

Interviewee: BROH, Herbert
Interviewer: Josey G. Fisher
No. of Audiotapes: 3 English

Date: October 15, 1999
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SUMMARY

Herbert Broh was born in Berlin, Germany in 1930. He relates several experiences of abusive antisemitism by his friends and his teacher, as well as his impressions of *Kristallnacht*.

His family left Germany for Shanghai in April of 1939 to join family members already living on Seward Road in the Hongkew section of Shanghai, under Japanese occupation. Herbert was enrolled in the Kadoorie School and later a *cheder*. He talks about his Jewish education at the *cheder* and the Yeshiva Katana in great detail, as well as the effect of his growing orthodoxy on his life and his family. He describes his family's living conditions and life in Shanghai and states he was very happy there. He was only dimly aware that other refugees had a more difficult existence. His father worked for a Chinese factory managed by Japanese, his mother worked as a cook at the Komor Kindergarten.

After Pearl Harbor, his family was evacuated to the Kadoorie School. He mentions interaction between Japanese and refugees. He vividly describes the events during and after the Japanese capitulation and the arrival of Chinese Nationalist and later American troops. He witnessed the departure of the entire Mirrer Yeshiva to Canada in 1946. Herbert and his family went to the United States in 1947. He describes his life in the United States and his feelings about his years in Shanghai. He is now a Cantor in Sun City, California.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939-1945: Personal narratives – German Jews

World War, 1939-1945: Shanghai

Antisemitism