

This is the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Emmy Mogolenski conducted by Margaret Garrett on November 15, 1996 in Baltimore, Maryland. Take three, side A. So you were asked if you'd like to see what the inside of the synagogue used to look like.

And we said, but how? It has been burned down. And he said, I know a lady in town who has a shop who has pictures of what it looked like. And my son, and my daughter, and I with one voice said, please, take us there. And when we got to the shop, sure enough hanging on the wall were seven pictures of the synagogue, one from the outside and six from the inside.

And we stood there and marveled. My children couldn't get over it. And I said, can I get copies of these photographs? Sure, she says. I have the negatives. So we ordered them on the spot. And very soon after we came back, the photographs were there. It was an incredible experience.

He then took us for coffee. And he was extremely, extremely nice. And I wanted to do something in return. He certainly wouldn't accept any money. So when we went back to Munich, we asked if there was such a thing as a Jewish bookstore still in Munich. And we were told that, yes, there is one.

And we went there. From the outside, there is no way that you can tell it is a Jewish anything. But it was obvious from the subject of the books in the window that it was a Jewish bookstore. And we went in and I selected the books of Psalms for his son in German. And I sent it to him.

And then we went to Thalmassing to visit the grave of my other grandparents. But we had very little time. By the time we got there, it was already getting dark. And we just paid a really quick visit and left. The next day-- we were staying in Munich as I said. The next day we went to visit Dachau.

Now the concentration camp in Dachau has been sanitized to such an extent that you can no longer really recognize it for what it ever was. All the huts where the prisoners used to live have been torn down. One has been rebuilt as an example but it's brand new. And it's just not the same at all.

Apparently, an extermination oven had been built there fairly late in the day and had been removed as soon as the war was over so that wasn't there anymore either. There is a long building which is a museum now which really sort of tells the story of what Dachau had been but only in a peripheral sort of way.

I must say that they obviously take hundreds and hundreds of schoolchildren there, because when we got there, there were I don't know how many school buses all over the parking lot. And inside there were obviously lots and lots of schoolchildren. But the teachers give them tasks to find this and find that. And so they call to each other, oh, I found this and look over here. Here is that. And so that the atmosphere is totally lost.

At the end of the museum, there are large books where you can write your impression and what you thought of what you had seen. And I opened one of the books at random. And there indeed was in a childish handwriting it said that they are sorry for what happened and they will try hard to learn never to let something like that happen again.

I turned the page and on the next page was the insignia of the skinheads and a message which said, Hitler only started the job. It's up to us to finish it. And I turned to my kids and I said, we've got to get out of here. We went back to the hotel. We stayed overnight. And the next morning we left and we went to Switzerland and spent the rest of the week in Switzerland.

Did I put closure to it, my life in Germany? I don't know. The messages we got all over Germany were all double messages, one positive, one negative. The mayor in [NON-ENGLISH] could not have been a more decent person. Other people were not so kind.

All I can say is I am glad we left when we did. I think that my children got a great deal out of that visit, in a way, perhaps even more than I did. And so for their sake, I'm glad I went. But I wouldn't tell you that it has made things any

easier for me because it hasn't.

Is there anything else that you want to ask me? Is there anything else that--

I don't have any more questions. Is there anything else that you would like to say?

Well, the only thing that I can say is that only very recently I had a letter from England. Oh, I of course visited my foster parents in England every year for years.

These are the Cohens?

Yes. Every summer I went back for at least a week and visited with them as soon as my children were old enough so that I could leave them. And both of them lived a long and full life. My foster father died when he was 96. My foster mother died when she was 103. And I am convinced that their longevity is due to the kindness which they showed me.

Recently, as I said, I got a letter from England to say that they are trying to clean out the archives at the World Jewish Relief Fund in Dryden House in London. And they found a lot of ID cards of children who came over on the children's transports. And there ended up about 10,000 of us in England. And they have found mine and would I like to have it back. And if so, would I please communicate with them. So I wrote to them. And sure enough, I got it back. And it's very interesting. It gives my name as Emma Sarah.

Oh, and I also have to say that, in Germany, we had to take on Jewish middle names. My name at birth was only Emma Hupert or Hubert. And the Nazis insisted that the women all take on the middle name of Sarah and the men take on the middle name of Israel. And all documents had to be signed that way. And all mail had to be directed that way.

And when I came to England, I was asked what my name was. And I thought very quickly and I said it is Emma Sarah. I kept the middle name, because I did not want to forget ever what had happened in Germany. And so I kept it. And it lists my name and that of my parents, and when I arrived in England, and all that good stuff, and my picture. And I have tried-- I do a great deal of speaking on the Holocaust. And I have tried to do this in memory of my parents and of my foster parents, because it is a story that I do not want to be forgotten ever.

Thank you very much for giving your testimony.

Thank you.

We will not forget.

Good. Thank you.