
3 at Grant and at Pacific Heights. They were the, the very
4 most affluent of the early Jewish settlers. They were the,
5 the people who went to Temple Emmanuel and looked down their
6 noses at kids who wore short pants and didn't want anything
7 to do with kids who didn't come to school with a chauffeur
8 driven limousine.

9 THE INTERVIEWER: That's still the same.

10 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: It hasn't -- I was just
11 going to say it hasn't changed a bit, and I went on from there
12 to Lowell High School with the same kids, and until -- I
13 tried very hard to transfer out of Lowell because I was very
14 unhappy with it for, partly for that reason.

15 In '48, and I, to this day my parents do not
16 know that. I may have said it jokingly a couple of times,
17 but I came very close to leaving San Francisco in 1948 when
18 several friends of mine left to fight for Israel in the early
19 days.

20 Now, I didn't graduate from high school until
21 June of '48, and the reason I didn't go in April, when several
22 friends of mine left, was primarily because the principal of
23 Lowell High School in those days, a Mr. Stevens, said, "Do
24 whatever you want to do, but wait until after June."

25 But late in May, I met my now bride of some -- I

1 won't say how many years, more years than we'd care to
2 remember.

3 And so that postponed my, my first visit to
4 Israel for many, many, many years until 1971. And in 1971,
5 when I went to Israel for the first time with my parents and
6 my wife, the aftermath of a group that I was putting together
7 and had sold some 18 people on going, all of whom later
8 cancelled out, so the four of us went, and I, for the first
9 time in my life, felt at home, because I have never in all
10 the years in this country -- and this country has been
11 wonderful to me, to us I should say, to all of us, it has
12 been more than good, it's been almost home -- but I have
13 truly never felt, and I still feel that as Jews we will
14 outlive our days and our welcome here as we did in every
15 other place that we have lived in the world.

16 I've always said that it would probably come
17 around the turn of the century, and I may have missed by a
18 few years, but I never really felt at home until I arrived
19 in Israel. That's the only place I've ever felt at home.

20 And that has -- that goes back to why I'm going
21 to Germany, because the only relative that I have, the only
22 blood relative that I have in the world, other than my
23 immediate family, is my cousin, the, the daughter of my
24 mother's sister.

25 My father was an only child, so it was not

1 possible for me to have more than one cousin. And she lives
2 in Israel and is at the moment in Germany, and I'm going to
3 visit with her for a few days, so we'll get to see each
4 other.

5 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

6 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: So, we're going to meet
7 on neutral ground in Germany for a few days. So --

8 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: (inaudible)

9 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: It also -- yeah, I'm going
10 to -- when I returned from Israel after that first visit --
11 shall I cut it short here or -- because you asked me what do
12 I do, and I many years ago made a pledge that I would continue
13 to work the rest of my days on behalf of my people, and that
14 is what I do.

15 When I came back from Israel, I, I went to work
16 for the Israel Bond Organization.

17 During the Yom Kippur war, I worked as a special
18 representative of the finance ministry of the State of Israel
19 throughout the northwestern United States. I later went to
20 work for ORT as the first director for ORT for this area for
21 about seven years.

22 I have done a lot of other things in the Jewish
23 community as a volunteer, but as a professional, I also work
24 for the Jewish National Fund and I'm now the executive
25 director for the Charitsitic (Phonetic) Medical Center in

1 Jerusalem.

2 That -- well, B'Nai B'Rith is something else
3 that's in a volunteer capacity.

4 I live in San Francisco. Oh, no, I work as a
5 fund raiser, as director for the organization here. I'm
6 director for the Pacific Northwest, and -- with headquarters
7 in San Francisco.

8 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

9 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: You do? Good. I'll take
10 your check as I go out the door.

11 In any case, all of that, all of that back-
12 ground is, is I guess by way of saying that I do what I do
13 as a result of being what I am and paying back.

14 Somebody, somebody paid for us and now, now I
15 think I'm repaying what, what was given to me.

16 There was something else I wanted to add to
17 that, but I sort of lost the train of thought here.

18 THE INTERVIEWER: Where is home for you?

19 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I'm more at home in Israel
20 than I am right here, although --

21 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

22 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Well, I, yeah, I'm sorry.
23 That's my feeling. I wrote an article on one of my trips
24 back from Israel. I wrote an article that appeared in a
25 number of publications here. I said that as I looked through

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1 that little porthole on this plane and watch that little
2 speck of green getting smaller and smaller and there's this
3 vast expanse of brown and gray, I'm, I'm going home -- I'm
4 returning home but I'm leaving the only home that I know.

5 And that's, that's the way I feel.

6 THE INTERVIEWER: Do you feel safe here?

7 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Safer there in what way?

8 As a Jew or --

9 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

10 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: That's a very, that's a
11 difficult question. You get into all sorts of political
12 things there.

13 Safer? Yes. Yeah, I feel safer there as a
14 Jew. It depends on whether you mean threatened as a Jew or
15 whether you mean -- I don't, I don't see the Jews surviving
16 in the rest of the world. I don't see us as being welcome
17 any place for very long. We're a very difficult people, we're
18 very hard to get along with and it's not too surprising that
19 we are the root of anti-Semitism ourselves. I think we
20 recognize that.

21 If you're talking about safety, I, I'm -- I've
22 given a lot of speeches about Israel, and I'll tell you what
23 I always said when I came back and people ask me did I feel
24 safe there.

25 I remember my parents and I walking home at one

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1 o'clock, or one-thirty in the morning from the reception
2 after the Bar Mitzvah of my cousin's younger son. We were
3 walking through Tel Aviv, and it was after one o'clock in
4 the morning, and we saw little girls walking home alone from
5 parties.

6 Now, do you feel safe here?

7 THE INTERVIEWER: I suppose you are a survivor.

8 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: That was changed, too.

9 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Unfortunately, yeah, that's
10 changed. Everything changes. Yeah. They even lock their
11 doors there now.

12 THE INTERVIEWER: I mean, not to suggest that
13 you're paranoid, (inaudible) American, you're talking
14 about the turn of the century. I'm sort of interested what
15 you were talking about.

16 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Well, you see, what I'm
17 talking about is --

18 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible) paranoid.

19 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I, I remember I went to
20 New York some years ago and I was sitting -- you want to shut
21 it off.

22 THE INTERVIEWER: Do, do you mind?

23 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: No. No. I'll answer your
24 question either on the tape or off the tape. It doesn't
25 matter.

1 The, the, the Jew in American I thought had
2 just about run full cycle when Ronald Reagan was elected
3 Governor of California.

4 And I was sitting in New York at the conference
5 table of a national meeting of ORT, and they were kidding me
6 about this, this actor that's just been elected Governor of
7 California. And I said, you know, "This may sound a little
8 ridiculous now, but you better get used to calling him Mr.
9 President."

10 And there was uproarious laughter. Broke up the
11 meeting. The meeting almost ended because of what I said. I
12 don't remember what year that was, '76, '77.

13 I saw a lot of signs in those days, and it
14 wasn't necessarily my dealings with Alan Benson and the Nazi
15 Party, because that was too farfetched. But there were signs
16 from the left. There were a lot of signs, there were a lot
17 of signs that we saw in Germany in the '30's that we saw in
18 America, in the mid-'70's.

19 THE INTERVIEWER: You don't think here in America
20 there's the -- it could happen again and it could happen again?
21 Maybe not here, but somewhere else.

22 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: After all this, I would a
23 few times, I take this too to the papers, warming out our
24 memories. Happily, they bought it. But now it is very hard
25 to say, very hard to say.

1 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Well, I think the lesson
2 is that we can't, we cannot take our, our liberty and our
3 freedom too much for granted. I think that's really the
4 watchword, and I figure we can end on that now.

5 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

6 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: The Nazi, about -- I mean
7 it this way, about we lost what we had and losing our people
8 and our family, and even what I mentioned in between with
9 you, finding again some, some friends or some family of
10 friends, we although were not fortunate enough to revive, or
11 whatever you call it, and -- because that is what I was asking,
12 what's the name, your chum?

13 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Yat Vashim (Phonetic).

14 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Yat Vashim, but it's very
15 hard to answer. It was as I tried to mention, whatever we
16 did, you wouldn't be possible, other ones had not done maybe,
17 to save these people.

18 And what I had found here going through these
19 few little things, and my wife helped me think what I even
20 didn't know, what I had a letter here from some very distant
21 relative or something, and it described the last few days, my
22 beloved parents were in Breslau because they were transported
23 away.

24 And this cannot be mentioned enough and enough.
25 Of course, that is what people hear, and even after the last

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1 Nazis or co-workers with them tried to -- there was no, not
2 ever a holocaust, so this couldn't be underlined enough, as
3 we are a personal witness and have even letters in black and
4 white what happened to them.

5 And here I found this one letter what is short
6 enough, or it says enough, for the last help even picking
7 the few things what they were allowed to take with them, as
8 we had to do.

9 Of course, I have found here some letters even
10 what we were allowed to take or not. From this few things
11 what we were allowed to take, we never got. We see in here
12 some plates but never the bowls to it, but never this. So,
13 that is not, not --

14 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: But we did take half of
15 Wistollen (Phonetic) along the way.

16 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: No, not even worthwhile
17 to mention, but the loss of the family and of the friends,
18 as I showed you here, these things in the newspaper when I
19 put in --

20 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: Ad.

21 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Ads in for looking for
22 them, that speaks and that's more than everybody connects
23 (inaudible)

24 MR. HARRY GLUCKMAN: I think we have done it.

25 THE INTERVIEWER: (inaudible)

1 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: It's (inaudible) yeah,
2 but it was later on evidently, it was famous, the most --

3 THE INTERVIEWER: Auschwitz?

4 MR. WALTER GLUCKMAN: Auschwitz. I think that
5 was the end of it. But we never could find out.

6 (Interview concluded.)
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