Harry Bibring was born in Vienna in December 1925. His father owned a men’s clothing store and he and his parents and sister lived comfortably. Until 1938 when Hitler gained power he attended a good school but then had to change to one that was less desirable, his father’s service in the Austrian army notwithstanding.

The Anschluss in March 1938 created many social and economic difficulties for the family terminating with the events around Kristallnacht, November 9 – 10, 1938. His father was arrested but was soon released to find his store completely destroyed by fire and vandalism.

The family’s plans to emigrate to Shanghai collapsed when their last funds were stolen. As a result of a fortuitous contact with an English family he and his sister managed to join the Kindertransport to England. Part of their pre-transport education was supported by a Jewish community organization known as Kultus Gemeinde where they could both learn English and develop trade skills.

He remained in England but his sister came to the United States in 1947. His father died and mother was sent to Theresienstadt in approximately 1943. The only other surviving relatives were those who were able to get to Israel.
Interviewee: BIBRING, Harry       Date: March 1, 1989

SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War II- 1939-1945 personal narratives, Jewish
World War II- 1939-1945 Vienna, Austria
World War II- 1939-1945 England
Kristallnacht
Kindertransport