

Interviewee:	<u>WILLDORFF</u> , René	Date:	October 17,1999
Interviewer:	Gerry Schneeberg		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

René Willdorff, born June 10, 1928 in Berlin, was an only child in a minimally observant Jewish family. He recounts his early education in a German public school and a synagogue school until his family emigrated to Shanghai in 1939 and his subsequent educations at the British public schools in the International settlement and at a Catholic school. He recalls that he never experienced antisemitism as a student, but always felt inferior because he was an outsider from a very poor family. He describes the scarcity of food and being near starvation.

René describes having to move with his mother to the Ward Road Ghetto in 1942 after his father died of cholera. In 1944, he left school and became an apprentice in a machine shop in Hong Kew. After the war he worked at an American air base. He emigrated to the United States in 1948, became an engineer and married a Holocaust survivor in San Francisco. He remains stoic about the deprivations suffered during his years in Shanghai and feels that his life was enriched by that experience. He also views the Holocaust as a common denominator that binds Jews together today.

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World War 1939-1945 – Germany

World War-1939-1945– Personal narrative, Jewish, Male

Shanghai (1939-1947)

Health conditions – in
Jewish refugees - Shanghai