

Interviewee:	<u>KEITH</u> , Bruno	Date:	October 17, 1999
Interviewer:	Josey G. Fisher		
Audio tapes:	5 English	Transcript:	Draft, unaudited
Restrictions:	No restrictions		1 vol. (unpaged) English

SUMMARY

Bruno Keith¹ was born September 8, 1911 in Barntrup, Lippe-Detmold, Germany to a large, mostly non-observant, poor family. His father was an animal dealer. Bruno describes his father's army service in WWI, very good relations with the Gentiles in their village, his schooling and one experience with antisemitic faculty who would not allow him to be assigned as librarian even though he had the skills. Bruno details his struggle to get teaching positions in pre-war Germany, his studies with Baeck and Buber at the University of Frankfurt, Pedagogical Academy² and being expelled from this institution in 1933 for being Jewish.

A Hitler Youth leader warned Bruno about *Kristallnacht* two nights prior; he experiences *Kristallnacht* in Hamburg and was jailed in Fuhlsbuettel. Bruno describes in detail his deportation and arrival at Sachsenhausen as well as experiences there. Bruno details his release and requirement to leave Germany. He also details how he saved his brother who had tried to emigrate to Denmark and was sent back to Germany by the Danes³. Bruno arrived in Shanghai by April 1939 on the *Conte Verde*. He details the Jewish community/politics in Shanghai (Sassoon, Kadoorie) and describes his work experience: tutored privately in Hongkew and International Settlement, started Kinchow Road School and other small schools. He also describes wartime changes/conditions under Japanese. Bruno emigrated to the United States in April 1947.

¹former last names were Katzenkopf and Katz.

²Bruno describes the program as a teacher training school which was sponsored by the Pedagogik Academy of Frankfurt University and the Berlin Center for Jewish Education.

³In the interview, Bruno explains that many Danish officials were Gestapo and that Denmark at that time let Germany do as it wished. He believes that his brother was reported by a Gestapo spy after making contact with the Jewish community there.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War II 1939-1945, Personal Narrative, Jewish, Male

World War II- 1939-1945 Barntrop, Lippe-Detmold, Germany

Germany - Emigration and Immigration, Germany to Shanghai, China

Holocaust Jewish 1939-1945 Germany

Jewish-Chinese relations

Jewish Ghettos - Japanese in Shanghai, China

Kristallnacht, 1938

Refugees, Jewish

Shanghai (1939-1947)

Health conditions – in

Jewish refugees – Shanghai

Jewish schools