

Peter Philipps

RG-50.106*0069

Pre-War

Born Ernst Peter in Essen, Germany on December 5, 1931
Parents Lilly and Bruno, twin brothers 4 years younger
1936 - moved to Prague after conditions got worse
frightened during air raid drills
Summer 1939 - Train to Nervi, Italy
felt responsibility for his 2 brothers

Wartime

After 6 months family goes by boat to Ecuador
Lives in Quito until 1941 - conditions very difficult, much anti-Semitism,
taunted, beaten, chased for being Jewish, wore second hand clothes
May 1941 - family sails to New York
goes to school, to Hebrew School - mother supports family as a dressmaker
desperately wanted to look and become American

Post-War

Graduates from high school, visits parents and brothers who had moved to Rotterdam
Graduates from City College of New York
Joins Army and sent to Mainz, Germany - did not tell Germans he was from there
Worked at New York Times, Business Week, now free-lance writer
Very committed to volunteer work at the Museum
feels he is 'home' there - a sense of belonging
it has reconnected him with his Jewishness
His immigration experience is the seminal event of his life
He is grappling with the question of forgiveness