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Summary

Susie Stock was born June 5, 1933 in Vienna. Her family's name was Weinblum at her birth, but changed their name to Winton when they immigrated to Australia; Winton was her maiden name. She was an only child. Her father, Fritz (later, Fred), ran small grocery. Her paternal grandfather had fought for Austria in WWI and died shortly after the war from his wounds from gas attacks. He came from Galicia and her mother came from Bohemia; they married in 1929. Her mother's name was Antonie (née Böck).

Shortly after the Anschluss, her father was sent to Dachau for a few weeks and then returned, while her mother was at least once ordered to scrub the streets in Vienna. Her father's shop was Aryanized. All these experiences prompted her family to acquire forged Greek passports in August 1938 and depart secretly to Milan, and then on to London. Her paternal grandmother remained, eventually dying in Thereisenstadt. Her maternal grandparents went to Budapest, where her grandmother died of natural causes; her grandfather emigrated to Australia in 1948. Susie describes how her father's four siblings also escaped Austria to London and their onward destinations.

Her family remained in London for six months and then on to Australia, eventually moving to Melbourne in April 1939. She describes the uneven pace of the family's adjustment to Australia, her grandfather's eventual arrival in Australia, and family life during her teen years. They did not keep a kosher home and were not especially religious, but would often attend synagogue and observe major holidays. German was usually spoken at home. She experienced little anti-Semitism.

Susie went to university studying commerce where she met her husband, Eric, marrying at age 20. Her husband had lived in Vienna, leaving on the last ship to Australia in 1939. They had four children, three daughters and a son. Her husband was more religious and Zionist. She and her husband lived in Israel in 1953 for a month after she won a community award. Her husband died in 2003.

Susie concludes with observations about how the Holocaust affected her life, though she doesn't consider herself a survivor.