

**Frank Ephraim**

**Tape 1 Side A**

**February 28, 1997**

**RG-50.106\*0068.01.08**

### **Abstract**

Frank Ephraim was born as Franz Winter Ephraim on February 13, 1931 in Charlottenbourg, Berlin, Germany His father was born in 1903 and started working as an inventor before working with diesel engines and then he worked in textiles until he left Germany in 1939. The family was not orthodox but they celebrated holidays and regularly attended the Prince Regatta Strasse Synagogue. His father was in the area on Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938 and viewed the ruins the next day. When Frank was four or five, he noticed the children wearing the uniform of the Hitler youth. He entered the Jewish school at age six as not allowed in the public school. He heard tram passengers saying, "Them Damn Jews," noticed a sign at a restaurant, "Jews not allowed" and saw benches were painted with a "J" for Jews. Frank's mother had no close relatives in Germany so was ready to leave but his father did not make major changes quickly. They got out with help from relatives and went to the Philippines.

In part two Frank discusses from the time of Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938 to the family's experience in the Philippines. Kristallnacht convinced Frank's family to leave and they made contact with a cousin in the Philippines. After they obtained visas and affidavits, they packed up their belongings which had to be examined by the Gestapo. They were passed and took a series of trains to Genoa, Italy with a long stop at the Austrian/Italian border to be checked over. The family felt free in Italy where they were welcomed. From Genoa they took a ship with other refugees on February 24, 1939 with stops along the way to Manila where they arrived on March 16, 1939. They had to get acclimated to the tropical climate, to different food and his father needed to find work and Frank had to attend school. They found the Jewish community to be active before the War.

Tape three begins the second part of Frank's interview which starts with Frank living in the Philippines in 1940 and ends when the War begins. The Philippines and the Jewish Community had planned construction of a community for 10,000 immigrants but the War stopped its progress. A Temple had been constructed in the 30s which served as a religious and cultural center for all the Jewish people, whether orthodox or conservative including Sephardim from the time of the inquisition along with more recent arrivals from Europe and the US. Those from the US established businesses including a tobacco factory, transportation, auto and book store which provided employment for many people. The newcomers had to get used to the food and the climate. First Frank attended Mrs. Hoyes' Kindergarten School and then the Jesuit run De La Salle College. He and his father would visit the many ships docking at the nearby port. Frank's family lived in five different homes, often taking in boarders to offset the cost. School was closed for a year starting December 8, 1941. They had air raids due to Japan's frequent bombing.

Frank's father was jailed for a few hours as he was considered to be an enemy alien as from Germany. Once the War began, they felt their relatives in Europe were stuck.

Part four starts with the American forces preparing to defend against Japan which invaded New Years Day 1942. It discusses life in the Philippines during the Japanese occupation. The Japanese guarded their homes, Temple and schools. After a year, Frank attended De La Salle College for two years run by the Jesuit Brothers. Teachers from axis countries were permitted to teach and the others were interned. The same with the civilians so Americans and Jews from such countries as Poland and Romania were interned. Since Frank's family had German passports, they were not interned but their home was used for Japanese officers so they moved to a bungalow. New Japanese money was issued and food was rationed. The Japanese enforced restrictions in order to form a Greater Japanese area including the Philippines. Frank's family secretly used a shortwave radio to hear accurate news. Frank's father's office was closed so he went into business selling hardware. The Jews did some spying such as reading the names of the Japanese ships that were printed on the sailors' hats and passing on information about the troops.

Part five discusses the occupation of the Philippines by the Japanese. It starts with Yom Kippur 1943 when some of the internees were permitted to attend services. Frank's father served on the Jewish Council where one of his responsibilities was to change their old money into the occupation money. Their passports got stamped with, "Statelessness." They only had bicycles for transportation. The people planted vegetable gardens and Frank made coconut milk to fill out the food shortages. School was closed for a year after the occupation and then Frank returned to the De La Salle College for a year until it was halted again. Pink houses nearby were first used by the Japanese as a red-light district and later as a hospital, using the geishas as nurse aides. Frank tells of sabotaging the Japanese bike squadrons by throwing something on the gravel that made the tires flat and, also, by passing on the names of the Japanese ships that were indicated on the sailor's caps. Frank had a short vacation by taking a train and bus to Baguio where he saw headhunters. He discusses his Bar Mitzvah. The Japanese would search the houses for short-wave radios. This part ends with the Americans invading the Philippines.

Part six continues Frank's story during the occupation in the Philippines until after liberation. He tells of witnessing the battles of the Americans against the Japanese from December 1944 to February 15, 1945 (liberation) when he had to take shelter. When the Japanese started burning homes, Frank's family, along with others, built lean-tos in the open lots. Frank saw many people get killed and many dead bodies. When their house was burned, the family walked towards the Americans who took them to the Convent of the Holy Ghost, a Catholic Nunnery. Two weeks later, the Jews were forced to leave as it was a German internment camp. The Rabbi and Elders rented a large house in Santa Mesa where they remained for two weeks when a former neighbor in charge of the Findley (?) Miller Lumber Mill offered them space in his house. 100,000 Filipinos and 60 Jews were killed during the occupation. After liberation, the American/Jewish soldiers helped the Jewish community make a Seder in April 1945, helped them with food, helped them organize teenage groups where they taught Zionism and helped raise money to

rebuild the Temple. The tape ends with the family preparing to immigrate to the US with the help of clothes from the American Joint Committee and a former neighbor helping them with the paperwork.

Part seven starts with a discussion about Frank's schooling and his father's work in the Philippines. Then it tells about the family packing up to go to the US. Frank explains where they were quartered on the ship and about a dangerous incident when the ship lost power but used an emergency generator to complete the voyage. The family settled in San Francisco where they met others from the Philippines and formed a Jewish community. Frank received scholarships for two summer programs: Boys Town and "Making Democracy Work." He graduated from the High School of Commerce and attended the University of California at Berkeley. In March '52 he became a citizen of a country for the first time. Frank was drafted into the Korean War on December 2, 1952 but served in the European Theatre due to his knowledge of German. Frank was discharged three months early as the War ended and he was admitted to college. Frank discusses Zionism, especially their activity in San Francisco.

Part eight of Frank Ephraim's interview is very philosophical. He views Judaism as a nation, not a religion. He believes that orthodox religions become cults like Nazism which was influenced by four disabled people (Hitler, Goering, Goebels, and Hess). He also believes that bureaucracy is too controlling as one acts robotic to follow the requirements. He does not feel that he missed his teen years as he learned self-reliance. He tells of his work with a lawyer in East Berlin to obtain the necessary birth and death certificates and wills in order to get a family-owned building back in the hands of the family. He is married to a Jewish woman born in Germany who went through the Holocaust so they have values in common; they have a daughter. After Frank retired from the government, he volunteered with the Holocaust Museum when it was just organizing volunteer training. Frank helped organize a reunion for the Jews who had found shelter in the Philippines from the Nazis. It was held October 19 to 21, 1996 in Washington, DC.

### **Summary**

00:00 Frank Ephraim was born as Franz Winter Ephraim on February 13, 1931 in Charlottenbourg, Berlin, Germany. His father was born in 1903 and started working as an inventor before working with diesel engines for sugar plantations until 1936. Then he worked in textiles until he left Germany in 1939. His parents owned a clothing store in Berlin. Frank's mother was born in Schneidemuhl in West Prussia and married his father in 1928. Frank's mother's father was a veterinarian for farm animals and came to Berlin and worked for an advertising firm. Frank's mother's father, Hymann, served in the cavalry regiment in World War I and his grandmother was a housewife. His mother had eight year younger twin brother and sister who moved to Italy in 1934 and later to the US. Frank was born three years after his parents' marriage. His parents and grandparents

were Jewish. They regularly attended the Prince Regatta Strasse Synagogue. His father was in the area on Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938 and viewed the ruins the next day. His parents were assimilated. A veterinarian could not practice orthodoxy and deal with pigs and cattle. His father's side was conservative and attended a conservative synagogue. Frank was brought up as conservative Judaism. His maternal grandparents died in 1933 so he barely knew them. on Jews in public places so school excursions were limited In the middle of the night there was a knock on the door by a relative of his mother's who arrived by motorcycle fleeing from the Schneidemuhl Nazis

- 05:00 His grandfather in Berlin died a day before Kristallnacht and his grandmother and uncle were taken on a transport to Lodz. His grandmother died on the transport and his uncle died in Lodz. After World War II, the Red Cross gathered lists of names of people and where and when they died. In 1949 his father found out in the Gedentbuk (?), the 1946 edition, about the 100,000 German Jews who perished with place where they were from, where they were taken to, date of death or date unknown (if in a concentration camp). Franks' mother was Charlotte Rose Ernestine Hymann. His parents met when his father visited a relative in Schneidemuhl. His grandfather belonged to the Odd fellows Lodge and they were introduced at an affair there. They were close to the Jewish community. Schneidemuhl had 80 or 90,000 people with only a few Jewish families so they dealt with non-Jews. The grandfather was not only a veterinarian but also a meat inspector so he integrated with the population. The farmers paid him in eggs and butter rather than money. There was no ghetto as there were few in Germany. Frank's father grew up in Berlin and was a teenager in World War I and took care of his family as his father was at the Front. Frank's father held patents until the Crash of '29.
- 10:00 Then he worked for Orenstein diesel engines. Frank's paternal grandfather was named Adolf Ephraim. His paternal grandparents owned the Friederdon (?) clothing store in the center of Berlin. His father never worked there nor did his uncle who was younger than the father. The grandparents retired in 1936 and the grandfather got sick two years later and died. It was a general clothing store. When Frank was two or three, they lived in the Stieglitz area of Berlin where they had an apartment and Frank played nearby. They moved to Hollandaise (?) in Charlottenburg where he attended nursery school and played with children on Starkhauser (?) Strasse near Hautboner (?) Strasse. They lived in an apartment on the ground floor. One family was Jewish and the rest non-Jewish and Frank played with all the children. When he was four or five, Frank noticed the children joined the Hitler Junend (?) and wore uniform with a scarab. They played with ball bearings by rolling them along but they were not for Jews, only for those in the Nazi Youth Movement.
- 15:00 The children would inquire whether he was a full or half Jew. They did not hurt him physically. The children were the children of the porter or concierge who was responsible for maintenance and repair. They lived next door and invited him for

Christmas Eve where the father dressed as Santa and gave him cookies. Around 1935 or '36, whenever there was a Nazi holiday such as Adolf Hitler's birthday, they hung flags and the black SS were seen. Frank started school at age six in 1937 as there was no kindergarten. He started first grade which was known as 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He attended the Jewish school as not allowed in the public school. The school was started by Tom Leigler (?), an experienced educator in a villa. Frank's parents had a white-haired Terrier. Frank would go to Kurfensendamm (?) and take a bus to school and on his way home his mother and the dog met him. That was the same street where he saw the Nazi Black SS. Frank did not look Jewish with his light blond hair and blue eyes. When the streetcar got close to the school, the people made cracks about the Jews getting off: "Them Damn Jews." Also, Frank noticed a sign at a restaurant "Jews not allowed" and benches were painted with a "J" for Jews.

20:00 Frank would visit parks around the town with his father. They saw the Berlin Mountains, Unten den Linden and saw a parade. The Berlin police force wore blue uniforms but the "Schutz Polizei (?)" changed to green uniforms when they marched in the Nazi parade. Frank saw drummers and banners in the Nazi parade. His father also took him to the railroad station where he saw the "Flying Hamburg" train, a high speed train to Hamburg. Frank does not recall seeing any movies except for the weekend he was taken to his aunt's in Karlsport, East of Berlin. They had no children and he stayed with them and was taken to a Shirley Temple movie where Shirley was chased by horsemen. There was the Lester Schuler, a school run by Tony Lester which went through the last year of high school. Frank's parents knew socially the Dean of Students. He was the disciplinarian so knew Frank who was a goof-off. The school was in the Hallenzi (?) area of the Sichterzerla (?) district which was in the south central part of Berlin. It was close to the Konrad Adenauer Platz. There was a large church in the neighborhood and a large sandlot where he played with the son of the Turkish consul. Frank went to Berlin in 1992 and 1995 and went to the playground and saw the name, Holfmeister (?) Platz and Holfmeister (?) Kirch (church). It was a protestant, German Lutheran, neighborhood.

25:00 Of a million population, there were 150,000 or 10% Jews. Artillangasse (?) Strasse was inhabited by recent immigrants from Poland. They integrated into the German-Jewish community. It was a middle class area with villas and homes. There was a railroad station. It was provincial. The private school was started by Tony as the Jewish children were no longer allowed at the public school. Unlike other schools, it was not financed by the State. Tony left Germany in the middle of '39. In 1996 Frank found out that Berlin published a newsletter for former inhabitants of Berlin and he found another man who had attended the school. The man moved to Toronto and Frank had lunch with him. The man said that when he left another lady, Goldschmidt, took over the school. Now it is known as the Goldschmidt School which Stella attended.

- 30:00 On the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Holocaust Museum there is an exhibit of a video showing children writing on a blackboard and indicates the Goldschmidt Schuler. Frank often saw the exhibit when he worked there as a volunteer guard and did not realize that it was his school. It was a unique school. Frank attended '37 to '39 and the school mixed the required curriculum. They studied reading and writing using the old German Ziterland (?) script. In Frank's second year, he learned Latin script and took the Jewish component of Jewish history, religion, Hebrew, holidays and German. It was similar to a Jewish Day School in the US. The teachers could not work in the public school so worked there. The school had excellent educators but Frank only attended two years. They went on excursions to the park which was awkward as they heard bystanders talking. Anti-Semitism could be found at every corner at that time. There was a small corner store, part of the Bolte (?) chain with a logo of a line drawing of a man. Germans would walk in and give the Nazi salute and say, "Heil Hitler." Some Germans did not openly participate in this way.
- 35:00 Frank felt that Jews were either curses or excluded and not considered equal members of society. There was no requirement to wear the Yellow Star or armband until later. Their physical characteristics identified them as Jews. The Germans focused on racial characteristics at that time with their posters. History dealing with World War I was taught in school when Jews were part of German society. Both his grandfathers served in the German Army. At 6 to 8 year old, there was no politics taught at school. Other children had to join them as their school was taken over. At the Jewish festival of Succoth, they were given grapefruit, an unusual fruit for them. Their teacher, Fraulein Ackman (?), told its meaning. He does not recall any German inspectors at school. **Tape 1, Side B.**
- 40:00 There was a ban on Jews in public places so school excursions were limited. They went to Lunavolt (?) Park in Berlin on a nature walk to view the trees, foliage, birds and shrubs with the teacher's explanation and had a picnic. For two summers ('37 and '38 or '38 and '39), Frank was sent to a camp in Reisenburg (?), Czechoslovakia, a camp in the mountains. The home was run by two women, one a PhD and one an MD. There they went on long excursions in the mountains and forests and crossed rushing streams. They took a train to get to the camp and stayed there for six weeks. The Lester School in Berlin had a mixture of education. They educated the children about the Jewish faith, mostly conservative and some orthodox but no reform. They had a German tradition on the first day of school as each child received a large bag of candy from relatives and friends. Berlin began a program of conservation. They had two or three kinds of garbage cans and one can had a placard with a picture of a pig and noted all the items to place in the can which fed pigs.
- 45:00 Silver paper including wrapping from candy was saved and when it became 3 inches in diameter, it was turned in for the war effort. They collected clothing for the poor. There

was a large Gypsy community in Berlin who came to their community by horse and wagon and begged, asked for work or picked up old items. Frank was acquainted with the Gypsies and their work. The mail truck was the only electrically driven vehicle. Streetcars were always double with the main car up front and the smoker on the back. Frank traveled the subway with his father. In Berlin there was a restaurant on top of a high tower. Frank and his father went on top and then came down. They saw no signs, "No Jews Allowed." It became rarer to find places where Jews could go. People made remarks such as, "Dirty Jew." "Yuden Kinder (Jewish children) or "Zow Yuden" (pig Jew). On the round kiosks were posted announcements of rallies and announcements that Jews were causing problems for the Germans.

50:00 They were treated by exclusion or part of a group but not at their level. When children are 4 to 8, they are uncalculated or rabid. Children heard things and repeated them. They played with toys they liked. They had sleds and bats. Older children and adults showed worse discrimination than children. The parents saw little. They listened to the radio and heard Hitler speak. The parents practiced being careful what they say in public and did not want him to speak in public. Frank had to keep his mouth shut due to the rampart atmosphere of Anti-Semitism. His parents gave no explanation as expected it to blow over.

55:00 Berlin was cleaned up for the 1936 Olympics as they would be recognized internationally. There were newspapers and magazines around. They did not get the Nazi newspaper, just the regular anti-Semitic newspaper. Frank read books at school. His mother tried to subdue the situation. There was no way out and no one to complain to as the authorities were conducting the campaign. The only way out was to leave. Frank was six to eight years old and had his own room. He and his parents entertained themselves. Frank was interested in puppets and had a small puppet theatre. They had relatives in St. Paul, Minnesota. His grandmother's brother had gone to the US in the 1800s and became an established rancher. He married a Jewish woman in Pennsylvania and raised a family. They sent Frank's family clothes, Keds (Frank was the only one on the block who owned them) and unusual food. Frank was sickly in his youth with diphtheria, tonsillitis and coughing. His father built stuff. He had handicrafts, kits and models. Frank was given a set of his grandfather's World War I toy soldiers. Frank read, drew and made things. He attended nursery school before the Lester School. It was a day school with Jewish children and they attended parties that the parents held in their homes. His father occasionally traveled to Fauzus (?), Leipzig and Jena (?).

60:00 Frank's mother took him by train to Schneidemuhl, her hometown, and in the summer he attended a Czech camp. He was an only child and read and listened to the radio and music. His family was not kosher but they lit Friday and Chanukah candles and gave Chanukah gifts. They celebrated Succoth and dressed up for Purim at school. They were not Orthodox. He knew Jewish songs, attended the annual sedar at his grandfather's and

his parents fasted on Yom Kippur. He could not recall much danger or fear until 1938. In the middle of the night there was a knock on the door by a relative of his mother's who arrived by motorcycle fleeing from the Schneidemuhl Nazis. A friend had given him gas. A month later his wife and son joined him and they left Germany by ship. He died aboard the ship at Aden on the Suez Canal and his family went to Singapore and settled in Australia. The Germans would send a Gestapo agent to the house which made the people get nervous that they would be arrested. Starting in 1933 they were arrested and sent to Dachau.

65:00 When it happened to the relative, he ran away. When the Gestapo entered his house and looked under his mattress, he fled. This happened in small towns and villages. There were not as many arrests in Berlin as everyone could see it. In 1938 Frank's father stayed one night with two maiden aunts and when his mother turned the light on that the coast is clear, his father came home. Friends and relatives were taken to Sachsenhausen and other camps. At that time, you might get released after four or five weeks but then you would desire to leave Germany. The Olympics was held in the new stadium built for the purpose and Frank's school and other schools performed a medicine ball routine there. They wore a blue and white uniform with a Star of David. One weekend they went to a racing club near Berlin where there was a Star of David on Jewish oars and a swastika on the German oars. Soon they could no longer belong to such German clubs. This was just prior the Olympics to subdue persecutions.

70:00 Frank was five years old in 1936 and was told the Olympics were about to happen. His parents were not involved politically or in Zionism but were aware of Jewish settlement in Palestine. Some people were taking their children to Palestine. His parents thought of sending him to Palestine, England or the US. A physician who was a POW in World War I offered to take him to the US but his parents waited until they could leave. They were anxious as they did not know what was going to happen. Things in Germany was coming to an end for Jews. They were no longer part of society and this was continuing. When his father would lose his job, he would find another so he went from inventions to diesel engines to textiles.

75:00 They had no financial problems but were middle class, not wealthy. His mother's parents died and her younger siblings went to Italy to study medicine. Then they were funded by their American relatives to attend the University of Chicago. His mother felt she could leave, too. Their Dromberg (?) relatives perished in the Holocaust. His father's brother thought it would be easy to get out. His father did not make major changes quickly. They got out with help from relatives and went to the Philippines. They did not feel that his father lost his job due to anti-Semitism but due to the Nuremberg laws. Jews left their small retail enterprises. His father did not complain. His grandfather had died the night before Kristallnacht.



78:00

**Frank Ephraim**

**Tape 2 Side A**

**February 28, 1997**

**RG-50.106\*0068.02.08**

### **Summary**

00:00 Frank's grandfather got ill in October '38 and since there were no Jewish hospitals, he had to go to a Christian hospital. Frank and his parents visited him. He died November 8, 1938 and was buried at Biesensee (?) Cemetery, located in the northern working class district of Berlin. It is still a huge cemetery, like a park. Frank visited it in '92 and '95 when he found the grave. His parents had visited it in the '60s and '92 and could not find it. In '96 Frank found someone there with a map of the gravesites so they found the grandfather's gravestone and photographed it. Frank's parents had attended the funeral but he did not. The time of the funeral was aggravated by the event of Kristallnacht. His father wanted to attend the minyan but found their synagogue was burned down so could not hold the minyan. They lived a distance from the synagogue so were unaware of the violence. The Nazis had sponsored Kristallnacht but it was not broadcast on the radio until the next day when it was announced from the Nazis' point of view. It was shocking for his father to view the burned out synagogue. The family store had already been sold as the grandparents had retired so he did not know what happened to it. All the Jewish stores had their glass smashed, marked up and storm troopers stood at the stores the following day. This widespread violence was a major signal of the official policy.

05:00 Most Jews who were uncertain before, decided to leave. Kristallnacht reminds him of the violence after Martin Luther King was assassinated with stores smashed and troopers out the next day. A relative from Bodenheim (?), a physician, was emigrating to their family in Minnesota. They offered to take Frank along with their two daughters, aged seven and eleven. His parents refused as they had already made contact with the mother's distant relative in the Philippines. The relative was born in Germany, got married, escaped to Madrid in the early 30s and at the time of the Spanish Civil War in '36 went to the Philippines as there was business between the two countries. The Philippines was an American Commonwealth. The US quotas were filled but they were able to obtain entrance visas with an affidavit by the cousin in '38. Frank's family was scheduled to leave for the Philippines in February '39. The affidavit indicated that the cousin would support them.

- 10:00 After they got the visas and affidavit, the family had to make plans to depart Germany. There were many restrictions on what they could take out of the country. Until early '39, the Jews could take a lift for their furniture that could be loaded aboard a ship. They decided that a lift would not be feasible to get to the Philippines. Instead they took suitcases and two large trunks and sent two large cases to an aunt in Chicago. The cases were filled with their winter clothes which they would not need in tropical Philippines. The family had to be cleared by the Gestapo who came to their house and looked through all the belongings that they were taking. They had the grandfather's medals from World War I on a velvet holder which was permitted. They had been told that they could not take anything German. It took about two hours for examination of the items. It was performed in an orderly fashion and papers were signed. This was late January '39 or early February '39. The steamer trunks were picked up and taken by truck to Genoa where they were boarding a ship, the SS Victoria.
- 15:00 They booked passage with Lloyd Toyostine (?) for February 24<sup>th</sup> to Port Said, Aden, Colombo, Bombay, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai and arriving in Manila on March 16<sup>th</sup>. They closed their apartment, took a taxi with their hand luggage to the train station in central Berlin (now a freight station). The Bahnhof (train station) was full of SS checking everyone out. They met others they knew who were leaving. They boarded the train and left around February 20<sup>th</sup>. Frank's birthday is the 19<sup>th</sup> and he believes they left the next day. They changed trains in Munich and went to the Brenner Pass which separates Austria from Italy. They remained on the train at Brenner, the border crossing. They stopped for one and one-half days. They had to take their luggage to a hall with Germans on one side and the Cabinieri (Italian soldiers) with their dark green uniforms and capes on the other side. Everyone and their belongings were searched. Wedding bands and gold jewelry were permitted but had to be sealed in envelopes until they crossed the border. Their train left without them but they got on the next train. They arrived in Genoa at 2 AM and took a taxi to the Hotel Helvetia where they stayed the night.
- 20:00 The next day representatives from the Italian-Jewish community showed them the sites and took a cable car up the mountain. The following day they took a taxi to the dockside to board the ship. The delay was frightening as they were held up by the Germans and did not know what would happen. They were waiting without any food but eventually left. They did not know if there would be another train but one came. The border guard helped them get on the next train. It was a relief crossing Italy. They wrote or telegraphed people in Germany that they successfully crossed the border. Frank's father had no problems leaving his company because it was part Jewish and they understood. The uncle and his younger brother came over to say good-bye. They wanted the grandmother to leave but she was old and did not want to leave. They said good-bye to

the aunts who later went to Santiago, Chile. The only relatives left were an aunt and her husband except for some distant relatives.

- 25:00 Frank left school mid-semesters which was becoming common and another child left the next day. He never saw his fellow students again; perhaps some perished. Frank's father liked trains and took him to a large department store where they ate at the restaurant and bought a HO gauge electric train which did not work in the Philippines as the power is different. It was high adventure for a boy of eight to go to the Philippines and experience bunks, dining cars, different plumbing and different food. The train got crowded and they weren't sure when it was stopping at Genoa so his father stood outside to see the station. There were many Jews headed for Italy as it was the major exit to the East. They had sleepers on the train. From Munich, they went South to Innsbruck, Austria to Brenner and then to Pisano, Italy. It was dark so they did not see that part of Italy. They had to show their visa and passport with the red "J" when they left Germany and entered Italy. In Italy they felt free.
- 30:00 The Carabinieri at the border were quiet and official and gave them no problems. At the station, the soldiers with 3-cornered hat and white band patrolled in pairs. They did not see any Italian Fascists. The trip from Brenner to Genoa was about 6 or 7 hours and they arrived around 2 or 3 AM at the hotel. It was locked and they rang the bell and a man in slippers came out and registered them. The next morning they had breakfast and the Jewish community showed them around. Frank does not recall that his parents hid anything. His parents sealed the jewelry in an envelope and everyone was searched at Brenner so it was unlikely that they hid anything. The ship had three classes and they boarded 2<sup>nd</sup> class. Their friends were in 3<sup>rd</sup> class. First class had an ornate dining room. Their second class had bunks and a pool.
- 35:00 Twenty cars were strapped to the deck. Once Frank ran into a car and cut his knee and the doctor put a metal closure on it. Another time he tried to swim in the boxlike pool and the ship rolled and he almost drowned. His mother thought the Dining Room Steward looked handsome in his black uniform. They were fed lots of spaghetti, rum filled desserts and cinnamon ice cream – all good food. The ship was 90% filled with German or Austrian Jews. He recalls that a ball was to be held and the Viennese Jews held one and the German Jews held another and passengers could attend either. There was an upper class family, a Maharaja from India. They were returning home from Germany where the father was treated for a heart condition. They were with them in 2<sup>nd</sup> class. The lovely daughter wore beautiful saris. One day she wore a light green one with white swastikas. Some passengers were concerned by the swastika so by lunchtime she changed saris.
- 40:00 It was a luxury liner with dancing. People danced the popular "Lambast (?)" walk at that time. The next day they arrived at Naples but they did not go ashore as the stop was just

for a few hours. The following day they arrived at Port Said at 5 AM and were allowed ashore. The British held Egypt and were not pro-Jewish. Little boats took them ashore and they toured this dirty, smelly city where they saw British troops, Egyptians wearing fezzes and then returned to the ship. In a few hours the ship slowly navigated the Suez Canal going through locks and saw tankers, freighters and passenger ships going the other direction. It was an exciting experience. On the Egyptian side they saw a train, camels and a lake. They proceeded to Aden and again stopped out in the Breakwater.

**Side B.**

- 45:00 Patrol boats came along. The Adenese were Arabs and they hauled big trunks onboard. The man who had arrived by motorcycle at night and died at Aden was buried there. Frank's parents wanted to find his grave but were not permitted by the British. The next day they went to Colombo, Sri Lanka, a British possession and docked at the Breakwater. They were taken to the city by a small boat. The family they knew had a son Frank's age who was roly-poly. They were going to Shanghai. Later, the son was mayor of San Francisco. Ashore they saw dirt and extreme poverty with naked children carrying children and some begging tourists for money. The family went to a store and saw carvings of elephants. The owner gave the children little carvings and they returned to the ship. The next night they reached Bombay which was hot as close to the equator. The British did not permit them ashore. There were lots of Indians boarding for Manila and the Indian family left. After two days they arrived in Singapore. Frank's father had met Indian business men who went ashore. They were permitted ashore and were met by the widow and son of the man who died in Aden. Frank had a toothache so was taken to a dentist and toured the city and returned to the ship.
- 50:00 At the rail was a tall, skinny Austrian bachelor who leaned over and said (in Yiddish), "Because of one gentile (Hitler), one has to travel so far. When they arrived in Manila, they got ready to disembark. Manila Bay was huge and guarded by the Island of Corregidor. Frank saw high rises and huts. The pilot came and brought the ship to the dock at Pier 7. Pier 7 was the longest pier in the Far East as it could hold two passenger ships on each side. All the men were wearing white suits as the climate was tropical. They saw their cousin and wife and were taken in their car to their home for several weeks. Frank saw American cars and military – sailors, warships and American liners docked nearby. The port was very busy with cargo. They carried their suitcases. Their large luggage from the hold would be stored later. The Philipinos are predominantly Catholic. Most of the passengers were going two stops to Shanghai. Just Frank's family and one or two others got off, Jews escaping from Europe. The Philippines was an American Commonwealth. It was run by Paul McNut (?), the High Commissioner. There were two types of horse drawn vehicles. One was Carramatas (?) for passengers with two or three seats and the other Cantelers (?); both types drawn by one scrawny horse. These vehicles stayed on the right. The cousin had servants as they were cheap and the 4-year-

old daughter had a governess. The country was run by wealthy non-Philippines, either Chinese or American.

- 55:00 It was a coincidence that they arrived March 16<sup>th</sup> ('39) and Magellan landed on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Their house was not far from Manila Bay. They were near Dewey Boulevard with palm-lined walkways and benches. It ran six to eight miles along the crest of the Bay. The Manila Hotel was at one end and Haleta (?) in Einreta (?) district bordered it. They lived in Einreta (?) so could walk to the Boulevard. The next day Frank walked there with the daughter and her governess. The Passy (?) River empties into the Bay and separates the business from the residential districts. Along the river are the main city electric power plants, government buildings, an ancient walled city and docks for small ships. Taft Avenue was another large avenue. Temple Amiel (?) was named for Amiel (?) Bacharach (?) who had jitneys on Taft Avenue. They stayed two or three weeks with their sponsor and then moved into a small apartment.
- 60:00 His father looked for work and found some with an American-Jewish businessman in office equipment. Frank was eight and attended a private elementary school run by an American woman. They had five or six classes in the school. Frank spoke little English. He had completed two years of schooling in Germany and was left back a year. He attended the school for a year and then attended another school, Delasole (?) College for a year and a half. It was run by the Jesuits. A number of Jewish children attended the school but the problem was a requirement to take the religious curriculum. Some teachers insisted that the students participate and others would excuse you. They had excellent teachers –American, German. There were also layman Philipino teachers for the lower girls. They would win candy or rosaries for spelling bees. It was an inexpensive school. All the Jews were close to one another and attended the synagogue run by Rabbi Joseph Schwartz, age 30, and his wife but no cantor. Two Americans took turns being cantor. A Polish cantor arrived who had been trapped in the Polish corridor. The Rabbi would go with the pilot to welcome people aboard the ships as sometimes there was a death or they needed welfare. He discovered the cantor and his mother and got them off the ship and he became their cantor.
- 65:00 The Rabbi knew when the ships were coming from Italy and Germany. Frank's parents would meet the ship and meet people they knew and see them for a day before they went on to Shanghai. The largest ship docked and received a big welcoming group of local Jews. Herbert Zipper, a conductor, arrived from Vienna. He had been arrested and taken to Dachau and Buchenwald but obtained a visa from the director of the Corps de Ballet in the Philippines. She got him off the ship and he became the head of the symphony. Mr. Zipper met Frank's mother in the choir. In 1996 when Mr. Zipper was 92 he was honored by the Holocaust Museum which Frank attended. They showed a film about him and published a book about him. The Philippines had 900,000 refugees and 200 to 300 Americans. There were Sephardic Jews from the Spanish era who were merchants.

Ships arrived until December 7, 1941. Frank met other Jewish children at Hebrew School on Sundays and at Bar Mitzvahs during World War II. Before the War, there was an active Jewish life with dances and classes taught by the Rabbi, the Cantor and Jewish scholars. Frank attended a parochial school and girls attended another one. One school favored the Americans and the British. Another was for wealthy Americans. The Philipinos wondered why the Austrian and German Jews were so poor. They questioned why they did not have more cars and servants.

70:00 Life was routine. They had to get acclimated to the food. There was native food and imports (apples, oranges, butter, and meat – water buffalo). Before the War, a husband and wife ran a resort hotel in a complex where they held their son's Bar Mitzvah outdoors. They invited the entire Jewish community of 500 to 600 people. They would travel 20 to 30 miles out-of-town for picnics and swimming but there was jelly fish. People came over their house. It was interesting to speak to the new arrivals. Frank tells of lizards on the ceiling that could drop into one's soup. A story was told of rice with spots that the people would not eat. Later they would fish the ants out and still later, when acclimated, they would eat the entire dish.

75:00 People walked fast in Europe but the heat was oppressive in the Philippines. Only the movies was air-conditioned. They slept under mosquito nets. It was 90 degrees all year round, both in the rainy and dry seasons. There had been no open Jewish life in Germany but in the Philippines there was open Jewish life. They kept the teens involved. Everyone attended High Holiday services. The Cantor organized activities for the young people and he taught piano. Many well-educated, talented people arrived. Most had a problem finding work, mostly due to their lack of knowledge of the language. Lawyers could not practice law. Technicians, chemists and merchants usually found work. Women usually worked in sales. Some physicians were allowed to practice due to the shortage of physicians. The community helped those with welfare problems. The Philippines gave them 60 acres of land outside of Manila to construct homes. A ceremony was held when Mariquerua (?) Hall was opened. The newspaper reported that the Americans were bringing in 10,000 Jews which was blessed by the State Department but the venture was too late by '41 or '42. This kept people employed.

**Frank Ephraim**

**Tape 3 Side A**

**Marche 20, 1997**

**RG-50.106\*0068.03.08**

**Summary**

- 00:00 This part begins with discussion of the President of the Philippines, Cayzoney Milano (?) and the President of the Jewish Community organization, Alex Frieda (?) organized a home for Jewish immigrants in 1940. They wanted to allow 10,000 Jews from Europe to settle in Mindanao. The US knew about this proposal but there were several problems including clearing the land and find employment as most would not know about agriculture. They would mostly be people in business such as retail sales, also lawyers. The invasion of Poland in '39 stopped the proposal as the Jews could no longer leave. Jews had been arriving in the Philippines since the early '20s. Three of five brothers from Cincinnati, Ohio established a tobacco factory to make cigars and cigarettes. Phillip was the eldest, Alex was in the middle and Fredo was the youngest and they were joined by other families totaling about 250 people. Konigsberg (?) established a book store, others established auto business, and Bacharach established a transportation business. The Temple was built around '34 or '36 and named after Ariel Bacharach. Bacharach had vehicles that held 4 to 6 people and the charge was reasonable. The vehicle was quick and stopped wherever requested.
- 05:00 The German-Jews arrived in the Philippines around '35. Rabbi Joseph Schwartz and his young wife arrived around '36. Before their arrival, the service was led by Mr. Konigsberg and Mr. Levine. The temple was built with yellow stucco in Moorish design and used Philippine wood. The Bema had the eternal lamp and held 3 or 4 scrolls and there was a balcony. The temple seated around 1500 people. They established an administrative committee with Morton Netzer (?) in charge and they helped the immigrants with housing and food. Fredo had the tobacco factory so employed many of the immigrant including Mr. Rosenblatt from Germany who could roll cigars. There were other Jewish businessmen including Shugert (?) who had an office equipment business that employed Frank's father after he learned English. Frank's family arrived March 16, 1939 and was met by his mother's distant cousin with whom they stayed for three weeks. Frank went to the famous boulevard that ran along the shore of Manila Bay and faced west to Luzanne where they met people and saw sunsets along the scenic highway. Large rocks fronted the bay that was and there was a wall 2 feet high and 2 feet wide with gaps so one could walk down to the rocks. People would sit on the wall or on benches. There were palm trees on both sides and a grassy area they used to play soccer and "capture the flag." Soon Frank entered Mrs. Hoys (?) kindergarten school but he had to learn English first.
- 10:00 The Philippines was entirely different from Germany as the climate was hot in both the rainy and dry seasons and there were mosquitoes that bit you despite the screened doors so they slept under mosquito nets. Also the clothes they wore were different as they wore shorts and the food was different. For awhile they imported meat. The vegetables were different, something like Chinese vegetables. They had huge papaya, palmettos (like grapefruit), rice, sugar (brown, wet), ice cream and candy. On the boulevard there were

yellow carts with a blue sign, "Magnolia" that sold ice cream. If you got a popsicle and the sick indicates, "free" you would get a 2<sup>nd</sup> one free. There was a man with a tray of candy that he sold and he wore shoes that were falling apart. The Jews would go to the boulevard at night to get the breeze and see the beautiful sunset. On the right was the Bataan Peninsula, on the left was Kavite (?), the Naval repair base and in between was the Island of Corregidor. The Jews went before dusk and walked and talked to one another.

- 15:00 The Spanish Corzo (?), people of Spanish background, strolled along in opposite directions to meet each other. Magnolia was an upscale ice cream company and there also was local ice cream which was cheaper and people would say you should not eat it as the milk came from tubercular cows. Women sold ballast (?), duck eggs that were half hatched and buried in soil and had a horrible smell so he never ate them. Smells were different from those in Europe. Fish they dried and fried had a stench. Frank's cousin was Rudy First who was born in Germany, got married and had a daughter. The family ran away from Germany to Spain until the Civil War in '36 went to the Philippines through business connections. He worked for large concerns in import and export business and had a car with a chauffeur and a nice house so did well. After three weeks, Frank and his family got a small apartment in M. H. Del Pilar (?) in the Amedea (?) district. It was about 5 miles south of the Passaq (?) River and 3 or 4 miles South of the Port where they debarked. His family had little money so his money sold artificial flowers. On the weekends, his father liked to go to the port and walk along the piers and visit ships. Once they saw a Dutch freighter that had air-conditioning in the passenger quarters.
- 20:00 Frank went with his father aboard Empress ships, American ships named after presidents, Italian and British ships. Immigrants starting coming in '35 and '36, primarily from Germany, some from Austria and a few from Czechoslovakia and Poland. There were many Sephardic Jews there since the Spanish Inquisition. The Gabdols (?) were a large family with many children. They all belonged to the same synagogue which they attended on Fridays, Saturdays and the High Holidays. There were some Jews from the US who might have originally come from Europe. The Sephardim spoke Ladino and Tagalong (?) and were in business and owned restaurants. They had to learn English. Mrs. Hoys had her house divided into classes. The teachers were mostly Philippines and American. Frank was placed in first grade as he had no knowledge of English. He could read a bit on the board and looked at pictures and after 3 to 4 weeks, he started to communicate. Soon he learned to write and after awhile he responded.
- 25:00 Frank spoke English after 2 or 3 months. The Kindergarten School was a private, American school. There were one or two other immigrant children; one was older so placed in a higher class. There was a family with a son from Republican Spain which had been defeated by Franco. They were well-to-do as had a car and chauffeur. Frank



got friendly with them and was given a ride to school. The son in the family spoke Spanish so had to learn English. The Jews lived in several different neighborhoods. Since the 800 to 1,000 Jews lived in different neighborhoods, they were disbursed and few lived nearby. Morton Netzer's committee helped get the immigrants jobs. The Temple was both a religious and a social center. Around '39 or '40 they built an addition next to the Temple with classrooms downstairs and the Rabbi's quarters upstairs. Sunday School and plays took place downstairs. The immigrants visited each other. There was an actor from Czechoslovakia who spoke German and mimicked the immigrants trying to learn a new language. His work was selling airtime for a station in Manila. There were Jewish physicians, some were old-timers and some were immigrants. Dr. Listner (?) treated him and another doctor took out his tonsils. His mother bought him a superman comic and ice cream to recover. Physicians did not charge the poor.

30:00 No one starved at first due to the mutual help. There were Jewish activities for the youth including Sunday School which consisted of three classes. One class was given by the Rabbi for children after their Bar Mitzvah and one class was given by Cantor Joseph Sisner (?) who was from Poland. He taught music, piano, Sunday School and had a good voice and was popular. A third class for young children was taught by a woman. Frank met the children at Friday night services. They put on "Midsummer's Night Dream" at the Temple. They dressed up for Purim and celebrated Arbor Day, Chanukah and the High Holidays. There were no Reform Jews, only Conservative and Orthodox. The Orthodox women sat separately in the balcony. The service was conducted in Hebrew with no responsive English reading. The Rabbi's sermon was given in English so some old-timers would walk out as his English was poor.

35:00 Frank's family lived in an apartment at the beginning of the War. They lived in 5 or 6 different places. Once they lived in a large home and took in male boarders including Mr. Hartman. He was married to a non-Jew who was still in Germany with the children (they came later). One day, he thought someone was calling him but it was only the sound of the geckoes. The Philippines had an open food market for meat, vegetables, fruit and rice. Frank's mother did the shopping and they had domestic help which was cheap. They were paid 5 to 10 pesos a month. The domestics got free room and board. Because of the long lunch hour due to the heat, all three meals were eaten at home. The boarders and the help usually had to be fed. They got an income from the boarders. Once they lived in a bungalow and rented a room to the Chief Petty Officer who came intermittently and did not take his board with them. They lived in the Alameda area and when there was no school; Frank joined his mother when she went shopping. There were many beggars on the streets. The Philippines viewed the Jews as "White," not as "Jews." They were called, "Mestizos" (mixed race). Mestizo is Balvose (?), a tiny fish with lots of bones. **Side 3, Tape 3.** The community began to grow. Whenever possible, Frank would go to the docks with his father to see the ships arriving from Europe.

- 40:00 His parents would meet people they knew on their way to Shanghai. Only a few people got off at the Philippines. There were about 800 to 1,000 immigrants. Frank met Mr. Zipper upon his arrival who became the conductor of the symphony orchestra. His mother sang and she auditioned and was accepted to perform Beethoven's Symphony of the 4<sup>th</sup> Movement. The orchestra consisted of 100 members who were Philippine, Mestizo and Chinese. Frank would meet the musicians when they walked the boulevard. They sang in English rather than German. It was very hot and the conductor perspired. It was a packed house. They performed opera and ballet until Pearl Harbor. People would go on outings to the countryside to see the jungles and the earthquake area. Jews also settled in other parts of the country than Manila where they found work. There was hotel work in Luzanne. It was difficult and hard to strive due to the language and culture. His father made a living and they frequently moved to get a better home or due to noisy neighbors.
- 45:00 The Philippines thought that all the white people were wealthy. Most of the immigrants, like his parents, were hard workers. They sold their large German radio which they brought in a crate to Philippines to acquire more money. They moved into a small house on Taft Avenue and had three sets of boarders. One was Mr. Berkowitz, a bridge player, who was young but needed a cane. Another was the Hymans who were childless and opened a tailor shop with Mr. Hyman. In 1940 Frank's father had to change jobs as his boss returned to the US. Just before that many people came to Frank's house and cried because Hitler attacked Poland which would prevent their relatives from leaving Europe.
- 50:00 The family acquired another radio. They had a bicycle and the Goodrich's next door had a ham radio which Frank's father loved. Mr. Goodrich had a seizure and Frank's father got him to a hospital which Mr. Goodrich thought saved his life. After liberation, Mr. Goodrich was in the CSC in the Philippine Army and contacted them in '45. The country was 99% Catholics who had many religious processions parading the figure of Jesus with candles down the street. After the Kindergarten, Frank attended the De LaSalle College on Taft Avenue which he reached via the zip vehicle. It was run by the Jesuit Brothers. Brother Victor looked at Frank and announced that all children were required to take religion. There were a few Jews in other classes. Frank just sat when they took catechism. He attended the Jesuit School as it was the only reasonable school. There was another school which was difficult to be admitted as limited to Americans and British, no immigrants. In 1940 Frank was in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and his parents felt that he needed to change schools.
- 55:00 The American School was very expensive. The Jesuits were superb teachers and they disciplined the students. There was prayer at the beginning and end of each class. They won a rosary or candy at spelling bees. There were also Philippine teachers. In Catechism, they had to sing song their responses to learn the rosary. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month, they attended chapel as they celebrated the birth of Christ. Frank just sat when

others kneeled or got holy water. Brother Savior was very nice. Dean Bertheim was German and neither teacher required Catechism. At the beginning of the War, the family moved to the Santa Monica Courts which were 8 rows of row houses. There was a concrete roadway behind the houses which was perpendicular to Dewey Boulevard. Here they experienced Pearl Harbor. The Philippine Women's college also accepted male students. Frank was in the same grade as his two female cousins and other boys. It was reasonable and convenient. Frank was not a good student as he was wild and adventurous. They lived in a strong house and his father's boss lived across the street. He was from Breslau, a veteran of World War I and had bayonets from that War. There was a lady from Europe and a child and the husband lived next to them.

60:00 There was Shalax (?), Corregidor and on the other side was a Dutchman and a small boy. There were 2,000 people living there, a mixture of Jews, Germans and others. They lived close to the Hillmans. He played soccer almost daily. In 1941 there was one person who was older, a great football player who played with them. Frank walked with his father to the University and got the newspaper and were shocked that the Japanese invaded Pearl Harbor. After an hour of class, he was sent home via a horse-drawn vehicle. His mother was anxious and listened to the radio. The American officers spoke casually. All military had to report to their base. The military seemed lackadaisical. Frank saw troops with flat helmets. Everyone came home including his father. They walked to the boulevard and spoke to others.

65:00 The air raid alarm was to be operated by the Boy Scouts. At 10PM on December 7<sup>th</sup>, the alarm rang and everyone came downstairs as there were no basements. They sat on the stoop. It was dark due to the blackout and the "all clear" sounded and they went upstairs to sleep. They saw flashes of light, explosives and Japanese planes attacking Navy ships. There was no alarm so they just went under the table for one/half hour and the planes left. Then the alarm went off. The Japanese raided the airfield and knocked off airplanes. They thought the Japanese would not attack at night as they had poor vision but this was just a myth. The pilot who lived next door returned and said it was lucky that he ran into the Japanese as took a bullet and returned home safely. The next day they were given gas masks. They used a wet handkerchief around their nose for mustard gas. The American Army was primarily in charge. McArthur was field marshal of the Philippine Army. Philippines was a commonwealth of the US. They had a mixed command with both US and Philippine flags. The Philippines had no weapons and they used their reserves who were ill-trained. The US Army was under equipped and not a well-trained Peacetime Army. December 8, 1941 the schools were closed for a year.

70:00 In a few days they found out that the US declared war on Japan. They rounded up foreign aliens from the Axis and since his father was from Germany he was taken to the Philippine police station with 49 others. He was released a few hours later. The Americans came and told them to release the Jews and Frank's father was recognized as

Jewish. Germans and Japanese working there in business and agriculture were taken in. They only interned the men, no women nor children. They hoped the US would guard them. General McArthur made speeches. They viewed the Japanese as not being well-equipped and effective although they were the victors in Korea, Malaya, China and Taiwan. There more air raids of 20 or 30 airplanes. The military was targeted. It was an anti-aircraft fight. They did not fly high. They saw the black airplanes with bombers, usually during the day or early AM. They thought the Americans would defend them. They felt the dangers of war as there was war in Europe. The Japanese had gone to Singapore and China.

75:00 Pearl Harbor was being prepared. There were mostly women and children. The Jews looked at the Philippines as a way station. They felt that any family left in Germany would not be able to obtain a visa out. Since his father had relatives in Germany, he could not get a visa. He knew their relatives in Europe were trapped. Frank's father worked for another office machine company run by a German.

77:00

**Frank Ephraim**

**Tape 4 Side A**

**Marche 20, 1997**

**RG-50.106\*0068.04.08**

### **Summary**

00:00 Frank's father worked for an office equipment store that sold adding machines and public address systems. He worked for Mr. Zifkind (?) a tall bachelor who soon married a lady who arrived from Germany until December 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Zifkind's office was air-conditioned. His father was in corporate sales. It was located on Decmarinas (:?) Street in Manila. After December 7, 1941 they worried that the Japanese would invade the Philippines and they did. The American forces prepared with anti-aircraft using heavy machine guns, there was black-outs, restrictions and patrols at night. They continued to live in the same manner except for the food shortages as ships seldom arrived. One never knew the name of the ship that was expected to arrive due to security. The fighting stopped at Lingayen (?) landing. The children were playing soccer on Dewey Boulevard and the parents came out and they all noticed the provincial busses riding down the boulevard. Manila was declared an open city. The military pulled out to Bataan to resist. The Japanese were making their way from Lingayen (?). The ladies were told not to wear pants as the Japanese were traditional. People were in the bus chassis and on benches coming from the roof where there were suitcases.

- 05:00 The bus was full of Japanese soldiers and the parents told the children to come home as the Japanese were arriving. There were passenger cars filled with military and had a Japanese flag on them. Law and order broke down. The police were only armed with sticks. The American forces opened up supply depots in the warehouse so citizens could take the supplies. He saw people getting boxes and hats and was told they found a filled coffin. There was widespread looting of homes and stores. Santa Monica Court organized guards to walk around the houses. One evening Frank was walking with his parents and they heard hob-nailed boots on the concrete and saw a squadron of Japanese and all of them stopped walking. They put their arms up and the Japanese commanded them to return home so they did so. All the passageways between the six homes were blocked by the Japanese as there were homes for the British and Dutch aliens. They took out their German passport with the swastika and "J" and the Japanese said, "Deutchka" (German) and let them go. The Japanese were ill-clothed as had long strips of cloth to the knee, rubber shoes that separated the toes and wore a bayonet and a cartridge case but no rifle as it was only for the person on duty. They did not wear a steel helmet, just a cap in the shape of a helmet.
- 10:00 A few days later the buses arrived for the nationals to go to internment camps. Ships but not the pier were bombed. There were self-set fires where they burned oil stocks and you saw black smoke. There were explosions as the installation south of Manila was blown up to void the equipment falling into the hands of the Japanese. They hoarded food as knew the tough times were upon them. This included cans of sardines, corned beef, sacks of rice and sugar. Stores sold out all they had, especially canned food and cigarettes. The money changed as pesos and dollars were no longer valued. The Japanese brought their own money, new pesos with "Japanese" printed on it. Money was devalued so a pound of rice cost \$1,000 pesos. The Japanese did not take the Germans or the Austrians. It took four or five hours to load the wagons to Santa Demas. The immigrants stored items for the deportees. Pregnant women and some children were excused from the deportation. About half of the thousands of people were taken.
- 15:00 The day before Christmas, the couple next door had to leave for Britain and gave them all their belongings including food. Caissons left with McArthur to Bataan. Chairman Jose Bargas (?) was in charge of Corregidor to welcome the Japanese. The Chairman had a few people on his committee including Aquino. The Japanese accepted Chairman Bargas as head of the government. Utilities, services and police were under Bargas' direction. The Japanese said the restrictions were to form a Greater Japanese area including the Philippines. They used subjugation and atrocities to get their way. Schools were open and they were in Tagalong. The Filipinos were Americanized. The Jews visited one another. The Temple remained open for services.
- 20:00 There were many Americans and Jews at the internment camp at Santa Domas (?) including Romanians and Poles. The Japanese military intelligence visited the Temple.

They had a photo of an old Rabbi but only found a 36-year-old Rabbi wearing a white suit and yellow tie who did not match the photograph. Japanese security attended services and sat in the back to observe the proceedings. The Japanese looked at the Jews suspiciously as being White but not as enemies nor as friends. The Japanese officers understood that the Jews were forced to settle there. Many Germans were friendly to the Jews and some were Nazis and tried to make contact with the Japanese as they were allies. An article in the newspaper suggested the Jews wear a colored armband. The Americans wore red ones.

- 25:00 Some people wore pink or yellow depending on their nationality. Jews never had to wear armbands. The Japanese arrested Jews who had shortwave radios. It was ordered that such radios be dismantled or turned in. They were isolated as newspapers did not report the whole truth. They said the invasion of Normandy was attempted but was repelled. Frank's family had to move out of the Santa Monica Court house to be used to quarter the Japanese officers. They moved to a bungalow which they shared with the Boss' and an accountant, Mr. Pollack, who was a bachelor. The American equipment closed and Mr. Zifkind went into another business. His father started selling hardware (nuts and bolts) to American concerns that were there from before the War. His father shared the office with a man who sold glass bottles. They were only sold on paper to a stream of paper and actually remained in the warehouse.
- 30:00 Some items were sold to Chinese and Japanese and all made a profit which was their goal. His father was in this business for two years. Others were in similar businesses for pharmaceuticals, books, textiles, and machinery. Most items had to be imported. There were limited items produced in the Philippines – rice, hemp (paper goods), cobra (coconut meat) used for oil and gold. The major manufactured items were woven hats and baskets. There was water buffalo and the fish industry for local consumption. The Japanese equipped themselves with leather boots and handle covers for their Samurai swords. All vehicles were impounded. Frank's parents rode a bicycle. Bicycles were often stolen. Around 1942 Frank's family moved from Santa Monica Courts to a larger house that had a porch on each floor. There were two houses on Dakota Street and four on the court with six garages in back. Across from his house lived an American, Mr. Wilson, who was interned. He asked Frank's family to take his belongings and place them in their garage and use their houseboy who cooked.
- 35:00 Someone rented the house. Frank's family stayed in the bungalow until liberation, 1945. **Side B, Tape 4.** Then Frank discussed lizards. New arrivals would visit them and sit in their rattan chairs and look up on the ceiling and see lizards with 3 inch tails chasing each other. The visitors were told not to worry as the lizards killed the mosquitoes. The visitors were warned that the lizards shed and their tails might drop into the soup. At first the new immigrants were surprised but later they adjusted. Also, you might see spiders as big as your hand running along the floor. They were not poisonous and eat insects.

There were cockroaches two inches long and, also, flying cockroaches. One of these flew in and crashed on the wall. Frank's family mostly dealt with military Japanese. Some Jewish businessmen knew Japanese businessmen from before the War. They feared the Japanese as they were ruthless as might suddenly stop someone and search you or your belongings or slap and beat people. 40:00

40:00 The Japanese soldiers standing guard wore a fixed bayonet and everyone had to bow down to them. If not, you were called back and slapped. The Filipinos were embarrassed to be slapped. Anything could be confiscated including bicycles and pushcarts. Upon occupation, the Japanese confiscated cars. They converted gasoline to gas by chopping, charcoal and lit it and the gas fed into the engine as fuel. This was used for buses and large cars. Frank's parents were careful so they tried not to walk by a sentry. When one bowed to the sentry, they might bow back. In '42 or '43 when Frank's family was in the large house, a Japanese patrol with a sergeant came by looking for a shortwave radio. When the patrol came, Frank's father would hide behind the stair as he was an age when they could use him for work. They had a steamer trunk about 5 feet by six feet to hold dresses and clothes which was searched every time by the patrol.

45:00 They hid a shortwave radio in the back middle of the house under the staircase. Later they saw William Winter, a broadcaster, in San Francisco. If found, they would be taken to Fort San Diego, a prison with a dungeon. Mr. Chott from Germany got caught and arrested and taken to the Fort where he got an infection and died. Julius Berger and his wife who had two sons became involved in clandestine activity and was imprisoned but released later. Many people died in the prison. Frank's family kept the radio both because his father enjoyed radios and, also, to keep in touch as the news they were given was false propaganda. The Japanese observing the services sometimes restricted their travel. When the sick and the elderly needed help, the elders including his father met and gave them help by renting them a large house.

50:00 Frank and other youngsters planted peanuts and vegetables under the supervision of a former butcher. There was rationing. There was no butter but there was margarine made of coconut oil. Many friends were interned. Members of the Jewish community would travel there by bicycle and throw necessities over the fence. If they were caught, they would be taken to Fort San Diego. The Asians were required to work in the city. The Japanese were suspicious of all whites and Jews. There were eight or nine thousand Jews. Services were held regularly to keep the community together. Some people had trouble getting food as they had no work. Only people in certain businesses or services had work so the others had to help them. Frank's family attended services every Friday and the High Holidays. In 1943 Frank began to study with the cantor for his Bar mitzvah. He started February 19, 1943 for February 26, 1944.

55:00 In 1943 there was a typhoon and the city flooded. Small boats (bunker outriggers) filled with people sailed down the street filled with people. These boats were usually used for fishing but now used to carry people. Next door lived a German, the chess player, with his English wife and baby. The wife had cancer and died the night of the flood. A physician came by swimming and walking to the home. A horse-drawn vehicle came for the husband and the body and the little boy stayed with Frank's family. Two ships sunk and were washed ashore. Guerilla units composed of Filipinos said the Japanese captured American officers hiding in the mountains. The Japanese warships were bombed. Across the street was a huge development of pink stucco houses taken over by the Japanese for a red-light district for their Navy so there was much activity at night. One night the Americans bombed the Japanese ships and they saw that the sailors were taken ashore to the red-light homes.

60:00 Now the homes were made into field hospitals and the girls were nurse aides. The sailors' ship name was written on the rim of their hats. They saw the name and told the underground. This was part of the intelligence work performed. It was hard to resist the Japanese as they were on an Island. Occasionally American submarines dropped off people, supplies and magazines or picked up people. Guerilla forces were active during liberation, especially in the southern island of Darou (?) and in the mountains. The guerillas did not fight a full-scale battle. There were a few Jews who passed information about troop dispositions and their size. Some Jews did business with the Japanese before the War but they were not collaborators. There were a few German collaborators. Frank attended school in '42 and '43. The Japanese entered on New Year's Day 1942 and a year later he entered the De La Salle College for two years.

65:00 The Brothers of American and British birth were interned outside the city as they were considered to be aliens. Those from axis countries were permitted to teach. They taught religion and math as before but now had to teach Japanese and Tagalong. One German brother was nicknamed, "Buckow (?)" as he was bald. He learned Japanese and taught it. Classes were conducted in English. They studied current events and Japanese politics and structure but no geography or history. Everyone did calisthenics at lunchtime. There was a special radio broadcast directing the calisthenics for everyone. You could see people exercising on top of the office building roofs. Troops also exercised as this was part of their culture. Japanese in civilian clothes occasionally checked the school. For a year Frank studied the weekly torah and haphtarah portions with the cantor.

70:00 The cantor also gave piano lessons so Frank took them. From '42 to '44 Frank attended Sunday School where he kept in touch with his friends. The Temple was the center of Jewish activity. Frank sang in the choir including the blessing of the candles. His father also belonged to the choir.

71:00



**Frank Ephraim**

**Tape 5 Side A**

**April 3, 1997**

**RG-50.106\*0068.05.08**

### **Summary**

- 00:00 Frank discusses the Jews' observances during the occupation. While the American, British, some European and Filipino Jews were interned at Santo Tomas (St. Thomas), services at the Temple were attended by the remaining German and Austrian Jews. They all fasted on Yom Kippur. There was a rumor that the American Jews might be permitted to attend services. Suddenly during the services, two buses arrived with the internees and the services stopped for one-half hour while they were welcomed. The Rabbi had requested the Japanese release the internees for the services. They remained for about two or three hours. The internment camp was South of Manila. Some people took food on bikes and threw it over the walls of the camp. It was dangerous so they would do it in a remote area. The internment camp was a university campus and had barbed wire around it. The food throwing was performed at night though there was an 11 PM curfew.
- 05:00 During the occupation, the Jewish community placed the sick and old people in a home. Frank with others planted peanuts and vegetables at the home. His father served on the board for the Jewish community. In late '43 they needed money to pay for the staff. One of his father's responsibilities was to change the money into the new Japanese money. He made a pile of the old money and placed a few new pesos on the top and the bottom of the pile in case he was searched. He took it to Chinese business friends on the northern side of the Passay (?) River and traded the money which now made two piles. The Jewish community had to help itself so they held meetings to decide how to raise money. There was no formal liaison with the Japanese, just the Japanese security who observed services. The Philippines had their own internal bureaucracy to run the country. Those immigrants with German passports, like the Ephraims, had their passports stamped "statelessness." Frank, being young, was on his mother's passport (which he shows the interviewer). The stamp indicates the date of April 17, 1942 and that the holder is Jewish without citizenship.
- 10:00 Since there were only 10,000 whites and 18 million Filipinos; the Japanese mainly ignored the whites. Everyone had to register upon entrance to the Philippines and the Japanese clerk looked at their passports and stamped them. The authorities were knowledgeable of the Jews' situation and recognized a passport that was not "up-to-date." The Jewish/Germans refused to be called "German." The Filipinos were given ID cards.

From '42 to '44 Jewish youth groups and Sunday School were routine but they celebrated Purim.

- 15:00 People were busy scraping together food by caring for their vegetable gardens and gathering firewood so there was no leisure time for dances. Also the curfew and travel limitations made it difficult. The bicycle was their only way of transportation. They were able to play soccer in empty park grounds. They were living in the large house at the time where they planted a vegetable garden and had ducks and chickens and a maid to help them out. The pink stucco houses were residential until the Japanese occupation except for a restaurant that was permitted to remain. It became a red-light district for the Japanese naval petty officer rank or higher. It was staffed by both Japanese Geishas and Filipino women. The Geishas' costume had a pillow on the back. The Geishas made money so sent out for scarce items such as Gouda cheese and American cigarettes. Frank and his friends bought the cigarettes from them and sold them to their fathers. During that time Frank attended the De La Salle College eight blocks away on Taft Avenue. He has memories of his classmate, Albino Aquino (?) who left and later returned and was killed.
- 20:00 Frank and Albino would cut through the Barrio where the indigenous Filipinos lived in Nipa, palm-thatched roofs on stilt-houses with roaming pigs and they saw the pink stucco houses on their way to school. On their walks, they would talk about their future after the War. School was canceled for one year after the occupation and then Frank returned to the De La Salle College. The American and British Jesuit Brothers were not permitted to teach and were interned outside of Manila. Brothers who were Filipino and other nationalities taught. Frank talks of Jose Pillar who attended the school and his father, Salvador, was a politician. The Japanese Army was poorly equipped and used whatever the Americans left behind including Ford trucks. Once, Frank was playing on Dewey Boulevard and saw Japanese battalions on bikes.
- 25:00 They got a phone call that a battalion was coming so they sabotaged them by laying something on the ground to give them flat tires. Frank saw that when one's tires got flat, the Japanese would jump up with another colleague on his bike. He was surprised that the Japanese guarded his compound without a rifle. The Japanese were experienced fighting in China and Malaysia but had poor clothes and equipment. Frank felt that the Americans had quality equipment but poor leadership and little combat experience. The Japanese seemed disciplined and went by the book or by a plan. They appeared stiff or robotic. They were even formal with one another as they bowed to each other. They were like the Germans as they wanted order, especially in lining up. The Filipinos were more casual. There were lines for food and security checks. Only a few Japanese officers spoke English so it was difficult to communicate. The Japanese frequently hit people with their rifles.

- 30:00 Frank's family was living in the large house and had help including the cook of the neighbor who had been interned. Gas was running out but they had electricity so changed their stoves and refrigerator to electric. The Filipinos converted their refrigerators to electric and cooked on hibachi charcoal stoves. Frank's job was to take a sheet of 2 by 4 with a wrought iron scraper and shred coconuts and vinegar into a bowl. This he squeezed into another bowl and got cream which he put in a larger container and made coconut milk. He used two coconuts each day. They had to substitute items for those no longer available. Sometimes the power went out. In '43 they took a trip to Baguio, a resort town in northern Luzon where they grew potatoes and strawberries. To get there, they had to traverse a zigzag road. First they got permission to take a train that had no reserved seats. The Japanese security and servicemen filled the seats. Then they took a bus to Baguio.
- 35:00 It had luggage, people and chickens on the roof. When they reached a bridge over a ravine, the Japanese insisted the people must get off and walk across as the bus was too heavy. They had to repeat this measure the eight or nine times that they crossed a bridge. They arrived at hilly Baguio and met people they knew. They used a pushcart which they pushed up the hill and it rolled down the hill. The weather was cool and pleasant. They needed to wear a badge with their name on it. They saw Ilongots (?), headhunters with loincloths, naked chest and long hair. The women carried their babies in a papoose-type carrier. In town the Ilongots wore formal business suit jackets. **Side B, Tape 5.**
- 40:00 These people were unusual to look at. They are fine carvers of caribou and water buffalo made into bookends. Despite their appearance, they were friendly. On the train to Baguio, they were concerned as the Japanese were unpredictable when they drank. They might go into a rage. Benches had signs that they were reserved for Japanese security. The security was silent on the train and did not talk to one another. One Japanese officer in civilian clothes spoke English as he worked for the Japanese government and was somewhat familiar with American culture. They stayed a few days in Baguio and returned home. They learned that Filipino guerillas were active there and blew up bridges so the bus had to take another route to the train. One of the Jewish families, Polanski, lived there and had an inn where they stayed and roller skated nearby. They pushed a vehicle that Mr. Polanski built. About two dozen Jews lived in Baguio.
- 45:00 For propaganda purposes, in '43 the Japanese produced a film, "Dawn of Fish" to ingratiate them with the Filipino soldiers. It was about a sick son and a soldier helped to get him to a hospital where a Japanese doctor cured him and at the end it showed that the son was able to walk again. In the film, "Battle of Bataan in Corregidor," whites played the role of American soldiers being overrun by the Japanese forces. The year before his Bar Mitzvah, Frank started studying with the Cantor and his father started scrounging for goodies. He obtained 16 cases of Filipino rum and bottles of cream of coconut and gin. The rum was mixed with Filipino lime juice and brown sugar. Food was disappearing so

had to be saved in large quantities. They bought rice in sacks (reddish as not refined, sugar, cooking oil, margarine (no butter as it would quickly spoil), fruit (bananas and large papayas were always available), corn, occasionally beef except for horsemeat and buffalo meat which he hated, and pork was available. Prices rose and there were shortages.

- 50:00 By the time of his Bar Mitzvah, February 26, 1944, his father's hardware business was declining as everything had been sold to users. Then his father and others sold their personal belongings such as silverware by the piece. To survive, they planted vegetables and exchanged belongings. They had 200 people at his Bar Mitzvah reception as the Temple was full as usual on a Saturday morning. Thirty-five guests were invited to dinner at night in his home including a physician and a tax man. Frank was dressed in white and wore short pants. Rabbi Joseph Schwartz was handy and had made a miniature torah shrine that was placed on a table. Frank received about 200 books and the traditional fountain pen from a Filipino friend. The Rabbi got boozy and gave his wife their house key. By March '44 the food shortage was more severe and Frank's father was still on the Jewish committee. There were fires so people required housing. The committee gave food to the unemployed. His father had been asked to join the board as he was active, did well in business and now was an old-timer as the old-timers had left.
- 55:00 They needed people to serve on the Chevra Kadusha Burial Society. There were about 800 or 900 Jews in Manila and others in the outlying provinces and the islands. About 12 people served on the board and they had various responsibilities. They had work parties and his father exchanged money. Lawyers had a problem to practice so went into business. The doctors worked and one was a butcher but the meat was not kosher. Those who kept kosher only had kosher chicken. They were about 80% German and 20% Austrian with a few Czechs and Poles. The Cantor and his mother were from Poland and spoke Yiddish. Most of the Jews spoke English. There was a Jewish section in the cemetery. Hahn, an orthodox German ran the Chevra Kadusha. There was little anti-Semitism. Most of the German community were not Nazis and belonged to the German club but a few (maybe 5 to 10%) wore a Swastika pin in their lapel.
- 60:00 The Astral Restaurant, an upscale restaurant for business people, was run by fat Mr. Brit who was partially Jewish. It was a meeting place for Jews and a hangout for those in the diamond exchange. At lunch a German wearing a swastika pin stood up and spoke like Hitler stating that the Jews should be banished or put in a concentration camp so the Jews walked out. The incident was immediately forgotten. There was a newspaper article that suggested the Jews wear a yellow armband but nothing came of it. Once a German flying boat arrived and four or five Germans walked around downtown. The Rabbi was a quiet man and slow speaker who did not refer to the anti-Semitic incident. In the Rabbi's sermon there were no announcements, solicitations, or mention of money.

- 65:00 Such things might be discussed at other activities, personal conversations or on the telephone. Due to the Japanese observers, it was dangerous to make announcements at the Temple. In '44 the economy went downhill and people collapsed on the street. The food supply declined and the Japanese confiscated food, bicycles and pushcarts. There were more thefts but little to steal except for the firewood. The Japanese came in groups of seven wearing fixed bayonets looking for shortwave radios. They went to the mixed Spanish/Filipino family across the way and obtained some minor crumbs. They used water torture and imprisoned the eldest and bayoneted their dog. The oldest Geishas hauled food and water to those who lived in the pink stucco houses. In back of the houses were four garages and a huge apartment occupied by a man who had an extended family in Luzon. He fled there with his family. The garage was used as stalls for horses and a colt was born there.
- 70:00 There was a 10-year-old, Coctero, with his 5-year-old uncle. They ran home where they had a buggy and were wealthy. They had a buffet with a pig roast (lechon?) in the back. On September 24, 1944 Frank was home with a sore throat and the house girl was cleaning house. His mother was at the market and his father at business. There was a practice air raid and they heard guns firing so they went out and saw 50 planes in the sky. They saw silver dots and pops of smoke from anti-aircraft. They saw American planes coming down and shrapnel fell on the roof. It was the first air raid by aircraft under Mitchell's direction. There was chaos over the city. Frank and the house girl dove under the table. The Japanese had set up restrictions with aircraft guns all over but all was quiet. Via the shortwave radio and newspapers, Frank knew the Americans came from Guadalcanal though the Japanese had indicated the Americans had the losses. There was a red cloth on the airplanes.
- 75:00 Frank saw 20 over the city. The entrance to Dewey Boulevard was restricted as there was a landing strip there. Also, other areas were restricted. School was stopped until after the War ended. Frank had a tutor until later '45 or early '46 when school reopened. The Jewish community mostly tried to scrounge for food. There were few casualties among civilians. In late October there was bombing at night. Japanese warships in Manila Bay were the target. Frank heard activity at the pink houses and saw them bring wounded sailors ashore to the 40 houses which became a hospital with the girls as aides. He saw sailor's caps with the name of their ship so passed on this information. Every morning a Japanese unit would march down the street with two hauling a kettle of cooked rice.
- 78:00

**April 3, 1997**

**RG-50.106\*0068.06.08**

### **Summary**

- 00:00 The tape starts with the Japanese feeding their wounded being cared at the pink houses. They marched and sang while carrying trays of meat and a bucket of soup. This continued for weeks. Some of the Geishas helped out in a new capacity as nurse aids. The daily air raids got more serious by December '44 with Roman 6F and dive bombers. Anti-aircraft were detonated. The air was full of black puffs. Frank and his father would go upstairs and look out the window to see the empty lots during the air raids and the wall which separated their house from the lots. They could view the barrage (?) balloons which were defense to protect the area. He saw hundreds of dots drop bombs and strafe. Then he would rush under the table or go into the concrete walled room when the bombs came close. Targets were usually military with rare civilian casualties. Twenty-four large B24 liberators came in formation one day. Two were low and one was shot down and went down in flames and the other left. Frank went outside and saw the coach man and his family.
- 05:00 He looked up in the sky and saw a white dot which was a parachute and a pilot landing two blocks away. Japanese surrounded him and placed him in a truck and he was taken away. Two other parachutes were seen further away. There was usually a crew of ten. Frank indicated that he spent most of his time under the table hiding from shrapnel. He did not want to go outside during a raid as the Japanese would hit you. There was no food so the markets were bare. One had to trade for food. The Americans, the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division, landed in Lingayan Gulf in Luzon and Madurai Island south of Luzon. There were two divisions trying to race toward Manila under General McArthur: the 37<sup>th</sup> Division from Ohio and the First Cavalry Division. They roared down Luzon and liberated the internment camp but due to lack of communication, the civilians did not know about it at the time. They heard the landing of shells far in the distance. They saw a Piper Club in the distance and saw many fires in Northern Manila on Pizin (?) River.
- 10:00 The Japanese were burning Manila with grenades. Frank saw buildings and homes burning. The General ordered the city be evacuated but some of the Marine officers decided to remain to defend the city. By January, Frank knew that the Americans were on the outskirts as the Japanese were building pill boxes on the rocks and digging holes on the streets and laying mines on them. For the water shortage, Frank's family filled up the bathtub and bottles with water. They heard the Japanese systematically burning the houses so Frank's family prepared to leave. They built a wagon and filled it with bottled water, rice, sugar and basic foods. The house girl was planning to go with them. Artillery arrived in the form of howitzers and lightning P38 military planes strafing. The

artillery and the bombs could hit anyone so there were some casualties. In the far corner was a grey Catholic church which was converted into a hospital with volunteer doctors and nurses helping the wounded. On the night of February 7 or 8, 1945 he and his father were at the upstairs window and saw fires three blocks away and on bungalows that were closer. One bungalow that went up in flames was that of a family of Spanish origin and they had four or five children. Frank's family did not really want to leave but had to so they closed up all the windows and doors and left with their wagon.

- 15:00 They broke through the wall behind the house to walk through so they could camp in the empty lots. Thousands of people converged there in the dark. They built a lean-to against the wall and brought mattresses. They viewed everything going up in flames. Some civilians camping brought nothing with them. Some had clothes and they all sat on the ground. The next morning they saw only two of the six houses still standing including their house. They did not dare return as there were still Japanese all around. If the Japanese saw a white face, they would say, "Deutchk (German)." There was more shelling with Americans coming in from the East. The 37<sup>th</sup> Division was on San Andros Street nearby. Hundreds of people were killed or wounded. Frank saw neighbors and Jews get killed. They were exposed in the empty lots and the Piper Airplanes were just above them. The book, "The Battle of Manila" written in the 1990s told the real story that they would not sacrifice a single soldier so wanted all the Japanese killed before entering the city.
- 20:00 The battle lasted until February 15, 1945. It had started with the liberation of San Domas so the Army was stuck there as it was a logistical problem. It would be weeks until the battle of Manila as it would be defended by the last Japanese marine. The Japanese blew up all the bridges so had to set up platoon bridges. In late January they started to shoot artillery South of the Pasay River. The large walled city was the last to be liberated. The battle lasted from January to March. 100,000 Filipinos were killed. It was as bad as Warsaw and Stalingrad. The Filipinos were killed by artillery, mortars and friendly fire. There was an enormous barrage on February 13<sup>th</sup> when they were in the lean-to. They dug up a pit and covered it with palm tree logs with help from their neighbors and dove into the pit. Their house girl refused to move. They heard a huge barrage and the house girl was bleeding and jumped into the pit. Frank's father took her to the makeshift hospital and she returned later, though weak.
- 25:00 The shelling stopped and they climbed out of the pit and saw their lean-to had a direct hit so their mattress and clothes were ruined. Even their tea kettle was bashed in by shrapnel but he saved a piece of it and his mother's photo. In late '44 Temple Amiel was taken over by the Japanese so they held services in scattered places. Torpedoes were stored in the Temple and during the battle it was blown up except for the outer walls. The Rabbi who lived next door had to leave. It was the only synagogue under the American flag that was destroyed in World War II. There was an incident on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The man

who had horses evacuated them through the gap in the wall and they were killed so horsemeat was available to the starving people. The death rate was high and there were many wounded so they had to leave. The San Andros people were gathered. A bloodied man had a Red Cross flag and spoke to the Japanese about walking to the Americans. They saw bodies all over. Suddenly the people moved West where they presumed were the American forces. Frank's family carried a cooking pot with them and took along a four-year-old girl. There was artillery fire all day long. Frank was 14 and only weighed 75 pounds. They suddenly heard machine gun firing in the rear from the Japanese.

30:00 They crawled along Dakota Street heading away from the Bay and ran in a crouch to tennis courts with wire fences. The courts were not being used and they laid down flat on them. These German/Jews froze as they saw three white soldiers wearing German-appearing helmets. They did not realize that they were American helmets. One was lying on the ground behind a machine gun, one was kneeling and one was on the telephone. The soldiers saw the citizens with their hands up and heard them speak English. It was an emotional moment. The soldiers beckoned them to come across and put their hands down. The civilians asked for water and were told to come over and do not step on the phone lines. Then they met more American soldiers, a platoon of about six or eight soldiers. They saw guerillas wearing old helmets and red bands showing rank. The American unit asked them for their papers so they showed their stateless passports to G2 intelligence and were cleared. They met the Rabbi, his wife and her parents. There were about 20 Jews who were shipped to the camp and put on trucks that drove over the Pasay River.

35:00 They saw bodies lying around. Their house girl left them as she wanted to return to her family. February 15<sup>th</sup> was his father's birthday and the date of liberation. They were driven North of the Pasay River to the Convent of the Holy Ghost, a Catholic Nunnery. There they met other Jewish families where they were put in a huge hall with barracks. Flour was the only food they had so they made dumplings. The Nunnery was used as an internment camp for Germans and they were given good 10 in 1 rations. They had vegetables and dried beans, special butter and chocolate. They obtained water from a well. They had to carry the water four floors up. The next day, Ackerman, the butcher, appeared without his wife and children but in great pain. They had been hit by a white phosphorus grenade and his leg was badly burned. They took him to a "Mash" unit down the street. **Interview continues on April 7, 1997.** There were about 40 or 50 Jews and a Rabbi in the Nunnery. Later they received Army rations.

40:00 The Jews were placed in a wing far from the Germans. They had arrived February 18<sup>th</sup>. Ackerman had arrived with a badly bandaged leg and they laid him on a mattress. Then they took him to the Mash Unit where civilians were triaged and taken to the hospital. Two physician captains looked at Ackerman's leg and put ointment on it and gave him sulphur drugs and a sedative. He went to sleep and his wife and children arrived in a day



or two. Then others arrived including Mojamd (?), an accountant who was a bachelor who had news of all the people. They were in a 3-story wing with no water so three strong men got it with buckets which they hauled up the flights. Those that ate the Army hash got dysentery. Nuns ran the convent and also held a school there. The classrooms were now used as offices.

- 45:00 Nuns cooked, washed and continued with their daily prayers. One day an Army unit arrived to clean up a water tank. There were 20 or 30 Black soldiers. He had never seen so many Negroes before though knew that Gurkus (?) had served with the British Army. There was no understanding of segregation. The Black soldiers seemed shy and were led by white officers. They placed a heavy water tank and pumped water from a trailer and put in chlorine. The Jews presumed it was a special unit so they were not segregated. There were a few Mestizos of mixed origin but appear white and were questioned by the Army G2. Filipinos were not questioned as they were Native to the country. Most Jews were not picked up and stayed at home. When asked for their passport, they did not indicate where they were going. They were content when given food. Two weeks later, a man with intelligence CIC who ran the internment camp directed the Jews to leave as it is a German internment camp. The Rabbi and Elders rented a large house in Santa Mesa on Padre Pillar Street, a suburb of Manila.
- 50:00 The house that was rented earlier was still used by the elderly and disabled. They left the Convent by truck and went to Biln Bet (?) Prison where they were housed for a week along with the Rabbi and his family. Then they all went to the rental house on Padre Pillar Street and remained for two weeks. Then their former neighbor on Dakota Street whose houseboy they had inherited, offered them space in his house. He was in charge of the Findley (?) Miller Lumber Mill which has an underground entrance. There were huge lumber trucks carrying tree trunks. On the second floor were boxes of wood and later Chippendale style Filipino furniture. Frank's family took chairs and tables and later took them to the US.
- 55:00 The community got together in April 1945 with a community Seder held at the horserace hippodrome. The Rabbi, the cantor and 1,000 American/Jewish soldiers were there with their weapons. They sat in the bleachers. The soldiers were from the Navy and the Army and brought K-rations and cigarettes. Then they returned to the lumber yard. The 11-13 Marine Maintenance Company came to repair river boats and barges. Frank helped out the garrison in order to get food which he brought home. His father was taken by truck to work for the US Army doing clerical work. When Frank was at the Holy Ghost Convent, he looked out the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> floor window and saw soldiers crawling with rifles so he alerted the guards and they were apprehended. Another time at the lumber house, a soldier ran in and said that he found Japanese and wanted him to help with communication. He was a low ranking Japanese soldier who had been hiding and admitted that he had comrades in the area.

- 60:00 The Japanese soldier said they needed food so he ran into the open; he was taken to a prison camp. Most of the Japanese soldiers committed suicide so Frank saw very few. They retreated back to Manila Bay where they drowned themselves. Findley Miller heard that the Jewish/American soldiers wanted to rebuild the Manila youth groups. With the effort of the Rabbi and the Jews liberated from Santo Tomas, the Jewish community obtained a house. Three or four American/Jewish chaplains held socials and dances. They picked up people in trucks and took them to the socials. Frank recalls a female Lieutenant and a driver picked him up and took him to the new Jewish Center where he drank 10 cokes as he had not had any for a long time. A lady who was born in Germany and lived in the US became an Army nurse and married a Jewish man and now lives in San Francisco. Most of the Jewish community lost everything but a few started businesses. The Chaplains formed two groups for the children. One was for those 13 to 19 and another, "Stars of David" was for younger children. They met every Sunday.
- 65:00 Frank would take three modes of transportation which took one and one-half hours to get to the Jewish center. Some of the Jewish soldiers were Zionists and gave the teenagers an idea of a Jewish nation. At their sessions, they would discuss aliyah, Jewish emigration to Palestine, and problems of the British blockade and have refreshments. Norman Schliemann (?) was unmarried and emigrated to Israel in 1948 and sent them greetings. There was a reunion on October 31, 1996. Frank attended the teenage group every Sunday. They published a newsletter and had a handicrafts competition. He won 2<sup>nd</sup> place for his model of a grey cruiser ship, 1 and 1/2 feet long. He made it of cardboard and painted it in 1946 at age 15 (shows it to interviewer). There was a tragic incident regarding Emmet Fult (?) who was interested in radar and electronics and was asked to fix a radio. The Japanese booby trapped it and he was killed.
- 70:00 All told about 60 Jews including young people were killed and 200 Jews had medium to serious wounds. One bayoneted man played dead so he survived but his colleague died. The man who came from Germany to Addis Ababa and was a chemist in the Philippines was killed by artillery. He had a daughter about 8 or 9 years old. The Japanese forced people into their homes and poured gasoline and hand grenades to burn down the house. The wife and daughter died but the husband survived. There was a battle around the Filipino General Hospital in Arnica (?), Manila and they were trapped so might have had casualties. In the open lots, a man had a Red Cross flag but it was not seen. The civilians received aid from the American Joint Committee. Later, they were sent clothes, mostly winter clothes which they did not need except for those going to the US or Australia. Frank was given a camel-haired jacket and his mother got a coat with a fur collar which they used for San Francisco. The military gave them food. There was a major event on November 9, 1945, seven years after Kristallnacht.
- 75:00 The Jewish soldiers met in the Temple and they ran a collection and took bids to rebuild the Temple. It was the first time that money was discussed in the Temple. There were

about 300 or 400 people and they had services. They raised a lot of money. Some people were planning to leave. For Frank's family, the Philippines was an interim place. The neighbor from Taft Avenue who had a seizure looked them up. He was in intelligence and helped them through the bureaucracy of papers to emigrate. They had relatives in the US who were able to offer affidavits. An uncle was not drafted into the Army due to his age and he was a physician and there a lack of physicians in Maine.

77:00

**Frank Ephraim**

**Tape 7 Side A**

**April 7, 1997**

**RG-50.106\*0068.07.08**

**Summary**

00:00 Frank did not attend school from September 1, 1944 when Manila was raided until the middle of 1945. Manila's residential and downtown districts were destroyed. For a year he was tutored in Algebra and French by Mrs. Nathan at her home. She used solutions to warfare and the sea for algebra which made it fun though Frank was not good in calculus. In '39 he had studied English, Japanese and Tagalong as they were required and, also, took up Spanish from a lady on Dakota Street and studied French as he enjoyed languages. Then in '45 the schools reopened. At that time his father was back in the import-export business. He imported wooden moldings from the US which were covered with metal and used for home interiors. They were needed for rebuilding and were in great demand. His father sold the moldings in factory lots to retail and wholesale. Frank attended the American School for those Americans living in the Philippines who could afford it. They had good American teachers. One was a Vassar graduate who taught geometry.

05:00 Frank's family moved to a Santa Mesa apartment which was far from the school so he had to take several forms of transportation to get there. He had two friends: Hans Hewtherfine (?) and Helmut Meyer whose father was a physician. The three friends hitched a ride with the Army kids' bus going to their school until '46. Frank was a sophomore and studied geometry and struggled with biology just before immigrating. Frank's family was preparing to leave November 19, 1946 on a ship that left from Batangas, a small port South of Manila. They had to pack up what they were taking. The ship, the Anchorage Victory, was operated by an American shipping company. It was from the Far East Lines operating out of San Francisco. They could each take one suitcase. Frank's father got three Army foot lockers for them and painted blue and white

identifying stripes on them and they each had a small bag. Frank had started putting together the three foot long US Mission ship so left it behind. He hand-carried the small boat which he had made. He packed a Japanese steel helmet, a bayonet, a buoy knife from the 1113 Marine Unit and insignia US badges from every rank including Colonel. Only clothes were placed in the foot lockers.

- 10:00 The family left the house, the cat and the house girl and went to central Manila to catch a bus to Batangas (?) which was a one and one-half hour ride. They saw three ships including the Anchorage Victory where they were welcomed by the captain. The ship was in ballast as the tanks were filled with water for stabilization. The crew was so drunk they had to be carried aboard. It was a 17 or 18 day voyage. The family's quarters were in the gun crew at the stern, the rear end. The guns were removed and it was a large room with 3-tier bunks and another room for the three women (his mother, the daughter of a Jewish man and a Filipino woman. Half the passengers were Jewish. The ship captain was returning after shipping to the Far East. The ship could only carry 12 passengers. Nine men were housed in the large room. The ship officers ate in the wardroom. They were served beet and onion salad daily as it is food that can stay fresh for a long time. Frank was the youngest passenger. Suddenly the engine stopped as it lost its plank and the ship was adrift with no power and no water. They found themselves close to an Island. They were given juice to drink. They started up the emergency generator. The men could only go down to the engine room for 15 minutes at a time as it was so hot down there.
- 15:00 The lifeboats were prepared and lowered down. They sent an SOS on a Greenwich frequency and an American military freighter came into view. They flashed the Morse code but Frank's ship could not reply so used silver flags to respond. The emergency generator worked and they started to move. Two anchors were of no help. They placed an American flag upside down as a sign of distress. The ship started moving slowly and the American ship stood by. They did two knots, about 2 or 3 miles an hour and speeded up to 15 knots, the cruising speed. They cleaned the decks daily and Frank was friendly with the crew. December 7<sup>th</sup> was the day before arrival. It was still cool in November. There was a person standing on the bow and reporting the first light or landfall so Frank went up to the flying deck. He hoped to see the first landfall and at 2 AM saw it and heard down below call, "First light" and saw the Faroe Islands. There were strong swells outside San Francisco and they had no pilot. A small sailboat came along the ship and dropped a rowboat and a large man in the stern dressed in a hat and coat and rowed out to them. His ship dropped Jacob's ladder and the pilot climbed up and the Captain greeted him and they went up to the bridge. It was 3 AM when they gathered at the bridge. The city was lit up and the ship dropped pennies over on side. The Island and houses were lit up. His mother said it must be a resort; it was Alcatraz. The ship dropped anchor and the

next AM they came to the harbor. They had their papers checked and went through quarantine.

- 20:00 The ship was at pier 90 at Hunter's Point in the Northern part of the Bay. They were welcomed by Frank's mother's cousins, a man who worked for Lee's Jeans and two sisters and a lady from HIAS, the Hebrew Aid Society. She helped them get a room in a hotel on Van Ness Street. They loaded their foot lockers in a cab and in their Army-type clothes were driven down Market Street where they saw the large Fox Theatre on the way to their hotel. The Movie Theatre was showing, "The Verdict." Frank decided that he would see the movie the next morning. After breakfast at Fosters Restaurant with Philippine acquaintances, he walked down Venice Avenue to see the movie.
- 25:00 He had a German passport that was no longer valid but he did not need it as had a visa for the US. The family had affidavits from relatives sponsoring them. Since they passed the physical, the visa was all they needed. The quarantine people had checked to see if they had any communicable diseases and they were given landing papers. The Philippine community was close-knit. Most of the Jews left in '46 and '47. There were a few who remained as they were in business and would send their children to the US for schooling. About 70% went to the US and 30% to Australia and a few to Palestine. Those who went to the US mostly settled in San Francisco or the East Coast near New York. The family would get together with others from the Philippines – the Leopolds, the butcher, and the nurse and her husband so they had a little Jewish community. Later the cantor arrived and got married and went to San Diego. The Rabbi went to Michigan where he had a congregation and visited the San Francisco community at times. Recently they held a reunion.
- 30:00 They still write to the Leopolds and to the Umbrus (?) and to some who went to Australia. Occasionally they hold Manila evenings in San Francisco or large events in New York. They held a mock Philippine wedding with a 4'2" wife and a 6' husband which was funny and they served Filipino food. Now that Frank lives in DC, he is the only one but there are contacts in Connecticut and California. The family went to LA and returned to San Francisco where they had difficulty finding an apartment as there were soldiers returning from the War who were also seeking apartments. The family got a room in the Majestic Hotel which was simple but now is neo-classic. There were other refugees there. The food was not good. They lived in two rooms and a bath for a year. Frank had not attended school from mid-November to late January so entered the High School of Commerce on nearby Van Ness Avenue. It was 12 blocks away so he took a streetcar and walked two blocks to the school. On Van Ness there was City Hall, an Opera House, a War Memorial and a large football field. His mother took him to the school. It was the last week before midyear and he was placed with the sophomore class. It was not a college prep school. The school mostly served the Chinese and Black communities. Frank did satisfactory and continued as a sophomore.

- 35:00 He disliked gym. He joined ROTC and liked that as it was reminiscent of the War. He learned to shoot and was on the rifle team. Frank was awarded medals for participating in high school matches. A member of the Sons of the American Revolution gave him an award in 1949. After 2 and ½ years, he graduated. Before the summer of '48 he participated in a speech contest and won a scholarship to Boys State and participated in an American Legion contest and won a scholarship to Santa Cruz. Twenty boys and twenty girls won this scholarship. First he attended Sacramento Boys State for 1,000 boys and learned about the American government. He met interesting guys for a week. Then he got the 6-week scholarship where he was the only Jew and the only foreigner. The program was called, "Making Democracy Work" and was run by Professor Rogers. They discussed Truman and Dewey. **April 8, 1997, Side B.** They attended the Montegro School for Boys and studied government, public speaking, ethics, civics and politics.
- 40:00 Most of the participants were juniors in High School and many became politicians including Ed Meese, Ronald Reagan's assistant. Another Reagan assistant was Scher (?), a conservative from the La Mesa area, who became the campaign manager for George Wallace. It was a mix of people with some Democrats. Frank knew little of politics. On lockers in his high school there were signs that said, "Beat Mission." He found out that there were seven or eight other high schools including Mission. The other schools were more college prep than his. Frank completed his senior year by attending the two summer sessions in '48. He worked for Globe Wireless Telegraph and belonged to ROTC which had uniforms. When he went to the store to buy his uniform, they asked him to work there and he did so until he went to college. In '48 his father was no longer successful in exporting wooden moldings so he imported Chinese figurines and mounted them on driftwood.
- 45:00 Soon the Jewish community in Shanghai left due to Communism so he could no longer import the figurines. The Jews arrived in San Francisco and were placed in hotels and some went to Albuquerque and other places. The Rabbi started a synagogue in San Francisco. A group of Austrian/German Jews, some from Europe and some from Asia got together. They held Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services and got together at other times. Frank was not enamored with the services but attended Jewish social events. His father was industrious and got into the optical eye frame business. First he sold wholesale to optometrists and later Frank's mother helped with the business. He retired at age 80. His business took him to various California cities. Frank attended the University of California at Berkeley until 1950 when the Korean War broke out. He took a year off. He was studying to be a naval architect or mechanical engineer. He worked for the Meyer Island Shipyard until he was drafted into the Army on December 2, 1952. He served for 21 months as he got out 3 months early as the war was over and he returned to college.

- 50:00 Frank went to Ft. Ord, California for infantry training and then was sent to Europe as he spoke German and passed tests in German, French and Spanish. There were 300 men in his company and after the 16 weeks of training, four were assigned to the European Theatre and the rest to Korea or remained in the States. The four went by train to Camp Kilmer, then by ship to Bremerhaven and train to Zweibruken. Frank was assigned to the Finn (?) School to learn IBM machines by a Swiss instructor at the German Caserne (barracks) Lingreme (?) and then to Heidelberg for a month. The rest of the time he was in France until 1954. The Jews from Germany/Austria/Philippines were different from the American Jews so they stayed together. Most of the American Jews were from Eastern Europe and spoke Yiddish. They had arrived first and established themselves here in clothing or scrap iron businesses or professions but not in agriculture. Frank feels that Jews are in the periphery in the Diaspora, even today. Their experiences make them different. Those from Shanghai or the Philippines lost everything. They started again in San Francisco when most Jews were already established.
- 55:00 People drift towards those similar to themselves. Those from Asia were different as they did not speak Ladino or Yiddish. Those from Shanghai came in '48 imbued with Zionism and helped Israel and tried to get the Americans to join them in their endeavors. George Jessel and other actors were Zionists. There was a book, "The Pledge" about people gathering money for war equipment. In 1948 Frank flew to Israel. The Zionists tried to get water flasks and wet belts to send to Israel. A few native Americans joined the Zionist group in San Francisco.
- 60:00 Large rallies with music and speakers were held for Israel. While Frank was in the military, he did not return to Berlin as it was a divided city and he was told not to go. He knew that all his relatives had perished so he did not seek them out. His mother's uncle, a bachelor, lived in a house owned by the family. He did not know what happened to him until the black books arrived from Germany in the Holocaust Museum. He found out that the uncle had committed suicide so the Nazis could not arrest him. Recently Frank visited the uncle's grave. Frank was nervous when his ship docked in Bremerhaven on April 1, 1953 and he heard a German voice. He was in a group of American/Germans but they were not Jews. The others loved Germany though they were not born there. They did not know that he was Jewish. He was taken by train with sleeping quarters and a cafeteria to Frankfurt. There was a German porter assigned to each car who spoke to him in German. That was the first German who Frank spoke to. Frank looked upon himself as military and had no interest in dealing with the Germans except in an official capacity. When the Germans saw you in an American uniform, they looked at you as a traitor to return as a boss and did not see you as a Jew.
- 65:00 Frank thought the Germans were robots. Wearing civilian clothes, Frank mingled with the Germans and felt that they had not changed by way of their commentary on Jews and foreigners. Americans were not on the Germans' preferred list. Once he was wearing his

uniform with other Americans at a Gasthaus. The four of them were given a table for eight. Germans were placed elsewhere and no one filled the empty seats at first. A couple sat down and discussed how badly the Americans were treating them. The four Americans said nothing but decided they would switch from English to German. The couple was astonished and said nothing more. Civilians would try to buy cigarettes from them at train stations. They would cheat the Americans by offering a high price and give them plain paper with 10 marks wrapped around it. The cigarettes were worth 500 marks. Plain clothes police asked the Americans to help them arrest the criminals.

70:00 The criminals were surrounded by the plain clothes men who got the German police to arrest them. Frank obtained his first papers for citizenship shortly after he arrived in San Francisco. He became a citizen in March '52 just before he was drafted. He was sworn in along with a large group in the Opera House with Danny Kaye as both speaker and entertainer. It was the first time that he was a citizen of a country and he felt welcomed. He became patriotic and followed the laws, voted and paid income tax. He looked at US policies and felt that what appears to be support for Israel by the US President, congress and the public gets warped. Frank views Jew as a nation, not a religion. He is cautious of a culture that can be conducted solely by a religion. Frank mentions that in Nazism, the Kaiser started WWI. The Treaty of Versailles did not cause the war.

75:00 The Kaiser was physically deformed with a shriveled arm. Others had disabilities including mental disabilities. They formed the Corps of Nazism in the 30s.

**Frank Ephraim**

**Tape 8 Side A**

**April 7, 1997**

**RG-50.106\*0068.08.08**

**Summary**

00:00 Frank discusses that he views Judaism as a nationality instead of a religion. He was brought up in the religious aspect but at the time of liberation he was influenced in Zionism and Israel and continues this view. He does not believe that Jews must move to Israel to believe in Zionism. Frank believes that Orthodox Judaism becomes a cult like Nazism and Catholicism. The latter he saw in the Philippines where the church was involved in people's lives so they export people as there is insufficient work for them. The church is against birth control which Frank believes is detrimental to Democracy and people but prevails in many parts of the world. Islam is similar, "Do as I do or die," like Saudi Arabia which is not Democratic but US likes them for their oil. There is pressure for the peace process which Frank believes is a naïve concept as how can one deal with



Arabs who blow themselves up. It is never a natural policy of Israel so unequal between the two and one cannot negotiate peace between the two. Israel must preserve itself and others cannot help them.

- 05:00 Other naïve policies are the rise of Nazism with Adolph Hitler, a psychotic, Goering, a glutton and Goebbels who had two club feet and Hess, a philosopher. The four are the central part of the Nazi party. All are disabled and not models so Germany is a problematic nation and not developed into a British or American type country. Germany is unique as at your throat or at your feet. It is robotic, like the Japanese, with no moderation. They have some successful composers and some others who achieved. Germany can proceed to commit atrocities when called upon to do so. Then Frank discussed bureaucracy. Roosevelt said, "Don't fear anything but fear itself," but Frank believes one should fear bureaucracy. People adhere to leadership who they follow to get a promotion. Eichmann was a machine who performed regardless of leadership. Daniel Goldheggin (?) wrote a book about ordinary Germans. When you leave a chore in the hands of bureaucracy, it will be done as nothing will stop it. Germany would continue getting rid of the Jews today if they were not stopped. Every four years we should start a new bureaucracy. The US has a bureaucracy. Frank was in school from mid-'48 and '52 to '54 he was in the military. Then he returned to the City College of San Francisco for engineering and to the University of California Graduate School for mechanical engineering and behavioral science.
- 10:00 Frank then worked for an architect in San Francisco, then the guided missile submarines, and then for a year at United Airlines for the jet fleet between San Francisco and New York and in July 1960 came to the Maritime Administration in Washington, DC. His first 16 years before coming to the US were interesting. Frank reported that he did not miss teenage life as compared to others as his was more interesting. He learned self-reliance such as put together scrap to build a fire, repairing or building something. He was liberated in '45 and had nothing. He collected beer cans and put wires on them to drink out of. His clothes were shot through. He got the top of a Japanese uniform and cut part of it off to fit him and wore the jacket under a raincoat. He enjoyed repairing and being useful. American colleagues disdained using their hands as it not professional. Frank feels that since he's handy, he has a better chance to survive, whether war, flood or unemployment. He feels that self-reliance is also in the area of the mind. He does not read the Washington Post as it is on the left like the San Francisco paper.
- 15:00 Frank believes the news on the TV and in newspapers represent individual views; they are not rational or realistic. Frank believes that he analyzes what is true, a drift or spin. He thinks that news releases are put together to cover up so the truth is shaded so you won't know the bureaucracy. He is cautious in believing what he hears and sees, a bit paranoid, but that is what he got out of his experience. One should never be surprised. If a dangerous crisis is building, you should be calm and assess what is happening so you'll

be more likely to survive. Those who went through the Depression are thriftier. One's behavior reflects one's experiences. Frank met his wife in DC. She was born in Hamburg and they married in 1966 and had Michelle in 1969. Both Frank and his wife were born on the same date. They have lived 37 years in DC and occasionally return to San Francisco. Frank's father died in 1966 and his mother lives near San Francisco. He still has some connections with the Jewish community. His wife's parents were orthodox and the father was a shochet in Germany and England. Frank attends synagogue for Rosh Hashanah and for kaddish (memorials). He no longer belongs to a synagogue.

20:00 He formerly was a member of Adas Israel and he belonged to the Washington Hebrew Congregation when his daughter attended Hebrew School. She attended until age 13 but was not Bat Mitzvah. His daughter's dissertation is on the role of women in the Shakespearean era, time of the Renaissance. Frank thanks the interviewer for her patience during the four interviews. Frank's family owned a building in East Berlin with 10 apartments and an orthopedic shoe store on the ground floor in Weissensee, the Northern part of Berlin. Until 1990 it was the Communist area. Abraham Schliemann (?) purchased the building and went to the US. He was one of eight Schliemanns. He had a brother, Zalid (?) who lived in one apartment who had six girls; one was his grandma, Clara who married Hyman. Cecilia married Zeeman (?) who died in the Holocaust. Another brother died and left the property to the seven siblings. It was never taken over by the Nazis. There is a deed on record with the Housing Authority of Weissensee, a sector of Berlin. A lawyer has the documents. Frank's grandmother and her six brothers and sisters own the property. In 1991 Frank got a lawyer from East Berlin and he is trying to get the property returned to the current heirs by tracing through the family. He saw the mother, brother and aunt in one group.

25:00 From the Manasseh branch in Israel there is one woman heir. In the Simon branch, there is only the fourth generation left consisting of two people in New York. Three branches died out with no children, suicide and Zeeman being deported to Auschwitz. Frank made Zeeman's burial arrangements. There are about 13 heirs. He needs to get certificates pursued by the lawyer. The Housing Authority turned the case over to the Jewish claims organization who sold the building to get funds. Originally, Frank was not thinking of the money when searching for the heirs. He just wanted to return the property to the family and will place a plaque on the house and at the grave of the suicide. Frank's paternal grandfather and three other Schliemanns (?) are buried in the same cemetery. His mother talked about doing this earlier. Frank is working on this as he feels he is a researcher by training, it is a challenge for him and he enjoys finding out information.

30:00 His mother obtained the lawyer and it is a complicated project to get death and birth certificates and wills. He must speak to all these people and his mother is reticent, especially to talk to the American side of the family. Frank feels that he can do it. He communicates to one member of the family in Israel by fax. He went to the German

Consulate in Israel and got affidavits. The property will end up in German hands if nothing is done. The value is little. Frank likes projects like that and gives the following example. A 29-year-old lawyer, Johnson from the Maritime Department, gave him a task to analyze whether the US should pursue nuclear Marine program. The question was whether it was feasible or economical to put nuclear power on Merchant ships. Frank completed the study in '64 and the result was that it was not economically feasible. Frank's wife's Holocaust experience differed from his.

35:00 They are compatible as both are from Germany, both were in the Holocaust and both are Jewish. They have cultural and social similarities. Frank believes that Jewish girls born here are different with different values. He sees people marry out of their religion and it works out. His uncle married an Episcopalian so it is not insurmountable. One drifts toward "birds of a feather." He felt compelled to volunteer at the Holocaust Museum and organize the Philippine/Jewish reunion as it is compatible with his lifestyle. Frank believes that it was a spectacular event to build the Holocaust Museum in his lifetime. The Holocaust did not happen here but the Congress voted for it so it was built close to the Mall. Jews were persecuted because of their religion and lifestyle and did not have protection in their country so the Museum is important for the future of the youth. **Side B, Tape 8.** The Holocaust Museum became the base for educating Jews and others as the experience is common.

40:00 The Jews were vulnerable as did not have the means to defend themselves physically. The Jews believe in prayer and G-d but were slaughtered so need self-defense. Community self-defense was seen in Masada. Frank will help in any way. After retiring from the government, volunteering is a fine and interesting way to spend his time. It has research potential. At first the Museum was disorganized regarding volunteers when the building was being constructed. Someone in Somerset, DC, does oral histories and he attended her session at lunchtime. Then they began to organize volunteer training. There were about six to eight sessions on Sundays with others for Visitor Services. He was still working at the time. They wore burgundy jackets and the museum opened and he volunteered for the candle light program. The librarian called him as knew that he spoke German and could read journals and index them. He wrote the title and a short abstract of journals for six months and produced indices in 1992. He has been volunteering for five years. He enjoys working with crowds so he works the floor for Visitor Services. He also volunteers in the Education Department in planning and developing schemes for outreach and for the States. Holocaust education is either required or recommended by the States for history, social science and elective courses.

45:00 He had a second term on the Voluntary Advisory Board which he finds invigorating. One must be patient with bureaucracy. It is a new museum but attendance was overwhelming. Commentators say that the workers are not knowledgeable but Frank feels that most of the workers in the museum are dedicated and have a good background

in Holocaust history. His mother is still in contact with friends from the Philippines. Some of these friends suggested a reunion to him and he agreed that it was a good idea to see friends from 50 years ago. At first they thought of holding it in New York but then decided on Washington, DC where the Filipino Embassy and the Holocaust Museum are located. It was held October 19 to 21, 1996. They arranged for a hotel and for a session with the Filipino Ambassador. They gave him a plaque to thank the country for giving them shelter. It had a picture of their Temple and dated 1945. They showed a travelogue of the beaches in the Philippines.

50:00 They were served cookies and coffee in the Embassy. They took a bus and private cars to lunch and then were welcomed by the head of the Survivor Registry at the Holocaust Museum. Some of the participants from New York had previously visited the museum. One person came from Israel. They had a reception and dinner at the hotel. Each person introduced themselves. The Army Chaplain who had helped the Jewish community and a soldier from Pottstown, Pennsylvania who had liberated them attended. There were several Americans who attended including two of Alex Freeder's (?) daughters and Becky Konigsberg whose father ran the Temple in the early days. The next morning they had a four-hour brunch where they exchanged mementos such as photos and the remains of a bomb that landed close to a participant. Sixty participants came to Frank's home for a buffet supper. The next day they took a bus to the Philippine Embassy and to the Holocaust Museum. Some of the participants had been babies or children in the 40s and one was as old as 86. Some of the participants had been born here. About half had been in the Philippines and the rest were spouses. Some participants wanted to have future reunions and some did not.

55:00 Frank thought it an exciting experience. Some are meeting in DC in May and, also, in New York. Philip reports that he enjoyed telling his story and hopes it is of value. From Finland's lesson we learned that Jewish is more important as a nation than a religion. Religion is a bond but not necessarily in perpetuity as it is not a building block. The nation shows that Jews are in many fields including farming and as policemen, just like in Israel. Diversity builds a nation and is a basis against threat and one should be self-starting and keep calm. "Crowd Power" is an interesting book and says that crowds can turn into mobs. This happened in Germany where freaks generated a cult and misled people to do things. Bureaucracy and crowds can generate danger.

59:00