

Interview with EDITH WERTHEIMER

Holocaust Oral History Project

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SYLVIA PROZAN: Interview of Edith Wertheimer taking place in San Francisco California on July 15th, 1992. My name is Sylvia Prozan and the second interviewer is Gail Kurtz.

Q. EDITH, WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

A. In Breslau.

Q. WHEN?

A. July 30, 1912.

Q. WHAT WAS YOUR FATHER'S NAME?

A. My father's name was Emil Soloman Schnitzer,
S-c-h-n-i-t-z-e-r.

Q. AND WHERE WAS HE FROM?

A. He was from Hungary but I do not remember where he was born.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHEN HE MOVED TO BRESLAU?

A. He moved to Berlin from Hungary and then to Breslau but I don't know when. He never told me.

Q. DID YOU KNOW HIS PARENTS?

A. No.

Q. DO YOU KNOW THEIR NAMES?

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1 A. Schnitzer but I don't know what the, his
2 mother's name was before.

3 Q. DID HE HAVE ANY BROTHERS OR SISTERS?

4 A. Yes. He had one brother who went to Russia
5 in the war and they never heard from him. Then he had
6 two sisters, one was a singer but she passed away and
7 the other sister I met here in San Francisco just by
8 chance. The Jewish Committee called me and said that
9 there is a lady there and she is born Schnitzer so I
10 went to see her and then I tried to find her again and
11 she moved and I've never heard from her again.

12 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER HER NAME?

13 A. No.

14 Q. YOU NEVER MET HER IN GERMANY?

15 A. No, never. Then my father moved to Breslau
16 and met my mother and then they got married in 1910.

17 Q. DO YOU KNOW HOW THEY MET?

18 A. I guess it was, oh, gosh, I don't know what
19 a matchmaker probably.

20 Q. WHAT WAS YOUR MOTHER'S NAME?

21 A. T-o-d-d-m-a-n-n, Toddmann. And her father
22 passed away very, very young and my grandmother was a
23 very rich woman and the dowry of my mother was 30,000
24 marks at that time which was plenty money. And then she
25 had one son who was a dentist who I loved very much.
26 And then I was born, 1912, and my grandmother looked

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1 after me always and my parents, of course. And what
2 else?

3 Q. WHAT IS THE FIRST NAME OF YOUR MOTHER?

4 A. Gertrude.

5 Q. AND YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S NAME?

6 A. Elena and her name was Toddmann, of course,
7 and she had a brother, his name was Krauskof and he was
8 a famous, how do you say, throat, ear specialist. And
9 he was called to the czar because he was very ill but he
10 said I will not go because if God forbid something to
11 happen to him they would say the Jew did something wrong
12 at that time already.

13 Q. WHAT WAS YOUR FATHER'S LINE OF BUSINESS?

14 A. He had a business. We used, they used to
15 wear hats in Germany and he sold the flowers and the
16 feathers for the hats for years and years and years.
17 And my mother was in the office working and I went after
18 school. We had dinner when we had lunch, when we have
19 lunch here, we have dinner. And we went to the office
20 and we worked and then I enjoyed that very much, too.

21 Q. HOW LARGE A TOWN WAS BRESLAU?

22 A. It was about 600,000 I think. It was about
23 as large as San Francisco was at that time.

24 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOUR HOME THERE WAS
25 LIKE?

26 A. We had an apartment.

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1 Q. WHAT IS THAT LIKE?

2 A. People didn't have homes at this time only
3 the very, very rich. We had an apartment, two bedrooms
4 and no car, nobody had a car at that time. We had the
5 street car on the corner and we used the street cars.
6 So then I went to school.

7 Q. WHEN DID YOU START SCHOOL?

8 A. My mother was ambitious when I was five years
9 old so I was through when I was 15 and then she sent me
10 to business school. I had to learn typing and
11 bookkeeping and then I worked in the hat store and I
12 modeled hats. And when you bought two hats you got a
13 photography for nothing. And then I, when I was
14 15-and-a-half I met my first husband.

15 Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHEN YOU BOUGHT TWO HATS YOU
16 GOT THE PHOTOGRAPHY FREE?

17 A. You, well, you got your picture, the customer
18 when a customer bought two hats, then you can go and
19 have your picture taken and that was for free.

20 Q. HOW MANY, HOW LARGE WAS THE JEWISH POPULATION
21 OF BRESLAU, DO YOU KNOW?

22 A. Maybe twenty, thirty thousand. I really
23 don't know because we belonged to the old temple and my
24 mother and grandmother always we went to the synagogue
25 on holy days on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur but
26 otherwise we didn't go.

1 Q. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE TEMPLE?

2 A. Well, the temple I remember when they had
3 after they honored the dead I had to go out of the
4 temple because I didn't have anybody dead yet at that
5 time so we always had to go out and we played in the
6 yard and we were glad to get out. And they were
7 separated at that time the men where downstairs and the
8 women were upstairs. They were never together like
9 here.

10 Q. DID YOU, WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE OTHER
11 JEWISH HOLIDAYS? DID YOU HAVE PASSOVER SEDERS?

12 A. Sometimes but not very often. We went to
13 some friends sometimes but not too often because, well,
14 I was very busy with my boyfriend and he came every
15 night. And then we went over to his parents for seder
16 sometimes but it was only two years when we got married.

17 Q. WHEN YOU WERE VERY YOUNG, WHAT IS THE FIRST
18 SEDER THAT YOU REMEMBER?

19 A. The first seder I was six, seven years old
20 then. I don't remember very much but I only know that I
21 had to ask a question, why is this night. I don't know
22 how you say, I can say it in German but not in English.

23 Q. WHY DON'T YOU SAY IT IN GERMAN?

24 A. .

25 But otherwise my father was traveling all the time
26 so he did not, was not home when their were holidays,

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1 that is why we didn't keep it.

2 Q. WAS THERE ANY KIND OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
3 THAT YOU HAD?

4 A. Well, we had to have, in school we had to
5 have, yes, we had religion in school. Every religion
6 had their different classes.

7 Q. WAS THIS A PUBLIC SCHOOL?

8 A. No. It was the, they called it lyzeum,
9 l-y-z-e-u-m. My parents paid for it and so we had, each
10 religion had their classes, not in the same room but at
11 the same time, the Jews and the Catholics and the
12 Protestants.

13 Q. WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN THOSE CLASSES?

14 A. We learned how to read Hebrew and the whole
15 thing but I don't remember very much. I can't even read
16 very much Hebrew right now anymore.

17 Q. WHAT OTHER SUBJECTS DID YOU TAKE IN SCHOOL?

18 A. We had to take, we didn't have a choice at
19 that time, English, French, arithmetic, gymnastics.

20 Q. WHAT WAS GYMNASTICS?

21 A. Gymnastics? Oh, yes, pardon me, gymnastics.
22 We had to run and we had to jump over things and -- I
23 don't think they have it here. I'm not sure.

24 Q. DID YOU LIVE IN A JEWISH SECTION IN THE CITY?

25 A. No, no. There was no Jewish section in
26 Breslau, not that I know. We lived in the south of the

1 city but there were all kinds of religions and nobody
2 even knew or asked what religion you were at that time.
3 We were friends with everybody and never even occurred
4 to us that we should ask.

5 Q. DID YOU BELONG TO ANY CLUBS OR YOUTH
6 ORGANIZATIONS?

7 A. No.

8 Q. WHAT WOULD YOUR DAILY ROUTINE BE LIKE DURING
9 THE SCHOOL YEAR?

10 A. Well, I went from 8:00 to 12:00 or 1:00
11 o'clock and then I came home and we had dinner. And
12 then we went back to the office. My mother came back
13 and my dad was traveling. And then I helped a little
14 bit in the office, that was usually our day. Sometimes
15 we went to the theater but very rare because we had very
16 little money.

17 Q. WHAT THEATER?

18 A. Gosh, I saw the Count Moritza or light opera,
19 but very rare because we just didn't have, just had
20 enough for pay the rent for the office and the apartment
21 and food and so on. And my grandmother couldn't help me
22 because, couldn't help us because she was a very rich
23 woman but her cousin came and asked her for money so he
24 could get rid of his two daughters because they needed
25 money at that time to get rid of daughters and she gave
26 him the money. And when she asked if he could return

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1 it, they never talked to them and they started a big
2 fight. So the end is that my grandmother ended up on
3 welfare.

4 Q. WHAT DID WELFARE MEAN IN GERMANY?

5 A. Welfare, well, they gave her some money to
6 eat and then she had a room in the home which was, I
7 don't know if it was a Jewish home or just -- this I do
8 not remember. She always say to me don't be too good.

9 Q. WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE MEANT?

10 A. She meant if you're too good that's half bad.
11 People take advantage.

12 Q. ARE THERE ANY FRIENDS THAT YOU REMEMBER FROM
13 SCHOOL GROWING UP?

14 A. No. I lost track of everybody. I don't know
15 anybody anymore. Huh-uh. One I know she was married
16 and then got a divorce and had a Gentile friend lawyer.
17 In fact he stayed over with us one night because the
18 Nazis were after him and then he left the next morning.
19 I don't know where he is and I never knew where she
20 ended up.

21 Q. WHAT ABOUT THE DAY YOU MET YOUR HUSBAND?

22 A. That was a garden restaurant and my parents
23 went there with me. And we took sandwiches along with
24 us. We just bought a coke or coffee or beer, my dad
25 loved beer. And so he saw me and he sent a friend over
26 and asked me to come over because I think he had an

1 operation, he couldn't walk very well. And so, see, we
2 are talking and then he came over to see me and that's
3 how it started.

4 And then of course my mother-in-law she wasn't very
5 enthused by it. First I was too young and second I
6 didn't have any money. So after one-and-a-half years it
7 got so serious, so she said that she had a job for him
8 in Berlin. And he said I will never leave her. So he
9 said we going to get married, it doesn't matter what
10 anybody says. We didn't have anything. We moved to, in
11 fact, he moved in with, in my room after we got married
12 because we couldn't afford an apartment at this time.

13 Q. WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

14 A. Kurt Levei, L-e-v-e-i.

15 Q. AND HIS NAME WAS KURT LEVEI?

16 A. L-e-v-e-i.

17 Q. AND WHAT WAS HE LIKE?

18 A. Very good looking man. My son looks quite,
19 very much like him. And --

20 Q. HOW MUCH OLDER WAS HE?

21 A. Four years older than I was.

22 Q. WHEN YOU GOT MARRIED, YOU WERE HOW OLD?

23 A. 18, not quite 18.

24 Q. DID YOU HAVE A CEREMONY, A SPECIAL ANYTHING?

25 A. No. We just went to civil, to the standishan
26 to the office where you had to have your license and

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1 then, no, we just went for lunch someplace.

2 And then he moved in. And then I had my daughter
3 after nine months. And then we moved out because we
4 saved money, we didn't have to pay rent to my parents.
5 And I had my daughter at home with a midwife. And then
6 we moved out and after two years my son was born. And
7 we moved back to the area where my parents lived because
8 I didn't want to be so far away them.

9 Q. WHAT YEAR WAS YOUR DAUGHTER BORN?

10 A. You would have to ask me these embarrassing
11 questions. It is 1931. And my son was born 1934.

12 Q. AND YOUR DAUGHTER'S NAME?

13 A. Steffi.

14 Q. WAS SHE NAMED AFTER ANYBODY?

15 A. No.

16 Q. AND YOUR SON'S NAME?

17 A. Peter.

18 Q. WAS HE NAMED AFTER ANYBODY?

19 A. No. We just liked the names.

20 Q. WHAT DID YOUR HUSBAND DO FOR A LIVING?

21 A. He was, worked for a big company and he was a
22 traveling salesman. He was out of town very, very much
23 but I don't even remember what he sold. Would you
24 believe it? It's so many years ago. I don't know. It
25 was a big company.

26 Q. WHAT LINE OF WORK WAS HIS FATHER IN?

1 A. He was also a salesman. He passed away while
2 he was visiting his sister in Berlin so my husband went
3 to Berlin and brought the body back to have it done in
4 Breslau. He passed away, I don't remember, maybe 1934,
5 '35, something like that.

6 Q. AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS MOTHER?

7 A. She remarried after a few years but I have no
8 idea what happened to her.

9 Q. WHEN YOU MOVED OUT TO A DIFFERENT
10 APARTMENT --

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. -- WHAT SECTION OF THE CITY WAS THAT?

13 A. That was also the south, that was nicest
14 section, as we were before. When we moved out of this a
15 little bit and so I saw my parents, I mean my mother
16 everyday because my father stayed at work. And my
17 grandmother came over everyday and she walked about 12,
18 15 blocks and brought my kids every day a piece of
19 candy, that was all she could afford, but she passed
20 away when she was about 85 years old.

21 Q. WHAT YEAR WAS THAT?

22 A. That must have been also '36 or so. Yes,
23 '36, '37 maybe she passed away. And then '37 about we
24 started to feel the Hitler situation came a little bit,
25 very strong and I asked my husband, let's go, let's go,
26 but we did not have any money in the other countries.

1 You had to have money otherwise they won't let you go
2 in. So we didn't have a chance to do anything.

3 Unless, I think it was in late 1938 we lived on the
4 first floor of the apartment building and the Nazis
5 knocked on my door four o'clock in the morning to open
6 the door. And I was alone. My husband was not home.
7 He was traveling. And they picked up a man who lived
8 above us, blind man. They wouldn't even let him put on
9 a coat or anything. And they put him in the pajamas on
10 a big six-by-six. And it is very cold in October,
11 November in Germany.

12 So when my husband came home this weekend I said we
13 have to get out. There is no way I'm going to stay here
14 anymore. This is getting worse and worse.

15 So I wrote to England to the home office in England
16 and told them my story and they sent me a nurse permit
17 back because I was working at that time for a dentist,
18 but I only did office work but they misunderstood this,
19 and I had a nurse permit.

20 And so at that time the men could go to Shanghai
21 but without the family. And my husband didn't want to
22 go without us so I met a very nice friend of ours and I
23 told them the story and he said, he gave me an address
24 from a rich man who was in Breslau and moved to Holland.

25 And I told him my story and about a month later it
26 was the beginning of '39 I asked, the Jewish Committee

1 asked me to come in and they had the entrance visa for
2 my children for, to Sweden for six months.

3 But before this knocking on my window, we had some
4 friends and one day he came over and he said, he came
5 with a big car and big Swastika, you know, this is
6 Haugen Kruaz. And he said, I cannot come any more to
7 see you because I had to join the youth group and Baldo
8 Franchera would not allow that we are friends with Jews,
9 so we were very, very unhappy.

10 And so I said to my husband we have to go. We
11 cannot stay any more here and that is, brought it on.
12 And so in April 1939, my children left for Sweden. And
13 I took them to Berlin and in June my husband left for
14 Shanghai.

15 And I still worked for the dentist. And one
16 Saturday in late August -- and I moved to my parents
17 because I didn't want to stay by myself. And so I sold
18 my beautiful piano for 20 marks just to get rid of it.

19 And so he said to me if you have your entrance visa
20 to go, then they will close the borders tonight. He
21 heard it on radio which was not allowed anymore, but he
22 did anyway. So I went home and I told my parents. And
23 my dad and my mother said of course you have to leave,
24 you have to leave. So they took me to the train and I
25 left twelve o'clock at night.

26 And I went to Hookwan, Holland, and from

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1 Hookwan, Holland I took the ship to London.

2 And on the boat there was a girl, you know it, she
3 said to me to me I smuggled a ten dollar bill -- we only
4 could take out four dollars -- and could you lend me a
5 dollar? And I said sure and I gave her a dollar. And I
6 never saw her again.

7 So, I had only three dollars in my purse, not even
8 a second pair of underwear or anything.

9 So and then I had some friends from Breslau and I
10 stayed with them for two days. And then on Sunday the
11 war was declared. It was the 1st of September, I think.
12 And everybody had to go to the jobs where they were
13 assigned. And so I had went to the hospital where I was
14 assigned to. And so I stayed there for six months.

15 And I didn't understand very much English either.
16 But shall I tell the funny story, too? Then the war
17 broke out and the soldiers came to the hospital and we
18 had to wash them and so I washed them from there to
19 there and then from the feet to there, and then I gave
20 them the things and I said, "You do it yourself." And
21 that moment my boss passed by. And she said, "Come on,
22 nurse, you are the only married woman, you know how to
23 handle this." And I said, "I don't know, I don't want
24 to touch anything." So she was very angry with me.

25 But then I had to go before a tribunal and very
26 many refugees had to go to camps. And she sent a nurse

1 with me and they asked me what I was doing and all this
2 but they knew exactly that I had letters from Sweden
3 coming. But I didn't have to go to a camp. I was okay.
4 And they sent me back to my work to the hospital. But I
5 was shaking when I was in front of all these men. And
6 that was that.

7 And then I had a girl friend from my home town and
8 there was an ad in the paper for a nurse and a maid. So
9 I only made I think two dollars and, fourteen, pardon
10 me, two pounds fourteen shillings. And so she said if
11 we want to make more money maybe we go there and see if
12 they take us both and at least we are together. But the
13 maid job was already taken, but they wanted me to be the
14 nurse for the little girl.

15 Their first child died, was in bed, somehow the
16 blanket got over his head or her head and she died, so
17 she wanted somebody for the second child. So I stayed
18 with them. She was, her name was Lester, Dr. Lester.

19 And then she tried to get my children over to
20 England so they could stay with me as long as the war.
21 And so everything was arranged and then suddenly a
22 telegram coming and says children's travel impossible.
23 Hitler invaded Norway.

24 So I was very unhappy and so she went with me to
25 the Jewish Committee in England and she said you, she
26 cannot stay here anymore, maybe she could go and help

1 her parents out now. So I -- which I did.

2 And then I went to Shanghai. I was six weeks on
3 the Japanese boat and ate so many pineapple that I
4 cannot stand any pineapple anymore.

5 And then I went to Shanghai, and then I started
6 another sad life, working and not enough to eat. And
7 then the Japanese took over and we had to move to a
8 designated area which was half shot from the last war
9 which was never built up really, that was Hongkui
10 and there we stayed and struggled quite a bit.

11 And then the Americans came. And then I worked for
12 the army. The minute they came in I applied for a job.

13 Q. GOING BACK TO GERMANY WHAT IS THE FIRST
14 RECOLLECTION YOU HAVE ABOUT HITLER?

15 A. My daughter told me the other day, well, they
16 marched through the streets constantly. And I sent my
17 daughter over for some butter and she couldn't come back
18 because for hours they paraded up and down, up and down.
19 And I was very worried where she was. She was only
20 across the street.

21 And then we could not go in the park anymore
22 because on the benches there were "No Jews," so I took
23 them to the cemetery, Jewish cemetery where we could sit
24 outside a little bit. This I remember.

25 Q. WHAT YEAR WAS THIS? HOW OLD WAS YOUR
26 DAUGHTER?

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1 A. That must have been, she must have been about
2 six years old then and my son four. This I remember.

3 Q. WHAT OTHER CHANGES DO YOU REMEMBER?

4 A. I don't remember that much anymore.

5 Q. DID YOU, DO YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND HAVE
6 FRIENDS?

7 A. Not too many anymore because quite a few
8 people left already in '34, '35, the lucky ones left.

9 Q. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT PEOPLE LEAVING?

10 A. Well, because they sent the money out. They
11 had money to send out to other countries and then they
12 got their visa to leave. My husband was not in the
13 concentration camp because when it started that they
14 took the men. I asked him to sleep with my, with his
15 mother who was a widow.

16 And we were all registered. See when in Germany
17 you had to register at the police station what you were
18 and who you were and when you moved to the next block,
19 you had to go back and register. So they knew that he
20 was living here but he stayed with my his mother
21 overnight so in case they came to me then I could say he
22 isn't home. So he did not, was not in the concentration
23 camp.

24 Q. WAS THIS REGISTRATION ALWAYS A NECESSITY?

25 A. Yes, from the very, very beginning, yes.

26 Q. FROM WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL?

1 A. Yes. That's right. We always had to
2 register at police. Not only Jews, other religion also
3 that had nothing to do with Jews.

4 Q. DO YOU KNOW THE PURPOSE OF THAT?

5 A. Well, the people knew, the police knew where
6 we were, that was years and years and years, as long as
7 I remember we had to do this. We always had to go when
8 we moved to another place or apartment, yes.

9 That is when I came here, my first question was,
10 when the committee received us, I said, "Where is the
11 police station?" And they said, "What for, what is it?"
12 "Oh, we have to register," because I was so scared.
13 They said, "It's a free county." I said, "I don't even
14 know what that means."

15 You can't, people who are born here do not know, I
16 mean, you couldn't say in the market for instance the
17 meat was bad or something. There was somebody right
18 behind you and got you in the concentration camp.

19 Q. FOR SAYING THE MEAT WAS BAD?

20 A. Oh, yes. You couldn't say anything. You
21 just, I mean I was scared stiff.

22 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER ANY PARTICULAR INCIDENT?

23 A. Well, I saw when people were being caught
24 from -- but only men at this time and were picked up on
25 the street and put on the truck to go to Auschwitz,
26 Buchenwald or wherever they were sent to, uh-huh.

1 Q. DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CAMPS THEN?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. WHAT DID YOU KNOW?

4 A. We knew that they were keeping them but we
5 don't think they would kill them. But they were cruel
6 and the hate was so great. It's unbelievable how easy
7 it is to spread hate and how hard it is to spread love.
8 It's everything what was wrong in Germany was the Jew.

9 Q. WHEN DO YOU REMEMBER THAT THIS STARTED?

10 A. I remember at about in '35, '36. 1935, 1936
11 when it really became, when they wear these swastikas on
12 their arms and they were going, and they had meeting and
13 they marched through the street. That is what I
14 remember.

15 And I was scared stiff. And to this day I am
16 scared of a policeman because it reminds me of always
17 this being caught. I don't think you, anybody can
18 understand it. It's just frightening, frightening, it
19 was a frightening experience.

20 And of course going back to my father, he was
21 Hungarian and when the first world war he was called in
22 to the Hungarian army. So when he, when he came back
23 after four years, he said, "I don't want to be Hungarian
24 anymore, I want to be a German." So they spent plenty
25 money to become a German and the rest of the stories is
26 history.

1 Q. HOW DID HE BECOME A GERMAN? HOW DID HE SPEND
2 THE MONEY TO BECOME A GERMAN?

3 A. Oh, you had to go and ask for it for, I don't
4 know what you call this here, when you became American
5 citizen, it's the same thing. And so if you went from
6 Hungary to Germany you had to pay plenty money to become
7 a German and then they accepted you. It's the same,
8 Hitler he was an Austrian and Tenenbook made him a
9 German. That is why he became reis counselor.

10 Q. WERE YOU STILL ABLE TO GO TO THE TEMPLE? DID
11 YOU GO TO THE TEMPLE FOR HOLIDAYS?

12 A. Yes, but then was Kristallnacht. Well, we
13 didn't go any more the last two, three years because we
14 were scared that something might happen because people
15 talked about it, they're going to do something and so
16 and I think the Kristallnacht was in November '38,
17 wasn't it, when they throw all the temples away, of
18 course. We didn't but we were scared two, three years
19 before. We were already scared that that could happen.

20 Q. DID YOU KNOW ANYBODY WHO GOT PICKED UP AND
21 TAKEN AWAY?

22 A. I don't know their names. I saw them but I
23 don't know -- neighbors. Men, usually men in between
24 forty and sixty they took. And because they knew when
25 they opened -- you had to have something with you and
26 when they saw the name, then they knew you were Jew

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1 because they had to add to their name the man Solomon
2 and the woman Sarah. So I was Edith Sarah Leveli.

3 Q. ALL THE WOMEN HAD TO BECOME SARAH?

4 A. Sarah.

5 Q. AND ALL THE MEN SOLOMON?

6 A. Men, Solomon, uh-huh. And then we had to
7 take a picture, I brought it here with me, which shows
8 my left ear. We had to have all the pictures with the
9 left ear showing.

10 Q. WHY THE LEFT EAR?

11 A. No idea. This is an, I don't know why the
12 left ear. I have it here. Of course we had, we have to
13 give up all the jewelry what we had. And I have a
14 picture here, my husband when I was 16 he gave me
15 beautiful onyx ring with a little diamond and I think he
16 worked for it for two years paying it off. And I had to
17 give it to Hitler, of course. We had to give all the
18 jewels to him.

19 Q. ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN REMEMBER THAT YOU HAD
20 TO --

21 A. No. I think the worst thing is that I was
22 separate from my children for nine years. That was the
23 worst. And as I say you can make up money but you
24 cannot make up time.

25 And I was in Shanghai and I got a letter from my
26 children. It was fantastic because then I knew they

1 were okay but then when the war broke out I couldn't get
2 anything anymore, nothing came through.

3 Q. WHEN THIS FRIEND WHO WAS GOING TO JOIN THE
4 HITLER YOUTH, WHEN HE CAME TO VISIT CAN YOU DESCRIBE HOW
5 YOU FELT, WHAT YOU --

6 A. How we felt?

7 Q. WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?

8 A. Well, he was, he said he had to do it because
9 he worked in a place where everybody had to join the
10 Hitler Youth. They called it the Hitler Youth Group and
11 the number one was Baldo Franchera see that was his name
12 and he was very strict. And if you didn't join them,
13 you wouldn't have a job.

14 Q. WHAT WAS THE FRIEND'S NAME?

15 A. I don't remember. This I don't remember. I
16 just can't remember. I only know that we all cried and
17 will never forget this and so on. What we couldn't
18 understand it that this could happen. But it did
19 happen.

20 Q. WHO MADE THE DECISION ABOUT TRYING TO LEAVE
21 THE COUNTRY, YOU, YOUR HUSBAND?

22 A. I did. I talked him into it. I was so
23 scared after our friend and after this Nazis picked up
24 this guy upstairs, I didn't want to stay any more.

25 And people didn't think it would last. They always
26 said, this can't last, only six months, only nine

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1 months. It can't last anymore.

FW 1078 2 And they had so many attentat planned to kill
3 Hitler but it never worked. He always changed his plans
4 so they could never reach him. So that's why he got as
5 far as he did.

6 But it was of course Germany was very poor at the
7 time and he promised everybody a car and he promised
8 everybody this and this and people believed it. For
9 instance, we had, every Friday we only could have one
10 dish for dinner. And they came to the houses and
11 checked that we didn't have two pots on the stove. Only
12 one pot.

13 Q. WHO CHECKED?

14 A. The Nazis went from door-to-door because that
15 was only, you can only eat one, out of one pot.

16 Q. DID THEY CHECK EVERYONE OR JUST THE JEWS?

17 A. Probably just the Jews. Probably. I don't
18 know but they came to the apartment and I said no, no, I
19 only have potatoes and meat on the stove. That was
20 okay. This I still remember. And so I told my husband
21 all the time, we have to get out, we have to get out, but
22 it was almost impossible to go out with a family.

23 Q. HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE TO WRITE IN ENGLAND?

24 A. I asked the Jewish Committee.

25 Q. WHO WAS THE JEWISH COMMITTEE?

26 A. In Breslau. They had the Jewish Committee in

1 Breslau.

2 Q. WHAT WAS ITS FUNCTION?

3 A. That was the function to help the Jews to get
4 out. So they gave me the address.

5 Q. DID THEY HAVE AN OFFICE WHERE YOU WENT TO SEE
6 THEM OR --

7 A. Yes, yes. No, they had an office then at
8 this time.

9 Q. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE OFFICE?

10 A. Not much. I just went in there and asked for
11 the address for the English home office they called it.

12 Q. WAS IT A SMALL OFFICE?

13 A. No. Very small office as I remember. And
14 they, then I got the address and then I wrote to them
15 but then they even called me for the children that my
16 kids could go to Sweden.

17 Q. WHO CALLED YOU?

18 A. The Jewish Committee again because they had
19 the note from Sweden that families were accepting
20 children for six months and I guess this man from
21 Holland helped me to get my children out.

22 Q. HOW DID YOU KNOW TO WRITE TO THIS MAN IN
23 HOLLAND?

24 A. I met a friend and I asked him if he knows
25 anybody, what I could do with my children. We could get
26 out. My husband can go out but I have nothing for my

1 children and that is when he said I shall write to this
2 man in Holland.

3 Q. WAS HE JEWISH?

4 A. Yes. Very rich Jewish man from Breslau but I
5 don't even remember his name any more.

6 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU WROTE TO HIM?

7 A. Well, I told him I was sorry, that my husband
8 can get out, and I have a nurse permit but children
9 can't get out and what shall I do. England didn't
10 accept any children for some reason. I never found out.

11 Q. AND HE WROTE BACK WHAT?

12 A. To the Jewish Committee in Breslau so I guess
13 he arranged it for us to, that I could send the children
14 to Sweden. And this were one Jewish couple and one
15 non-Jewish couple who took my children. They were not
16 together.

17 Q. DID YOU KNOW THIS BEFORE THEY LEFT?

18 A. No. I didn't know anything. No.

19 Q. WHAT DID YOU TELL YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT GOING
20 TO SWEDEN?

21 A. Well, I just told them that we couldn't stay
22 any more here because it was very bad and I see you
23 very, very soon. And so they were some more children on
24 that train with us. It was a children transport. And
25 this one couple asked for my daughter and she took my
26 daughter and one professor in Stockholm took my son but

1 then his daughter had scarlet fever and my son had to
2 leave. They were afraid that he might get it, too. And
3 then another couple took my son and he stayed there with
4 them.

5 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE DAY YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN
6 LEFT BRESLAU?

7 A. It was in April but I do not remember the
8 day, no.

9 Q. WHAT ELSE DO YOU REMEMBER THAT HAPPENED THAT
10 DAY, HOW YOU FELT?

11 A. Terrible. I felt very, very bad and, but I
12 think the fear and that I could save them was more in me
13 than anything else. I thought I'm not going to cry, I'm
14 not going to show you how I feel but, of course, after
15 they left, we all cried, all the mothers we just -- you
16 can't explain this. And then I thought it was only six
17 months and so I figured April until October then I see
18 them again. We couldn't even think any more.

19 Q. YOU WENT DOWN TO THE TRAIN STATION IN
20 BRESLAU?

21 A. Uh-huh, uh-huh.

22 Q. WAS YOUR HUSBAND WITH YOU?

23 A. Yes -- no, but he couldn't go with me because
24 we didn't have the money. So I went alone to Berlin
25 with them.

26 Q. HOW LONG WAS THE TRAIN RIDE?

1 A. About four hours, five hours.

2 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THAT RIDE?

3 A. No. I cried a little bit and my daughter was
4 just like a mother to my son. She said it's going to be
5 all right. I'm Steffi, mommy, don't worry about it,
6 because we are a very close family. So it's --

7 Q. WHEN YOU GOT TO BERLIN WHERE DID YOU GO?

8 A. We stayed overnight in a place and the next
9 day few women came and they gathered the children and
10 they went and I never, I never know where they went. I
11 guess to another train to go to Sweden.

12 Q. WHERE DID YOU SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR CHILDREN?

13 A. In Berlin on the train. After I took them to
14 the train to these people, to these women who left with
15 them I think it was few women and one man who brought
16 them to Sweden. There were more than my kids. There
17 were more children there.

18 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER HOW MANY?

19 A. No, no, huh-uh. Maybe 10, 15, 20, I don't
20 know.

21 Q. WHAT DID YOU SAY TO YOUR CHILDREN?

22 A. See you soon.

23 Q. WHAT DID THEY SAY TO YOU?

24 A. They act big. It's unbelievable really what
25 one man can do, louse up so many lives.

26 Q. DID YOU SPEND ANY TIME IN BERLIN, A FEW

1 HOURS?

2 A. No. I went straight back to Breslau and was
3 very, very unhappy.

4 Q. WERE YOU ABLE TO SEE ANY OF BERLIN?

5 A. No, no, huh-uh, no. I was not even
6 interested. I hated everything and everything that was
7 German I hated. I was just --

8 Q. WERE THERE A LOT OF NAZIS AT THE TRAIN?

9 A. All over. All over. All over. You couldn't
10 even say it is raining. I won't even open my mouth
11 because I was scared they take you. Huh-uh. It was
12 such a fear in us all I think. It is -- can't describe
13 it when you live in a free country.

14 Q. WHAT DID YOUR CHILDREN TAKE WITH THEM?

15 A. Just a few things. They could take a little
16 suitcase. All their clothes, all their clothes and I
17 had the doll for my daughter and I don't know what my
18 son took, a few things, and well, was a very, very sad
19 story but I just, I explained to them that we have to do
20 it just in order to keep alive. But at that time they
21 did not take any women and no children only men, so and
22 that is when I asked my husband to leave soon he could
23 get the boat to Shanghai.

24 Q. AND YOUR CHILDREN LEFT --

25 A. In April. April '39.

26 Q. NOW AT THIS TIME WERE YOU AWARE OF THE OTHER

1 THINGS THAT WERE GOING ON?

2 A. Yes, because my husband lost his job. They
3 closed the shop. They closed the whole business and so
4 he didn't have any more business and no more income.

5 Q. WHAT DID YOU LIVE ON?

6 A. I had, I was in the dentist office and made a
7 little bit money but not very much. And then he left in
8 June any way.

9 Q. WHO LEFT?

10 A. My husband.

11 Q. THE DENTIST, WAS HE A JEWISH DENTIST?

12 A. Yes. And I don't know if he ever came out.
13 I never heard from him again.

14 Q. WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

15 A. Steiner. But I don't know if he ever got out
16 of Germany. I doubt it.

17 Q. WHAT DID YOU DO IN HIS OFFICE?

18 A. I took the telephone calls and I made the
19 bills and did the office work.

20 Q. HE WAS STILL ALLOWED TO PRACTICE DENTISTRY?

21 A. Yes, he was allowed to practice.

22 Q. IN 1939?

23 A. 1939, yes.

24 Q. WHEN YOU RETURNED FROM THIS TRIP TO BERLIN
25 DID YOU CONTACT THE JEWISH COMMITTEE TO FIND OUT ABOUT
26 WHETHER YOUR CHILDREN HAD ARRIVED SAFELY?

1 A. No, I got letters from them the minute they
2 arrived where they were and they wrote to me, both these
3 people from my daughter and from my son, uh-huh. And we
4 stayed in contact constantly. We wrote each other.

5 Q. WAS THE JEWISH COMMITTEE STILL FUNCTIONING?

6 A. Yes, yes. They were functioning at that
7 time, yes, because my husband got out through the Jewish
8 Committee. They got him the boat trip because they paid
9 for it. We didn't have the money even for the Shanghai
10 trip.

11 Q. AND HE LEFT FOR SHANGHAI WHAT MONTH?

12 A. In June 1939.

13 Q. WHAT DID HE TAKE WITH HIM?

14 A. He took a few suitcases with him, his clothes
15 and so on, otherwise nothing.

16 Q. AND NO MONEY?

17 A. No money, huh-uh. We only could take out
18 four dollars.

19 Q. FOUR DOLLARS?

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE DAY THAT HE LEFT?

22 A. No. In June somehow but I don't know the
23 day, no.

24 Q. HE LEFT FROM BRESLAU?

25 A. Yes, from Breslau, uh-huh.

26 Q. DID YOU GO DOWN TO THE TRAIN?

1 A. Yes. We went by boat and I still don't
2 remember if he took the boat from Breslau or I took him
3 to the train. I tried to remember and I cannot
4 remember. Can you imagine that? How it fades. We
5 were so sad. And we all cried, of course, my parents,
6 we cried for days and days. And then to leave your own
7 apartment which was for me a million dollar, move back
8 to the parents with nothing, so it was very sad. But I
9 didn't want to leave and leave them alone so I --

10 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER HOW OLD THEY WERE?

11 A. In their fifties, in their fifties.

12 Q. WAS YOUR FATHER STILL WORKING?

13 A. No, no, he had to close his business, too,
14 because didn't work any more. He didn't make any money
15 anymore. They had a little bit left and I think they
16 lived off on that money what they had.

17 Q. WHAT DID YOUR FATHER LOOK LIKE?

18 A. I have a picture here.

19 Q. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT HIM?

20 A. Very tall, very good looking man and my
21 mother was very little. And when she was a year old she
22 fell out of the window and then the nanny was right
23 there but she fell out the window and broke her hip.
24 And she had seven operations. And her leg was seven
25 centimeters shorter than the other, so she was, she
26 didn't walk very well. She limped. And children

1 imitated when we went on the street. I Always went, we
2 turned around and hit them because I didn't like when
3 anybody laughed about my mother. And I remember. And
4 she never wore a cane, she was very vain so she always
5 had an umbrella to hold herself on.

6 Q. WHAT IS THE EARLIEST MEMORY YOU HAVE OF YOUR
7 MOTHER?

8 A. Well, I was about three, four years old. I
9 just, I have also my uncle who, her only brother. He
10 called me his gulkind, I don't know, that is meaning
11 gold child, to him and when he got married I was so
12 upset. I was about nine, ten years old and I told his
13 bride, he only married you because you have money but he
14 really loves me. I was terrible. But I was very upset
15 when he got married.

16 And then I remember when they had a baby when she
17 nursed him, my cousin, I had to go out of the room
18 because that was not right and a child sees this and now
19 here they do it right on the street. That is how the
20 world changed.

21 Q. YOUR UNCLE'S NAME?

22 A. Martin Toddmann. He was a dentist. He was
23 very good, nice looking man but he passed away very
24 young. He was what 42 years old when he passed away.
25 And natural death. I don't know, he had a heart attack
26 or something. In fact it was the first time when the

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1 zeppelin was flying over Breslau, he passed away that
2 day. The zeppelin, the big airplane, uh-huh, yes.

3 Q. AND YOUR COUSIN, YOUR COUSIN'S NAME?

4 A. I have no idea, his name was Alexander and I
5 don't have any idea where he ended up. He got
6 completely out. They moved away, his mother, and they
7 moved away my uncle passed away and I have no idea where
8 they went. I think they went to South America
9 somewhere.

10 Q. SO THEY WERE NOT CAUGHT IN GERMANY?

11 A. No, I think they left probably earlier in
12 '35, '36 or so, '37.

13 Q. AND HOW WOULD YOU, YOUR FIRST MEMORY OF YOUR
14 FATHER?

15 A. Oh, he was just wonderful. Every Sunday I
16 snuggled into his bed and snuggled up with him or we
17 had, in Germany you only took a bath once a week because
18 you had to put fire under the stove and then you had hot
19 water. You didn't have running water at that time. And
20 so every Saturday my dad made fire and then my mother
21 called, "Edie, the water is ready." And then my dad
22 said, "oh, she's sleeping, leave her alone." It isn't
23 even true. I didn't sleep, I just didn't want to take a
24 bath. I was a spoiled brat.

25 That was my dad. He was a great guy. And now I
26 don't even know where they are. No idea, but the Red

1 Cross is looking for them. I mean where they were sent
2 and so on, now they're working on. I have other letter
3 here that I got from one of them.

4 Q. WERE YOU EVER ABLE TO TAKE ANY LITTLE HOLIDAY
5 TRIPS WITH THEM? WAS THERE ENOUGH MONEY TO?

6 A. Oh, yes. With my mother we went to Bat Al
7 Tide, that was for heart problem, my mother had little
8 heart problem, so we went to Al Tide. It was a very
9 beautiful, like here like Carmel or so. We went there
10 every year for few weeks, uh-huh.

11 Q. WHAT DID IT LOOK LIKE?

12 A. Beautiful little city with hotels and doctors
13 and they made the money, the doctors made the money.
14 Yes, but this I remember but Kudover was another ork
15 where they went to for a little bit of vacation. But
16 never with my dad. He always worked. Only my mother
17 and sometimes my grandmother. This I remember.

18 Q. WHERE WAS IT LOCATED?

19 A. In Silesia, in the state of Silesia. That is
20 where, Breslau was in the same area, I mean in the same
21 state. Stanzian is the German name and Silesia is the
22 English but this is all Poland now. After the war came
23 down Poland took this Breslau over.

24 Q. WAS IT LIKE A SPA?

25 A. Yes, uh-huh, yes. These were beautiful
26 places. I remember I played outside and mother, "Come

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1 in we have to go. We have to go and have dinner," and
2 so on. Yes.

3 Q. WHAT KIND OF DINNERS WOULD YOU HAVE OR WHAT
4 WOULD YOU HAVE?

5 A. Goulash. Or -- we do not eat any pork, we
6 had just chicken or beef. I don't know. We didn't eat
7 any pork. Or I remember for instance, fear Easter we
8 changed the dishes. We had two kinds of dishes and for
9 Easter we changed the dishes, too. For seven days we
10 had separate dishes as for every day, uh-huh.

11 Q. PASSOVER?

12 A. Passover, yes, right. What did I say,
13 Easter? No, I meant passover. You are right. You can
14 cut it out of the tape.

15 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID TO YOUR PARENTS
16 AND YOUR PARENTS SAID TO YOU ABOUT AFTER YOUR HUSBAND
17 LEFT FOR SHANGHAI?

18 A. They wanted me to get out. They wanted me to
19 get out.

20 Q. AND WHAT DID YOU RESPOND?

21 A. I don't want to. I want to stay as long as,
22 I want, I can because I want you to go out, too. And
23 they didn't have any chance in the world to get out.
24 Maybe my dad could have gone to Shanghai but he would
25 have never left my mother alone.

26 Q. THERE WAS NO WAY YOUR MOTHER --

1 A. Never, huh-uh. No, not the woman, huh-uh,
2 they couldn't go to Shanghai.

3 Q. Now did you, were you aware of Hitler's
4 having gone into Austria and Sudetenland and all that
5 had transpired?

6 A. Yes, that is right, yes. That was before I
7 left, yes. Uh-huh, oh, yes. So we were scared everyday
8 about what is next, what is next. And when they said
9 then they closed the borders, nobody can get out, that
10 is when I left that same night.

11 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE DATE?

12 A. I think it was the 30th of August, I think
13 because the war was declared two days later. I think
14 was it the 1st or 2nd of September. This I do not
15 remember anymore, but I stayed two days in this, then
16 the Jewish Committee in England received us. And they
17 asked us where we were going and if we had any and I
18 said yes, I have, I can stay with my friend. And they
19 said okay you'll go and but they gave me the address of
20 that hospital already which expected me. And the minute
21 the air raids started they said over the radio everybody
22 has to go to their jobs.

23 Q. WHO WAS THE PERSON WHO TOLD YOU TO LEAVE
24 GERMANY?

25 A. Nobody.

26 Q. WELL, YOU MET SOMEBODY WHO SAID HE HAD

1 LISTENED TO THE RADIO?

2 A. Yes, that's right, oh, yes. That's right,
3 yes. I thought, oh, yes. I met him when I came from my
4 office.

5 Q. JUST A CHANCE MEETING?

6 A. Just a chance meeting on the street.

7 Q. SOMEBODY WHO HAD BEEN A FRIEND?

8 A. Yes, I knew, not really a friend. We knew
9 each other but we didn't get together and he knew that
10 my husband was gone and my children and he said to me,
11 "If you want to leave Germany you have to do it today
12 and not tomorrow because I heard it that they're going
13 to close the borders and you cannot get out anymore."
14 So that is when I went home and I told them and that
15 night at twelve o'clock my parents took me to the train.

16 Q. WHAT DID YOU SAY TO THEM, YOUR PARENTS, AS
17 YOU LEFT?

18 A. I hope to see you soon. It is only for a
19 little while that I leave. And I don't know what
20 happened to them after that.

21 Q. WHAT DID THEY SAY TO YOU?

22 A. Go. You have to go. I have to go. They
23 wouldn't let me stay another minute.

24 Q. WHAT DID YOU PACK? WHAT DID YOU TAKE WITH
25 YOU WHEN YOU LEFT?

26 A. My purse.

1 Q. A LITTLE LUGGAGE?

2 A. Nothing. I couldn't take anything along, no.

3 Q. WHY NOT?

4 A. It was not allowed. So my parents sent some
5 of my luggage, some of my clothes, to Sweden and on the
6 way it was captured by the Germans and taken back and we
7 never heard from them again, from it again. I lost
8 everything. No, I just had my handkerchief with me and
9 a purse and an umbrella. And --

10 Q. HOW MUCH MONEY?

11 A. I had four dollars which was allowed and then
12 I ended up with only three dollars because I gave the
13 girl one dollar.

14 Q. WERE YOU ABLE TO CORRESPOND WITH YOUR PARENTS
15 AFTER YOU GOT THROUGH?

16 A. Yes, yes, for awhile. And then, even they
17 sent me a letter to Shanghai that I should be happy and
18 they're all right and so on and so forth but we were
19 afraid that it might be censored that they looked in
20 every letter so it was very careful written but then I
21 never heard anything again.

22 Q. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE HOSPITAL YOU WORKED
23 AT IN ENGLAND?

1599 24 A. Pinchler Isolation Hospital on Kopitz
25 Road. I think it was Northwest 10 in London.

26 Q. AND WHERE DID YOU LIVE AT THIS TIME?

1 A. In the hospital. I had a room there and I
2 had a uniform so I didn't need any clothes. And then
3 when it got colder I had money I had already two
4 shillings and fourteen and I bought a coat I think
5 because it got very cold there and few underpants and
6 few other things which I needed.

7 Q. WHERE WERE YOU WHEN YOU HEARD THAT WAR HAD
8 BROKEN OUT?

9 A. With my friends in my friend's house but I
10 don't remember anymore where they lived. I think
11 they're all dead now already. I mean they were older
12 people they were older than I was.

13 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU HEARD ABOUT THE WAR?

14 A. The sirens were going in London and on the
15 radio they said everybody goes on their jobs which were
16 assigned to you, so I went by train underground I think
17 to the isolation hospital. They were only children
18 first in that hospital and then I got every week a shot
19 against scarlet fever and all the children's sickness
20 and this was very nice but then the soldiers came in and
21 then I got a little bit nervous.

22 Q. WHAT WERE YOUR DUTIES? YOU HADN'T ACTUALLY
23 EVER BEEN A NURSE, HAD YOU?

24 A. No, no. And I had to go to classes also. I
25 was a probation nurse they called it and I had to go to
26 classes and most of the time I didn't understand the

1 language because I thought they would speak English but
2 English in England is a different language. And then
3 after a few weeks I told them that I think it's a waste
4 of time that I go there because I do not understand it
5 and they understood and they said I don't have to.

6 Well, I did everything what the nurse does except
7 giving injections. I fed them and I cleaned them and I
8 sat with them and I even sent letters out which I wasn't
9 supposed to but I did anyway.

10 Q. WHAT LETTERS?

11 A. Letters from patients to others, to their
12 families and so on.

13 Q. WHY WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO?

14 A. Because it was an isolation hospital. Right.
15 But then I didn't do it anymore. I did it twice but I
16 felt so sorry for the people. But they were very nice.
17 I had good food there and they were very, very nice. I
18 had a beautiful room and my uniform. I was very well
19 dressed. I didn't need to buy clothes at the first few
20 months which helped me a lot.

21 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN THE AIR RAIDS STARTED?

22 A. The air raids started I think about the
23 beginning of 1940.

24 Q. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

25 A. It was frightening. We had to carry a gas
26 mask, everybody had to carry a gas mask but I never had

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1 to go in any shelter because I was never outside and
2 then when I got this job as a nurse for Dr. Lester we
3 lived in Infield. I don't remember where Infield is.
4 And then I stayed with them and then at the end they had
5 a summer home and she left with the little girl to stay
6 in their summer home because she wanted me to go with my
7 children there but since my children didn't make it and
8 I went to Shanghai.

9 So the interesting thing is that she locked the
10 cabin where the wine and the alcohol was and but she
11 never locked the closet where all her furs were. So I
12 asked Dr. Lester, "What happened, why does she lock this
13 alcohol and not the furs? I'm leaving now in one or two
14 days for Shanghai and I never see you again." And he
15 said, "Well, you could become an alcoholic in your
16 position right now but you will never take a fur coat."

17 And I thought that was funny because I never heard
18 that you drink when you are unhappy. Now I do
19 understand many things but at that time I couldn't
20 believe it. She had three or four beautiful mink coats
21 and capes hanging there. And I could have taken
22 anything. They could have never find me, you know. But
23 she locked the alcohol. Those things I remember. I
24 think, gosh, when I hear, sometimes see these things,
25 it's really funny. Life is funny. I had so many things
26 experienced. When I was in -- can I say something about

1 Shanghai?

2 Q. SURE.

3 A. My husband, okay, that was my second husband
4 who was in Buchenwald and he was there six weeks and he
5 had to guarantee that he had to get out in a month
6 otherwise they would catch him, get him back, so he came
7 to Shanghai and we met. And so we, so he was, he had
8 some friends who had a big, like Nordstrom's here,
9 beautiful, how do you say this? Nordstrom's is a -- I
10 was going to say warehouse, what is it, Cow Palace?

11 Q. DEPARTMENT STORE?

12 A. Department store, right. And we were with
13 them everyday. And their son was here in the army so
14 when the war was over the son asked the parents to go to
15 the American consul right away and get the number
16 because the lower the number the sooner you come to
17 America. Their English was very poor so they asked me
18 to go with them and so I went there.

19 And after they were through the lady say to me,
20 "Wouldn't you like a number?" And I said, "Oh, we don't
21 have anybody in America." And she said, "Well, take a
22 number anyway because the lower you have the sooner you
23 get there." And so I took a number because it was my
24 dream to come to America and get my children.

25 And really it helped us so fantastic. In 1947 we
26 were arrived here because we had that low number. We

1 came with all the people who had sons in the army. So
2 little things helped a lot.

1739 3 And then this other, that Mr. Gertz who was with my
4 husband in the concentration camp, they met in Shanghai.
5 And when the war broke out his nephew who lived here in
6 New York and was very well off sent him money every
7 month so he can live. When the war broke out they
8 couldn't send him anything anymore so we gave him every
9 week money so he can live.

10 My husband was a professional tennis instructor and
11 he made little bit money and I worked too.

12 So when the war ended before the war in two or four
1751 13 days, he passed away, Mr. Gertz. Then the nephew wrote
14 us said if he should send the money here to Shanghai and
15 I said no, no, no, no, keep it in America. We just want
16 an affidavit to come here. And he sent the affidavit
17 and that's why we came here so early because most people
18 didn't come that early. We came, arrived here January
19 '47. That was rather early.

20 Q. WHERE DID YOU LEARN ENGLISH?

21 A. Where I learned English? In school. I had
22 to learn it in school, and French. But when I came to
23 England I didn't speak it very well because they have a
24 different English than I learned. Because you only can
25 learn when you live in the county otherwise it's very
26 hard from books to learn.

1 Q. DID YOU RECEIVE LETTERS FROM YOUR CHILDREN
2 WHILE YOU WERE IN ENGLAND?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. THEY WROTE TO YOU IN GERMAN, OF COURSE?

5 A. Yes. Most of them in German, yes, uh-huh,
6 and in English too, because I don't know Swedish and
7 they spoke Swedish then after a year.

8 Q. SO THEY --

9 A. They wrote and they wrote in English a little
10 bit, the people who stayed with my son, uh-huh, and my
11 daughter.

12 Q. SO THEY KNEW ENGLISH AND SWEDISH AND GERMAN?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. ANY OTHER LANGUAGE?

15 A. No, no other language.

16 Q. AND YOU KNEW SOME HEBREW?

17 A. I knew little bit. I could read a little bit
18 but not anymore. I can, I think I know the baroha torah
19 benoy but that is all what I know, not very much because
20 when you don't keep up, you forget.

21 Q. WAS DR. LESTER A JEWISH MAN?

22 A. Yes, and she was non-Jewish, Mrs. Lester was
23 non-Jewish. Very, very nice and -- (to the
24 videographer) What did I do now?

25 A MAN: YOU'RE DOING GREAT.

26 Q. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE BUSINESS SCHOOL YOU

1785

1 ATTENDED?

2 A. You would ask me that. I don't remember.

3 Q. WHAT DID YOU LEARN THERE?

4 A. Shorthand, typing, bookkeeping.

5 Q. AND HOW LONG DID YOU GO?

6 A. One year.

7 Q. WERE YOU HAPPY THERE?

8 A. Yes. I enjoyed it very much. And I loved
9 figures. After that day I loved bookkeeping very much.
10 That's why I'm still working.

11 Q. HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOUR GRANDMOTHER PASSED
12 AWAY?

13 A. Maybe I was 24, 23 years old.

14 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE FUNERAL?

15 A. Uh-huh, yes.

16 Q. WHAT HAPPENED?

17 A. Just a few people. My mother couldn't go
18 because she had the flu so I went and then we came back
19 and mother was laying on the couch crying and my dad and
20 that was all. We didn't have very many people because
21 all her friends were all dead already at that time, my
22 grandmother's.

23 Q. WAS THERE ANYBODY IN GERMANY YOU COULD
24 PRACTICE YOUR ENGLISH ON?

25 A. No, nobody spoke English there, no.

26 Q. THE LAST TIME YOU SPOKE ENGLISH IN GERMANY

1 WAS IN --

2 A. In school, yes.

3 Q. AND SO THERE WAS A GAP OF SEVERAL YEARS?

4 A. Oh, yes. Well, at least 12, 14 years, yeah,
5 because I left there, I mean I left school when I was 15
6 and then I left Germany when I was how old, 39, 29, 27.

7 Q. WHAT WAS THE STRANGEST THING ABOUT ENGLAND TO
8 YOU?

9 A. The policemen. When I asked him where to go,
10 how to get there I never understood what they were
11 saying. Their English was unbelievable. I couldn't, I
12 went in the restaurant with my friend and I saw rarebit
13 and I didn't know rabbit, no, wait a minute, rarebit and
14 I thought it was rabbit so I asked a waiter. He
15 explained to me and I still did not understand him. It
16 was a cheese sandwich, I think.

17 It was very nice in England, the Lyon's Corner
18 House, I understand it doesn't exist anymore. They had
19 bands in every store, in every floor they had a
20 different band and since I loved music, I always went
21 there, I mean with my friend when she had time off and I
22 had my day off.

23 But other than that I don't remember very much from
24 England because I worked. And then I worked in that
25 Dr. Lester's house and hoped to get the children which
26 didn't work.

1 Q. DID YOU HAVE THE FEELING THAT IT WAS A FREER
2 COUNTRY?

3 A. Yes, yes, oh, yes. Yes. After the tribunal
4 I didn't have that fear anymore because they told me I
5 was okay, my passport was okay, so I felt much better
6 than before because they knew where everybody was. They
7 knew where my children were, where my parents were,
8 where my husband was. It was amazing. Where they, I
9 think they were judges who judged you four or five are
10 sitting there. I'm shaking like a leaf. I didn't want
11 to go in a camp because quite a few people had to go to
12 camps there until the war was over.

13 Q. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE CAMPS WERE LIKE?

14 A. I have no idea, no idea, only told me it's
15 not very good, not very nice.

16 Q. WHAT WAS DR. LESTER LIKE?

17 A. Very nice. Very nice man. We always had
18 breakfast and she always had flower in the middle of the
19 table and then he put the flower on the side. He said I
20 want to see nanny, too, not only you. And he put the
21 flower on the side. This I remember. And I got a pound
22 a week pay which was much more than I got in the
23 hospital, that is why I went to get little bit more
24 money.

25 Q. WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE MONEY?

26 A. Saved it. Brought it to Shanghai. I had a

1 few pounds then.

2 Q. WHAT STEPS DID YOU GO THROUGH IN ORDER TO GET
3 TO SHANGHAI? WHAT DID YOU HAVE TO DO?

4 A. I went with Mrs. Lester to the, I think it
5 was English Home Office and they arranged it because I
6 didn't have any money to pay for it and they paid for
7 it. Either Jewish Committee or the English Home Office
8 paid because I didn't have any. And I just asked them
9 that I could go to Shanghai, join my husband, get my
10 parents out from Germany if I could.

11 And that was the last boat which from England went
12 to Shanghai. But then on the boat, too, on the boat
13 there came the Germans and then they put the Japanese
14 flag on the deck so they don't bomb us.

15 Q. WHAT MONTH WAS THIS?

16 A. In May, 15th of May.

17 Q. WHAT YEAR?

18 A. 1940. And then I arrived in July six weeks
19 and beginning of July I arrived in Shanghai.

20 Q. ENGLAND WAS AT WAR WITH GERMANY, ENGLAND WAS
21 AT WAR WITH JAPAN?

22 A. Right.

23 Q. HOW DID YOU GET ON A JAPANESE BOAT?

24 A. It was the last boat which went to Shanghai
25 from England.

26 Q. HAD YOU BEEN RECEIVING LETTERS FROM YOUR

1 HUSBAND IN SHANGHAI?

2 A. Yes, uh-huh.

3 Q. WHAT WAS HE TELLING YOU?

4 A. Well, it was very bad even to get a job or
5 anything. He worked for a newspaper but made very, very
6 little money. And there was refugees from Austria.
7 They had a delicatessen store so they, after I came back
8 they said we could move over to their house. They had
9 two rooms up over the store, so we moved there but we
10 didn't get along anymore. We were just, I don't know
11 what it was.

12 Q. AS YOU WERE LEAVING ENGLAND --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- WHAT DID YOU TAKE WITH YOU?

15 A. I had a few underwear with me and few clothes
16 which I bought there, few blouses and I think two skirts
17 and two blouses and a pair of shoes.

18 Q. AT THIS TIME WERE YOU STILL RECEIVING LETTERS
19 FROM YOUR PARENTS?

20 A. Yes. They knew that I was in Shanghai, yes.
21 I told them and they said it was bad but they were very
22 careful in writing what to say because they were scared
23 if something would be said against anything they would
24 be picked up and gone in the concentration camp.

25 Q. WHAT WAS THE BOAT LIKE?

26 A. Met a very nice Italian man and he taught me

1 Italian and I know a few words. And then he left in
2 Naples I think. In fact, he wrote to me a few times.
3 And then --

4 Q. WRITE TO WHERE?

5 A. To Shanghai. He did gave me his, he lived in
6 Faensa in Italy. I forgot his name. Nino, Nicky
7 Boldasee was his name. And there was nothing exciting.
8 There were very many people there who went to Shanghai
9 were very unhappy but happy to get out of England
10 because the bombing. They said the bombings were bad so
11 they, we hoped that we have in Shanghai at least peace
12 which we had for a little while.

13 Q. FROM WHERE DID THE BOAT DEPART IN ENGLAND?

14 A. From I think from London.

15 Q. FROM LONDON?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. AND DID IT MAKE SEVERAL STOPS?

18 A. Uh-huh, yes.

19 Q. WHERE?

20 A. It made several stops but we could never go
21 ashore because we didn't have passports. Hitler took
22 our citizenship away, whoever was out at that certain
23 time out of Germany lost his German citizen so we
24 couldn't get ashore at any other place.

25 Q. WHAT WAS ON YOUR PASSPORT?

26 A. Stateless, refugee. That was on our

1949

1 passport.

2 Q. WHAT DID YOU HAVE WHEN YOU LEFT GERMANY,
3 GERMAN PASSPORTS?

4 A. Then I had a German passport but then he made
5 it, but I don't remember this year anymore when he said
6 we were all stateless.

7 Q. SO YOU HAD TO HAVE EVERYTHING CHANGED IN
8 ENGLAND?

9 A. I don't know if they changed because
10 everybody knew it because when we entered here America,
11 they knew that we were stateless.

12 Q. AS YOU RECALL WHERE THERE, HOW MANY PEOPLE
13 WOULD YOU ESTIMATE WERE ON THE BOAT?

14 A. On the boat? Maybe two, three hundred but we
15 were very scared when these bombers came over us and
16 they put Japanese flag but I think it was German. I
17 don't even remember if it was Russian or German, I think
18 it was German. But must have been German because then
19 they had the Japanese flag and they left. They saw the
20 Japanese flag on the deck.

21 Q. SO YOU LEFT ENGLAND AND SAILED AND THE FIRST
22 STOP WAS WHERE?

23 A. Italy. And then Hong Kong and then
24 Singapore. And in Singapore the officers came and said,
25 I know you cannot go ashore, and we said, yes, we know
26 that. And then few officers came and they said, would

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1 you like to see the city? A few people said, yes, we
2 would like to see the city. So they took us around
3 against the law and I would never do this again. But we
4 did this, they showed us the city and they showed us the
5 Raffle Hotel which is a beautiful hotel and they had
6 music there and they danced there. And then then took
7 us back to the boats, the officers who told us not to.
8 And the next morning we left for Hong Kong and then
9 Shanghai -- daor Shanghai -- no, it was the last --

10 Q. YOU LEFT, BOAT LEFT ITALY AND SAILED ACROSS
11 THE ATLANTIC?

12 A. Yes. It didn't?

13 Q. I'M JUST ASKING. AND THEN YOU GOT TO
14 SHANGHAI AND HONG KONG?

15 A. Hong Kong and then Singapore, or Singapore --
16 we went through the Pacific, through the Pacific
17 probably, yeah. And then I think first Singapore, then
18 Hong Kong.

19 Q. FIRST STOP WAS -- THEN AND AFTER ITALY WHAT
20 YOU REMEMBER IS SINGAPORE?

21 A. Yes, uh-huh.

22 Q. MUST BE --

23 A. Must have been Pacific, not --

24 Q. ATLANTIC.

25 A. Not Atlantic, no.

26 Q. AND THEN HONG KONG?

1 A. Uh-huh. We couldn't go ashore there anymore
2 either.

3 Q. DID THE LOOK OF HONG KONG SURPRISE YOU?

4 A. Well, we didn't see too much. We just saw a
5 few buildings there and then people came and gone, quite
6 a few people left the boat for Hong Kong.

7 Q. WERE THEY JEWISH PEOPLE?

8 A. Yes, uh-huh, some Jewish and some others.
9 And then we went to Shanghai.

10 Q. AND WHAT WAS YOUR IMPRESSION WHEN YOU DOCKED
11 IN SHANGHAI?

12 A. Well, I was happy to see my husband and I was
13 very sad that my parents were still in Germany. And
14 then there was a bridge. It was a garden bridge. And
15 when the Japanese took over, the Chinese had to bend in
16 front of the guard and when they didn't bend deep
17 enough, they got hit in the head. And I said to my
18 husband, oh my gosh, here we are again. Same story what
19 we left.

20 Q. WAS THERE --

21 A. It's was '42 I think when the Japanese took
22 over.

23 Q. YOU ARRIVED IN 1940?

24 A. 1940, yeah.

25 Q. HAD YOU ENDURED MUCH OF THE BLITZKRIEG IN
26 LONDON?

1 A. No, because I was in the hospital and, no,
2 there wasn't very much. We were out at outside a little
3 bit northwest we were.

4 Q. WHEN YOU GOT TO SHANGHAI DID YOU HAVE A
5 DIFFERENT FEEL OF THE CITY? DID IT APPEAR VERY
6 DIFFERENT THAN --

7 A. Not really. There were so many Chinese I
8 couldn't believe it and it was very, very hot and very
9 humid at this time of the months and I arrived in July
10 and it was hot. It was unbelievable. Terrible,
11 terrible hot. This I remember.

12 And my husband had a room, rented a room there and
13 I moved, we moved, I went in with my husband in that
14 room.

15 Q. ONE?

16 A. Yes, one room. One room. No bath. I didn't
17 take a bath in seven years. We had one bowl. I cooked
18 in it. I baked in it. I washed myself in it. One
19 little bowl.

20 Q. WHAT SECTION OF THE CITY WAS THIS?

21 A. That was, it was not a very, very bad part of
22 Shanghai. It was a business section, little bit outside
23 not really in the business section. There were many
24 apartment building and not bad but when the Japanese
25 took over we had to move out of there and go to the
26 other part of the city.

1 Q. BEFORE THE JAPANESE TOOK OVER --

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. -- YOUR HUSBAND HAD A JOB DOING WHAT?

4 A. He was working for a newspaper and I was
5 selling, I don't remember what I was selling. I think
6 they were dresses and blouses and so on in a store. And
7 then we moved with that people who owned the
8 delicatessen who were very, very nice to us. And we
9 didn't have to pay any rent.

10 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE NAME?

2086 11 A. Yes. Their name was Antol and they moved to
12 Australia and they're both passed away since.

13 Q. WERE THEY JEWISH PEOPLE?

2090 14 A. Yes, refugees from -- he was Hungarian. She
15 came from Austria. Anton was their name, Lautzie and
16 Berta Anton. No children. Nice, nice couple.

2095 17 Then I met my second husband. And I talked to
18 Mrs. Anton what I should do and she said, well, if you
19 think he's the right one, then get a divorce and see
20 what life has in store for you. And my first husband
21 Kurt agreed and he said we are both unhappy with each
22 other. So then we got a divorce under Chinese law.

23 And we got married two days later on my birthday
24 under Chinese law, because we were stateless we couldn't
25 get any other way but under Chinese law.

26 Q. HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR SECOND HUSBAND?

1 A. He came to the store and bought something and
2 he saw me and he asked the owner, "Where is your
3 daughter?" And she said, "That is not my daughter.
4 That is a married woman with two children." And he
5 said, "Doesn't matter but I really think I like to talk
6 to her."

7 And then I met him once in the street. I was
8 shopping and we talked. And then we had a cup of coffee
9 together.

10 And then I told my first husband that I met him and
11 I think I like him and he said, well, if you do, go
12 ahead. And I said maybe I can get to America faster and
13 get my children because that was my only wish. I don't
14 even think I loved my second husband, I only want to
15 come to America and I thought he had some people here
16 who could help me coming faster, but then it worked out
17 and I was married to him for 30 years.

18 Q. WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

19 A. Fred. Fred Wertheimer. And he was never
20 married and he was a tennis instructor. So he
21 instructed the, in Shanghai and when the war broke out
22 he couldn't instruct anymore so a night club owner
23 offered him his tennis, his tennis court and he
24 instructed the Americans who was still outside. Most of
25 them they put in a camp. In fact we visited them and
26 brought them some food. And so he made good money and

1 we saved as I said.

2 Q. WERE WAS FRED FROM?

3 A. From Munich.

4 Q. GERMANY?

5 A. Munich, yes, Bavaria.

6 Q. AND WHEN HAD HE COME TO SHANGHAI?

7 A. He came to Shanghai I think in 1939 after he
8 was in Buchenwald.

9 Q. How did he manage to get out of Buchenwald?

10 A. He got out of -- at that time they let you
11 out after six weeks when you guaranteed that you got out
12 of Germany in a month. And so he got a ticket to
13 Shanghai.

14 Q. SO HE CAME TO SHANGHAI in 1939?

15 A. Uh-huh, yes.

16 Q. AND IN SHANGHAI HE WAS A TENNIS INSTRUCTOR?

17 A. Yes, uh-huh. Well, he was also in Bavaria
18 was a tennis instructor. It was his business more or
19 less.

20 Q. AND THE YEAR YOU GOT MARRIED WAS?

21 A. 1942. Would have been 50 years now if he
22 would have been alive.

23 Q. AND WHEN HAD THE JAPANESE COME INTO SHANGHAI?
24 WERE YOU MARRIED TO --

25 A. To Fred, yes. I was married to Fred and we
26 had a nice room. And then I think it must have been

2172 1 maybe '43 or '44 that we had to move to Hongku.

2 That was the name of the part of the city.

3 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER BOMBING IN SHANGHAI?

4 A. Yes. Yes.

5 Q. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

6 A. They came, American came every noon just
7 before we had lunch and we ran into a prison. It was
8 about three or four blocks away. And we run in prison.
9 They opened the gates and we could run in and when the
10 raid was over they let us out again. And after the war
11 we found out that the Japanese had their guns in the
12 prison but the Americans probably didn't know it or
13 didn't want to know it. But they bombed a camp where
14 many Jews were living there. And there were quite a few
15 dead people in there, too. Every noon they came.

16 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN THE JAPANESE FIRST CAME
17 TO SHANGHAI?

18 A. (Witness nods head.)

19 Q. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

20 A. They marched around and we thought they were
21 millions of them and but then there were not millions.
22 They just came around and around in the same block.
23 They fooled all of us. And then the order came that we
24 had to move out, all refugees had to move out Hongku
25 which we did and then we did until the war was over.

26 Q. WHAT WERE YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE AFTER THE

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1 JAPANESE?

2 A. Also room, just a little room we rented. The
3 bathroom, there was no bathroom. There was a pot and
4 every morning they came and picked it up. And the smell
5 was fantastic.

6 And so -- am I to tape now?

7 A MAN: UH-HUH.

8 A. Can I say something which might not be --

9 A MAN: ABSOLUTELY.

10 A. So I always, I never sit down when I went to
11 the bathroom. So when we arrived here, of course I was
12 so used to standing up and my husband passed by me and
13 he said, "Now you can sit down and enjoy it." But when
14 you do it for seven years you cannot change right away.
15 It's just -- so now, you can sit down and enjoy it.

16 Q. DID YOU, WHAT WAS YOUR FEELING TOWARD THE
17 JAPANESE? WAS THERE A GREAT DEAL OF FEAR?

18 A. It was a great deal of fear and you could ask
19 for a passport to go into the city which my husband
20 asked sometimes because he had, the tennis hours were on
21 the other side of the city. And so this one major or
22 whatever he was, his name was Gollya. I never forget
23 this. He was such a -- they let my husband stand in a
24 corner for about an hour before he got his certificate
25 to leave this certain area and then he throw hot tea in
26 his face, too. And he, he thought it was very funny.

1 But then, the last few years he didn't even go
2 anymore there because it was too annoying to ask for the
3 certificate but in the beginning he did just to make a
4 little bit money.

5 Q. WAS IT A DIFFERENT KIND OF FEAR THAN THE FEAR
6 YOU HAD OF THE GERMANS?

7 A. Almost the same. Almost the same. But then
8 some friends listened to the radio -- my girl friend's
9 parents and then she came down. We were sitting on the
10 street outside. It was so hot in the rooms that you
11 couldn't even bear it, so we were sitting outside with
12 all of these people. And she always came down and she
13 said Precass. It means in Russian there is a good news
14 again, the Americans come closer and closer. This I
15 remember. And, boy, when they came we were, just yelled
16 on the street and cried and it was great. It was great.

17 Q. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE DAY THEY CAME?

18 A. Well, everybody was happy and everybody cried
19 on the streets because this --

20 That was terrible when somebody died they put them
21 out on the street and then the beggars came and
22 undressed them and then the body were laying there
23 because people didn't have money to bury them. Then the
24 city came and picked the bodies up and it was awful even
25 to see.

26 And then the stealing was unbelievable. I mean

1 they stole everything. I had to go to the hospital for
2 an -- I had to bring something to the hospital from my
3 -- and they stole that, too.

4 Q. WHO STOLE?

5 A. The Chinese came. They were very, very
6 hungry and very, very poor. Whatever you had in your
7 hand, they stole. It was very hard.

8 Or when you took a rickshaw when the water was
9 standing that high when it was raining for months and
10 then they let you down and say, "You pay more, I let you
11 out." And you were wet up to here.

12 That was, it was a very hard time to be in
13 Shanghai, to me it was anyway. Then when the Americans
14 came my husband got, I don't even know what he did but
15 he asked for a job and he got a job and he drove a
16 truck, and anything he could do just to get -- and I
17 worked on the PX in Shanghai there.

18 Q. DID YOU KNOW THE AMERICANS WERE COMING? DID
19 YOU KNOW THEY WERE COMING?

20 A. No. We heard it through the radio that --

21 Q. DID THEY SUDDENLY APPEAR ON THE STREETS?
22 HOW --

23 A. Well, they flew in, some of them flew in.
24 Some of them came by boat and they had their trucks
25 there. I don't understand how trucks came in so fast.
26 Maybe it wasn't that fast. Everything takes so long but

1 that was great when the Americans took over Shanghai.

2 Q. WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST GLIMPSE OF THE AMERICANS?

3 A. We walked Nankung Street which is the main
4 street in Shanghai and everybody was so tall and I went
5 to one and I said, "Pardon me, are you all that tall in
6 America?" And he said, "No, only the tall ones were
7 sent here." And absolutely great. And then they asked
8 for, then they opened the PX right away and I worked in
9 the PX right away.

10 Q. WAS THERE FOOD THAT CAME WITH THEM? WERE
11 THERE ANY CHANGES OTHER THAN THE JOBS?

12 A. Well, food we had. Food was not that short
13 but we didn't have the money to buy it. So when my
14 husband bought, an ounce of coffee sometimes, oh, that
15 was the greatest thing for us and we split it, too.

16 Q. HOW MANY CUPS?

17 A. Yes, plenty cups, right. Yes. And when I
18 think of fear what everything is here so much and here
19 we had so little, it's amazing but you get adjusted
20 fast.

21 Q. WERE YOU STILL WORKING IN THE DELICATESSEN?

22 A. No, I never worked in the delicatessen. We
23 lived there up on top. No, I worked in a clothing store
24 and another clothing store and then they closed and I
25 went to another one in Shanghai but that was before we
26 moved to, before the Japanese.

1 Q. AFTER THE JAPANESE CAME WERE YOU ABLE TO WORK
2 AT ALL?

3 A. No, no, I didn't work. My husband joined
4 some Parchia but I don't know what that means now but he
5 had to stand guard, I don't even remember why, three,
6 four hours he stood guard but this was under the
7 Japanese. Parchia but I don't remember what that
8 meant. But he, they had, they knew where the Americans
9 were and how far they were. And we waited every day,
10 they're coming, they're coming. It's amazing.

11 Q. WERE THERE MANY JEWS? WAS IT A JEWISH
12 COMMUNITY?

13 A. Well, we had to live altogether, yes. There
14 were about 20,000 in Shanghai then in that area.
15 Uh-huh. Just a few could live outside. They had some
16 special permission but I don't know how they got the
17 permission. But we had to live in that area which was
18 bombed out from the last war which was never built up
19 very much.

20 But then the buses took us to the airport where the
21 PX was and we had fun with the girls and the Americans
22 came and said, oh, let's look at you. We haven't seen a
23 girl in two years.

24 But I made a terrible mistake once. It was a very
25 nice Jewish gentleman and I said, I can't wait to come
26 to America and take a douche, and he took me aside and

1 he said, "You cannot ever say that, Edie, you take a
2 shower." Because in Germany shower is a douche. And I
3 thought I was so smart with English. But he was so
4 nice. He didn't even laugh. He said don't ever say
5 that.

6 Q. WAS THERE ANY KIND OF RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE?

7 A. No, we didn't go. If there was we didn't go.

8 Q. WAS THERE ANY SENSE OF ANTISEMITISM?

9 A. No, I don't notice that, huh-uh.

10 Q. AND HOW OFTEN WERE YOU ABLE TO HEAR FROM YOUR
11 CHILDREN?

12 A. They wrote me every month or so. After it
13 came through the Red Cross, a letter, not through the
14 Japanese occupation. After that I wrote to them and
15 they, we wrote to each other.

16 Q. AND YOUR LETTERS GOT THROUGH?

17 A. Got there, uh-huh.

18 Q. SAME WAY. HOW COULD YOU SEND THEM DURING THE
19 OCCUPATION?

20 A. By mail, by Chinese mail. Then we put them
21 in the mail box and they arrived. The Americans I guess
22 took over that place in Shanghai, I think, because I
23 know I sent letters and they sent back, I mean sent some
24 back to me.

25 Q. DID YOU EVER HEAR FROM YOUR PARENTS AFTER YOU
26 GOT TO SHANGHAI?

1 A. Once.

2 Q. WHAT DID THAT LETTER SAY?

3 A. It wasn't very good. Well, they couldn't say
4 very much because they were afraid it might be censored
5 so it, I should enjoy and the kids probably all right
6 and nothing very, that I, I mean I could read between
7 the lines but otherwise --

8 Q. DID THE CHILDREN HAVE ANY REACTION ABOUT THE
9 DIVORCE OR WHAT DID YOU TELL THEM ABOUT THE DIVORCE?

10 A. I wrote them before they came that I divorced
2383 11 and they took it, they said, I mean Mrs. Borofski, that
12 was the name of my daughter's, she said, you know what
13 you're doing, it's your life. And when they came, they
14 accepted it.

15 And then my son, we changed the name to Wertheimer
16 because I didn't want that the kids being asked so many
17 questions, why is your name different than from your
18 mother.

19 And my daughter up to that day I cannot talk about
20 it very much. She starts crying right away. She is
2394 21 very -- when she was in, she lived in Eskiltoona
22 for two years, she stood on the window to see if I'm
23 coming because she was afraid I might miss the door.

24 So it's with her it's more touchy than with the
25 son. He can take more than my daughter. She's still
26 very -- this what I sent you, my son has it. My

1 daughter doesn't have it yet.

2 Q. NEVER SPOKEN TO YOUR DAUGHTER ABOUT THIS?

3 A. I didn't give her that but I promised her now
4 I will. She said okay, Mommy, I promise you I will not
5 cry.

6 Q. AND WERE YOU IN CONTACT WITH YOUR FIRST
7 HUSBAND, THE CHILDREN'S FATHER, IN SHANGHAI?

8 A. Not really. He only came and asked me for
9 the wedding ring because he needed it for some food to
10 sell and I gave it to him.

11 And then he got married when he came here to
12 America. It was I think in the spring of '48. I don't
13 know, maybe late '47. The children were not here yet.
14 And he came to us, somebody sent him to us and he came
15 and we visited but then the San Francisco Committee sent
16 him to another place because they didn't want that
17 everybody stays here in San Francisco so they went to
18 some other place and, but they didn't like it and then
19 they had to work to come back.

20 They wanted to come to San Francisco and that is
21 when they came back but then I didn't see him any more
22 but the children saw him years later when he was very
23 sick. They got in contact, he got in contact with them
24 and my son asked me if that is okay to see. And I said,
25 of course you see your father and so on. So they went
26 to see him, uh-huh.

1 Q. NOW YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU MET A MAN IN
2 SHANGHAI THAT YOUR HUSBAND HAD KNOWN --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMP?

5 A. Yes. Mr. Gertz, yes.

6 Q. WHAT WAS HIS FIRST NAME?

7 A. I don't remember that. Arnold, I think. I
8 think it was Arnold.

9 Q. OKAY. AND WHAT WAS SOME OF HIS BACKGROUND?

10 A. He was a much older man. I don't know what
11 his background was because I never knew him before. I
12 only met him in Shanghai through my husband and they
13 became friends because they were together, I guess in
14 the same kibbutz or something in the concentration camp
15 and then when the war broke out Mr. Asheim with his
16 nephew couldn't send any more money so we gave him the
17 money. And he signed, every time we gave him money, he
18 signed it. And then when he passed away we, Mr. Asheim
19 advised him that his uncle passed away. And he asked us
20 if we want the money and we didn't on't want the money,
21 so we said, I wish we could have an affidavit, so that
22 is what he sent us right away, to enter this country.

23 Q. AND DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS
24 MR. ASHEIM?

25 A. Well, I think they came here real early. And
26 they were in New York. And I think they did very well

1 money-wise. And they're still alive. And they visited
2 us in '48, '49 when we came here so we visited them.
3 And in fact he give us all the money back what we gave
4 his uncle.

5 Q. HOW MUCH MONEY WAS THAT?

6 A. Maybe it was four, five hundred dollars
7 because with this money and then --

2460 8 He was very friendly with the opera singer Lawrence
9 Melshur, Mr. Gertz, and he sent him money, too. So when
10 we arrived here Mr. Asheim said tell Mr. Melshur
11 that uncle passed away, and we did, so they sent us some
12 money and with this money we bought the house on 16th
13 Avenue with a down payment of \$1500.

14 Q. You contacted Lawrence --

2471 15 A. Lawrence Melshur after we arrived here told
16 them about Mr. Gertz. So he asked us if he could help
17 us with something and we said if could you send us some
18 money it would be great so, I think, so we got \$1500
19 together with our savings and Asheim and Major Parlsrok
20 and Mr. Melshur I think we had \$1500. The house was
21 \$12,000 at that time. We had \$1,000 second mortgage and
22 we paid every month \$10 to a dentist who had our second
23 mortgage and we got receipts always, 9.99 towards this,
24 one penny to the principal. We, but we didn't
25 understand it and so we asked somebody and they said,
26 well, that is what it is.

1 So we ate for three months just cabbage and cabbage
2 and cabbage came out of my ears. So we paid the
3 thousand dollars off before my children came and the
4 dentist said, but we like the money so much. You were
5 so much on time and we had paid off the second mortgage.
6 We were very proud of it. But I still don't like
7 cabbage.

8 Q. DID YOU GET THE AFFIDAVIT FROM MR. ASHEIM?

2490 9 A. Yes. We got, and when we arrived here, of
10 course we bought the house and it was empty. So we went
11 to, somebody said we should go to Lachman Brothers over
12 on Mission or wherever they were to buy just a few beds
13 when the kids come. So we asked him, could we buy four
14 beds and we said but we buy one bed at a time, and he
15 said, why at a time, why don't you take it now and pay
16 on credit? And I said, what is credit? We didn't have
17 any idea. We always paid everything in cash. There was
18 no credit in Germany.

2499 19 So we had four beds and then we went to, what was
20 it, Lowman's or Doorman's on Union Square and we wanted
21 some dishes. She tells me this is from England and this
22 is from Germany. And I said, pardon me, is there
23 anything from America? she said, yes, Lennox, and I
24 said, okay, I'll buy it.

25 That's what I do today, too, only America, nothing
26 else.

1 Q. NOW THERE WERE SOME OTHER PEOPLE THAT YOU MET
2 IN SHANGHAI, FRED'S WHO HAD A SON?

3 A. Oh, Shotlander.

4 Q. YES.

5 A. Mr. and Mrs. Shotlander, yes. Their son
6 lived in New York and he was in the army here. So they
7 could come on the preferred quota to America.

8 Q. WHAT WERE THEY LIKE, SHOTLANDERS?

9 A. Older people they were at that time already
10 70 years old and so --

11 Q. WHERE HAD THEY COME FROM?

12 A. From Munich. They had the huge, beautiful
13 store there, too, but they had to give it up and come to
14 Shanghai because at that time there is, even if you had
15 money outside sometimes they didn't even take you, even
16 if you had the money. They only took a certain amount
17 of people.

18 Q. BUT THEIR SON WAS ALREADY IN --

19 A. Yes, he was already in America, yes. He must
20 have been American because he was in the army, I think.

21 Q. AND WHAT HAPPENED WITH THEM?

22 A. Well, I went with them, I went to the consul
23 to the American consul because their English was very
24 poor and so they got a number. They only they wanted a
25 number. And then she asked me if I don't want a number
26 and I said no, I don't have anybody. And she gave me

1 the number anyway and then this happened that Mr.
2 passed away. And so we had somebody so that we get an
3 affidavit to come here to this country.

4 Q. TELL ME ABOUT YOUR JOB AT THE PX.

5 A. Oh, that was fun. I sold everything what we
6 had.

7 Q. WHAT WAS THERE TO SELL?

8 A. They had everything, dresses, flowers, food,
9 everything what can you think of what the trucks brought
10 in we sold to the Americans, I mean was from the
11 Americans, food and drinks and clothes and soap and
12 perfume and all this stuff.

13 Q. DID YOU HAVE ANY OTHER DUTIES AT THE PX?

14 A. No. Then they needed people switchboard
2548 15 operators in Nang King so I went to Nang King, rented a
16 room because I made more money and then they flew me
17 there, the Americans flew me to Nang King which was an
18 hour from Shanghai and I was there until I left for
19 America.

20 Q. AND YOU WERE THE SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR?

21 A. Switchboard operator, right, and I enjoy it.
2556 22 That is where I met Major Partsrok.

23 Q. WHAT WAS MAJOR PARTSROK LIKE?

24 A. He was about six foot five, six foot eight,
25 very, very tall man. And he asked me once if I need any
26 help, I should tell him. And then when we knew that we

1 were coming here and we had money and I don't think you
2 could take any money out or, so we gave him the money.
3 It was four, five hundred dollars I think which we had,
4 and they sent it to the American army and it arrived
5 here.

6 Q. NOW THE MONEY THAT YOU SENT THROUGH THE MAJOR
7 WAS AMERICAN?

8 A. American.

9 Q. WHAT OTHER, WHAT WAS THE CURRENCY?

10 A. Shanghai dollars, they had Shanghai dollars
11 they had in Shanghai.

12 Q. SO WHEN YOU GAVE MR. GERTZ THE MONEY YOU WERE
13 GIVING HIM SHANGHAI?

14 A. Shanghai dollars, yes. And they exchanged it
15 probably. I don't even remember how I did it, Mr.
16 Asheim but we were so glad to get anything what we
17 could. And I think he was very generous, too. I think
18 so. And he came here even to meet us one time. I even
19 met him once and his wife. Very nice couple.

20 But the best thing was that we wanted to go to New
21 Yourk because we thought that is where the affidavit
22 came from, we have to go where the affidavit came from.
23 And the Jewish Committee said when we arrived, they said
24 why don't you stay here? The salaries are better, the
25 weather is much better. You will like it here in San
26 Francisco much better. So that is, when we wrote then,

2586 1 they put us in the Harold Hotel on Eddy Street until we
2 found a room.

3 And so we wrote Mr. Asheim and then he said, he
4 gave us a telephone number from his friend, he was with
5 him in the army, and we became friends with him for
6 many, many years until he passed away. And it is a
2592 7 relative of the Coshlands here in San Francisco. We
8 were very close. And in fact he gave my -- he
9 introduced him to the Standard Oil people and my husband
10 worked for Standard Oil for quite awhile.

11 Q. WHEN DID YOU GET THE PERMISSION TO LEAVE
12 SHANGHAI AND COME HERE?

13 A. Well, soon as it was, the war was over, we
14 could do what we want, but we had to have an entrance
15 visa to come to America, that came through the American
16 consul with that low number because we had such a low
17 number.

18 Q. WHAT YEAR DID THAT COME?

19 A. 1947. We came here in January and most
20 people came the end of 1947 to here and then they were
21 sent away from San Francisco because they had too many
22 people here already. So they asked them to leave to
23 another --

24 Q. HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR NOTICE THAT THE VISA
25 WAS THERE READY TO USE, DO YOU REMEMBER?

26 A. No. This I don't remember. They sent it to

1 us and then I went to the American consul and showed
2 them the visa then they said, okay, you get the trip,
3 and first ship out you leave.

4 Q. AND DO YOU REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE SHIP?

5 A. No.

6 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT LEAVING
7 SHANGHAI?

8 A. I was so glad to leave. Maybe my girl friend
9 would remember. I don't think that she would remember.

10 Q. WHAT DID YOU TAKE WITH YOU?

11 A. Whatever we had. Few pots and few pans and
12 my bowl and a few clothes, not very much. Then they put
13 us in the Harold Hotel until we found a room.

14 Q. HOW LONG DID THE JOURNEY TAKE FROM SHANGHAI?

15 A. Maybe two or three weeks. I do not remember.
16 I don't remember.

17 Q. WHAT WAS THE SHIP LIKE?

18 A. Not very elegant. It was a troop ship before
19 so it wasn't, it was, we had to sleep in the different
20 groups.

21 Q. BUNKS?

22 A. Yes, uh-huh, this I remember. I think it was
23 a war ship before, troops were. And then we got on
24 there. But it wasn't clean, I mean it wasn't terribly
25 dirty but it was never remodeled or anything. It was
26 just the way it was used.

1 Q. HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE ON THE SHIP?

2 A. Probably two, three hundred. It was quite a
3 big ship.

4 Q. WAS THIS LARGER THAN THE JAPANESE SHIP THAT
5 TOOK YOU TO SHANGHAI?

6 A. No, I don't think so. I think it was the
7 same. I don't remember. So many years ago. Gosh.

8 Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOLLECTION IF IT WAS A
9 DECENT JOURNEY OR BAD ONE?

10 A. It was a decent one. It was nothing too
11 exciting about, everybody talked about everything and
12 was glad to get out. It was happy time to get out to
13 come to America. I mean a dream comes true. We almost
14 kissed the floor when we arrived.

15 Q. IN YOUR MIND WHAT DID YOU EXPECT TO SEE WHEN
16 YOU GOT TO AMERICA?

2653 17 A. I didn't expect anything. Mrs. Belalisa
18 was on the boat to receive us. And so she said if I
19 know somebody and said, yes, I know somebody from my
2656 20 home town who's here and the name is Gruener and she
21 said, oh my gosh, these are my best friends, so she told
22 them that I arrived and I knew them from my home town
23 and they visited us and they had already an apartment
24 here they were here long time. So we were very good
25 friends until she passed away. And he remarried and he
26 passed away.

1 But they helped us a lot because we wanted to buy a
2 car so bad before my kids came. So we went to Van Ness
3 and bought a car. And we signed something and then real
4 proud we went to our friends and showed the car. And he
5 said, "Let's go right back. He cheated you so much you
6 will never be able to pay what you owe down." So the
7 guy took it back, the car, and the contract. And he
8 said, these are poor refugees, what do you want from
9 them? And they don't understand English. So we didn't
10 have a car. But he tried to really get us.

11 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE DATE THAT YOU ARRIVED
12 HERE?

13 A. In January. No, I don't remember the day.
14 It was January, '47, this I know. And my kids came in
15 February, '48.

16 Q. AND WHEN YOU CAME YOU WERE PUT UP IN THIS
17 HOTEL?

18 A. Yes, Harold Hotel on Eddy Street and down
19 there where Foster, the Foster Restaurant. And we went
20 out, after we got our things hang up. And I saw the
21 people eating so much steak. And I said is that only
22 for one meal or is that for a whole week, because we
23 only ate little meat in Germany. We didn't have the
24 money to buy that much meat so I couldn't believe it.

25 What a change in the whole thing. With the same
26 people we were on the boat, we went in some place, I

1 don't remember where, and there was a bar in the back
2 and the bartender said to two ladies who left, good
3 night, girls. And my husband said, these aren't girls,
4 these are old people. But you see we didn't know, girl
5 is a young girl, but he said, good night, girls. So all
6 these things you have to, you cannot translate. You
7 have to -- these are funny stuff I remember.

8 Well, then I looked for a job. That was my first
9 thing. I wanted to get a job otherwise I knew I
10 couldn't get my children.

11 Q. AND WHERE DID YOU LOOK?

12 A. I went to the unemployment on -- where was
13 the unemployment at the time? No, first I went to the
14 telephone company because I thought I was a such a good
15 operator but they didn't want me because I had an
16 accent.

17 Then I went to the unemployment, told them, and
18 they he asked me what I did. And I told him what I did.
19 And he said, oh, I have a job for you. And he sent me
20 down there on Montgomery Street someplace Pacific
21 Tankers.

22 No idea -- my husband was with me and I said you
23 better come pick me up because -- don't stay here before
24 I get the interview done. And I came in and I gave him
25 this paper what I signed with the unemployment and he
26 said, you're hired. I said what does it mean? He said,

1 well, here's your desk. I said, well let me tell my
2 husband. What time am I through? And my husband picked
3 me up and I stayed with them for two-and-a-half years.
4 I did exactly what the other girl did. I had to watch
5 her, what she did and I imitated.

6 Then they were government, had something to do with
7 the war still that Pacific Tankers. And they closed
8 part of the office and I was let go. And I was paid six
9 weeks, a month's pay and two weeks vacation.

10 And went to IBM. I learned keypunch and they gave
11 me a job.

2724 12 And I worked for Lippert Pictures for
13 two-and-a-half years on Hyde Street. And they went to
14 Los Angeles. I was very unhappy because I liked the
15 job.

16 And I called Pacific Tankers again and I said I'm
17 not lucky, I'm out of a job again. And he said, what
18 are you doing? And I said, well, I did keypunch and he
19 said, well, come back, because we are just starting the
20 keypunch desk and I stayed with them for another
21 two-and-a-half years.

22 And then they decided to go to Los Angeles and I
23 said I can't go. My husband has a job here. So my
24 supervisor from the keypunch asked for a job at General
25 Electric because he didn't want to go to LA the company.
26 Then he decided to go and he called the supervisor from

1 GE and said I cannot go but I can give you, introduce
2 you to a girl, she is really tops. And so he said yes,
3 send her over. So he sent me over and I was hired the
4 same day and I worked at GE for 29 years. And the end
5 of my story.

6 Q. WERE YOU THE FIRST ONE TO GET A JOB BEFORE
7 YOUR HUSBAND?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. THEN YOUR HUSBAND GOT A JOB?

10 A. He worked for Kodak then he was laid off,
11 too, and he was very unhappy. I made \$140 and he made
12 120 so the \$20 he wasn't very happy that I made a little
13 2747 bit more than he did. And then he worked, Mr. Newberger
14 introduced him to somebody at Standard Oil and he work
15 for Standard Oil until he passed away.

16 Q. AND DURING THIS TIME YOU WERE MAKING ATTEMPTS
17 TO GET YOUR CHILDREN?

18 A. Oh, yes. That was -- I had to have a job
19 that what the Jewish Committee told me here in San
20 Francisco. I have to have a job to get my children, so
21 with the \$140 a month I got my children over here. And
22 in fact the rabbi in Sweden wrote and said that my kids
23 are doing so well in school and I shouldn't interrupt
24 their schooling system and so on and I wrote them back
25 and I said, I don't care. I want any children. I don't
26 care what I interrupt. Please send them.

1 Q. WHICH JEWISH ORGANIZATION DID YOU GO TO HERE
2 IN SAN FRANCISCO?

3 A. I don't know. It was a Jewish Committee but
4 I don't know anymore where they were in San Francisco.
5 I don't even know if they're still here. I have no
6 idea.

7 Q. AND DID THEY HELP YOU WITH THE PAPERWORK?

8 A. Yes. Yes. They started to whole thing with
9 Sweden, that's right, yes. They did everything for me,
10 uh-huh. And they knew when they were arriving because
11 they instructed -- the papers I have right up here --
12 and there were all the newspapers at the station when
13 they arrived.

14 Q. DO YOU KNOW WHY IT TOOK OVER A YEAR FOR YOUR
15 CHILDREN TO GET HERE?

16 A. No. This I don't know. Has to go through so
17 much red tape, I guess, that's why it took one year, one
18 year one month but of course I didn't do it right away.
19 Probably I do it after I got the job and then I talked
20 to my boss if I can do this and explained to him
21 everything.

22 So they were really wonderful when I, when they
23 arrived. They gave me two weeks pay and so I could get
24 adjusted to my children.

25 Q. HOW DID YOUR CHILDREN GET FROM SWEDEN TO SAN
26 FRANCISCO?

2780 1 A. They came on the boat with the last trip, the
2 Drottningholm was the name of the ship.

3 Tape two of two

4 A. First of all I have to tell you that the ship
5 was last trip for the Drottningholm from Sweden to New
6 York and few days before they came in they were in a
7 terrific storm and my daughter had the passports and
8 everything in her purse and it was thrown over in the
9 water so they arrived here without papers. And they
10 kept and guaranteed them. I think these are the only
11 two immigrants who never had any papers.

12 And then my girl friend who was in Shanghai cousin
13 picked them up because we didn't have any money to go to
14 New York at that time. And he picked them up and they
15 kept them overnight and then the next day they went on
16 the train and they arrived here in Oakland in February.

17 And, well, I show you the picture. It was
18 unbelievable.

19 Q. YOU WERE AT THE TRAIN STATION?

20 A. Yes. With my husband, uh-huh.

21 Q. AND WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY DISEMBARKED?

22 A. Yes. On the train and I had them hugged them
23 both.

24 Q. WHAT DID THEY LOOK LIKE?

25 A. To me great, but of course they were grown up
26 and my daughter is taller than I am and my son was five

1 two and now you see him now after one year he grew up
2 that much. And they didn't speak too much English and
3 their German was not too good and they spoke Swedish
4 constantly so I said, don't speak Swedish, I don't
5 understand it.

6 Q. DID YOU RECOGNIZE THEM RIGHT AWAY?

7 A. Yes. Right.

8 Q. DID THEY RECOGNIZE YOU?

9 A. Yes. I think so, yes, uh-huh. They did.

10 Q. WHAT DID YOU SAY?

11 A. Oh, gosh. I think we all cried. We didn't
12 say, we cried a lot and then I was home but we all slept
13 in one bed. We didn't even part at night and -- I
14 forgot.

15 Q. ONE BED?

16 A. Uh-huh. And then we went little bit shopping
17 and then my daughter, I start, they went to school but
18 they did not accept, what did, she want to do? I think
19 she wanted to start working or something and then they
20 did not accept the certificate that she was through with
21 school so she had to go for one year to Washington High
22 School and my son went to Procedure. He was only 14.

23 And then she graduated. And I still hear the music
24 when we went to the graduation. And then she started to
25 work. And she met her husband at the Jewish Center on
26 California Street. She went swimming and he saw her.

1 They were both 19.

2 Q. AND WHEN DID THEY GET MARRIED?

3 A. A year later.

4 Q. DID YOU THINK THEY WERE TOO YOUNG?

5 A. Of course. When my daughter told us in the
6 breakfast table, "Oh, Mom by the way, I'm getting
7 married." I went upstairs and started to cry and my
8 husband said, don't worry about it. She will be back in
9 a year. They don't have any money.

10 And, but he was wrong. It lasted 40 years. They
11 will be married September 40 years, God willing. She
12 wouldn't even let me buy her wedding dress. She had to
13 buy it herself. She won't take it, a penny from me.
14 She said, "You work so hard Mommy, I won't take it."
15 She still the same way.

16 Q. WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT? DID YOU, DID YOU
17 TRY TO CATCH UP WITH WHAT HAD ALREADY HAPPENED?

18 A. Well, they told me a lot about the people.
19 Well, my, oh, yes. I told you that my son was in the
20 professor's then he had to go to another house and he
21 stayed with them and a little girl for the last, for the
22 nine years.

23 And in fact they were not together. They were only
24 together during vacation and then my son visit my
25 daughter. She lived in Escultoona and Peter lived in
26 Surahama.

1 And somebody passed away and then their husband
2 passed away, of the lady who looked after my daughter.
3 And then when my son-in-law made the first thousand
4 dollars here he sent her back with the three children to
5 see her aunt again in Sweden and she did. And year
6 later she passed away, so she is very happy that that
7 she showed them the three kids she had at that time.

8 Q. HAD STEFFI CHANGED MUCH FROM, OTHER THAN
9 PHYSICALLY, FROM WHAT YOU REMEMBERED? WHAT HAD HER
10 DISPOSITION BEEN LIKE WHEN SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL?

11 A. Very caring, and she never wanted to get, she
12 didn't want to take anything from you. If I wanted to
13 buy her a dress, she said, "Oh, no, you buy a blouse,
14 you need it more than I do," and she is that way today,
15 too. It's unbelievable. She never asked for anything,
16 never ever.

17 Q. AND YOUR SON?

18 A. Yes. He's, well, he worked. He was in
19 Procedure then he went to Washington. Then he went to
20 Berkeley. And then he was called in the army at that
21 time but he had already arrangement made to go to the
22 navy. So he was in the navy for three years. He had to
23 go.

24 I asked him the other day because I couldn't
25 remember and then in fact the P master came to us and
26 asked if he couldn't stay longer because he was very

1 satisfied with his work but he wanted to get out and
2 because I think he knew Barbara then already. And then,
3 then got married, his wife.

4 Q. WHAT KIND OF ADJUSTMENT DID THE CHILDREN HAVE
5 TO MAKE WHEN THEY ARRIVED?

6 A. It was a big adjustment with the language and
7 with my husband who was not their father, but they
8 adjusted. They get along because they played tennis
9 together with my son and taught him how to, you know,
10 table tennis. So they enjoyed each other very much and
11 Steffi was not very long with us because she got married
12 after five years -- no, not even. Yes, five. No?

13 Q. THEY CAME IN 1948?

14 A. 1948. And now they will be married, she was
15 with us five years because they have been married 40
16 years. Yes, she married in '52. Good thing I went to
17 business school.

18 Q. WHEN DID YOU BUY THE HOUSE?

19 A. 1947.

20 Q. FIRST HOUSE?

21 A. 1947. \$1500 down. Thousand dollars, take a
22 mortgage, yeah.

23 Q. WHAT WAS THAT ADDRESS?

24 A. 16th Avenue, 241 16th Avenue. It was between
25 California and Clement in the Richmond District.

26 Q. HOW LONG DID YOU LIVE THERE?

1 A. I don't know. I think about seven, eight
2 years and then we moved to the midtown terrace section
3 because house was too big. Steffi moved out and Pete
4 was not there so we took a smaller house, a two-bedroom
5 house then.

6 Q. WHOM DID STEFFI MARRY?

7 A. His name is Ron Zimmerman. In fact he was
8 born in Shanghai and his parents are Russian refugees
9 who came here then after. I think the two other
10 brothers were born here already. I'm not quite sure.

11 Q. WHERE DID STEFFI GET MARRIED?

2922 12 A. In Sharis Israel on California in San
13 Francisco.

14 Q. IN TEMPLE?

15 A. Yes. I'm thinking of name of the rabbi but I
16 can't remember. I have him at home on the picture.
17 Can't remember.

18 Q. HOW MANY CHILDREN DOES SHE HAVE?

19 A. Three.

20 Q. GRANDCHILDREN?

21 A. Four grandchildren. My daughter has four
22 grandchildren, uh-huh.

23 Q. Tell us the names of your, of her children
24 and her grandchildren?

25 A. Her, their name is Stephen, Sharon, and
26 Sandra and Stephen has one girl her name is Susan.

1 Sharon doesn't have any children and Sandra has
2 Shannalee, Hailey and Rory. I don't even need my book.

3 Q. VERY GOOD. YOUR SON, WHEN DID HE GET
4 MARRIED?

5 A. Gosh, he got married five years later in Los
6 Angeles.

7 Q. WHOM DID HE MARRY?

8 A. Barbara Miller. And then they have three
9 girls, Pamela, Robin, and Kara. Kara is named after
10 Kennedy's daughter. They liked the name so much.
11 Pamela is married, has three children, David, Joshua,
12 Rebekah. Robin doesn't have any yet. And Kara is not
13 married yet. That is my whole story.

14 Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, GAIL?

15 GAIL KURTZ: I Do. DO YOU WANT ME TO GO BACK?

16 SYLVIA PROZAN: GO AHEAD.

17 GAIL KURTZ: I WOULD GO BACK QUITE A Ways.

18 Q. WELL, MY JOB IS KIND OF TO ASK QUESTIONS
19 THAT, YOU KNOW, WHERE THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN GAPS IN THE
20 STORY, SO WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO IS GO BACK AND ASK YOU THE
21 QUESTION ABOUT THAT BUSINESS THAT YOUR PARENTS HAD WHEN
22 YOU WERE A GIRL SELLING FEATHERS.

23 A. Flowers and feathers, yes. It was, across
24 the street there Kissling. Kissling is a beer and when
25 I went in the afternoon with my mother I saw the women
26 coming out already drunk at two o'clock in the afternoon

1 and I still remember. And they came out like this
2 (demonstrating).

3 Q. SO WHAT PART OF BRESLAU WAS THAT IN?

4 A. That was in the city, in the town actually in
5 the business section where my parents had their office
6 and Nuningstrauss but it is all changed because I play
7 bridge and I met a lady and she had a very, very heavy
8 accent so I asked her where she comes from. And she
9 said actually come from Poland but then I lived and I
10 had say where did you live. She said you won't know the
11 city and I said, well, tell me. She said Breslau. And
12 I said that was my home town. Where did you live? She
13 said, you wouldn't know the street. They've all changed
14 it to Russian names so we couldn't even convert where
15 she was living. She went to the university, but isn't
16 it a small world?

17 Q. YES.

18 A. She is a refugee from Poland.

19 Q. WELL, I WAS WONDERING IN THIS BUSINESS THAT
20 YOUR PARENTS HAD, DID THEY SELL TO GENTILES AS WELL AS
21 JEWS?

22 A. Oh, yes. Oh, yes. He traveled. There was
23 never questions what religion you are. We never even
24 knew that you asked. Even in school I mean we knew
25 these were Jewish girls, we had the lesson together, and
26 these were these, and these were this, but afterwards we

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1 were always together and never any remarks or any hate
2 or anything. I don't remember anyway. Never.

3 Q. SO WHEN HITLER CAME TO POWER DID YOUR FATHER
4 STILL HAVE HIS BUSINESS?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. AND DID IT CHANGE IN TERMS OF THE CLIENTELE?

7 A. Yes. It changed very much. And then the
8 fashion changed and nobody wanted to buy anymore flowers
9 or feathers and then he had to give it up because he
10 couldn't make any money.

11 Q. BUT HE DIDN'T GIVE IT UP BECAUSE --

12 A. -- of Hitler? No, but the time was very,
13 very bad. It got worse and worse. The people didn't
14 spend as much money anymore as they used to.

15 Q. WAS THERE EVER A TIME WHEN HE COULD NOT SELL
16 TO GENTILES?

17 A. No. No. That was not that, whole Germany
18 went down very, very much business-wise. That is why he
19 became so big because he promised them so much. That is
20 why he voted, why everybody voted for him because people
21 were hungry and when you promised them so much.
22 Everybody will have a car and everybody will live like a
23 king, then you go for it. And it's so easy to blame
24 somebody and there was always, antisemitism was always
25 in this world in Germany so even worse in Poland and
26 worse in Russia than in Germany because --

1 Q. DID YOU FEEL THAT AS A GIRL YOU EXPERIENCED
2 MUCH ANTISEMITISM?

3 A. I beg pardon?

4 Q. AS A GIRL --

5 A. No.

6 Q. YOU DON'T FEEL YOU EXPERIENCED ANTISEMITISM?

7 A. Not at all because most people didn't even
8 know I was Jewish. I don't know maybe I didn't look so
9 Jewish, maybe they had another idea what Jews looked but
10 I don't have any idea but I never had anybody saying
11 anything about this to me.

12 Q. THEN THE NEXT THING I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT
13 WAS DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU WERE ON KRISTALLNACHT?

14 A. I was home.

15 Q. WHAT DID YOU SEE THAT NIGHT?

16 A. We didn't see anything but the next day we
17 saw how they destroyed the businesses, the Jewish
18 business and the temple were all thrown in glass and so
19 we knew that we had -- it was 1938 I think in November.
20 And then I think we had to make a move and people still
21 didn't believe it would last. Still didn't think it
22 would last.

23 Q. DID ANY OF YOUR FRIENDS EXPERIENCE ANY
24 VIOLENCE PERSONALLY THAT NIGHT?

25 A. No, no. I don't know. I don't know. Well,
26 some shops of course they all lost their business

1 because they stole everything and they threw glass and
2 destroyed the shops.

3 Q. NOW WHAT WERE THE, I KNOW THE CHILDREN WERE
4 VERY YOUNG THEN BUT WHAT WERE THEIR REACTIONS TO THE
5 NAZIS?

6 A. I don't think they knew very much about it
7 because we didn't talk too much. We were so scared even
8 to say anything we thought that somewhere everybody is
9 listening to.

10 Q. SO YOU SAID VERY LITTLE?

11 A. Very little and even over the phone we were
12 very careful to say anything because it was all, they
13 could all listen to, into it. We don't know who was
14 listening into it when. We were just scared stiff all
15 of us. As I remember.

16 Q. OF COURSE YOU HAD TO WEAR A STAR, OF COURSE,
17 THE JEWISH STAR?

18 A. This my daughter said to me the other day
19 that I had to wear things but, and I do not remember.
20 She thinks we did, a band, but I just this I cannot
21 recall.

22 Q. SO YOU DON'T RECALL WEARING A STAR?

23 A. No. I do not remember that. She thinks we
24 did have a band on around our arm but I don't know. I
25 cannot remember that. I only know that I couldn't take
26 them anymore to the park where there was written down

1 the swastika and said no Jews, no Jews, so that's then
2 we went to the cemetery to get some little bit fresh
3 air. This I remember.

4 Q. WAS YOUR SHOPPING, DID THAT BECOME LIMITED?

5 A. No, huh-uh, no, but we didn't have much money
6 anyway to shop. We just shopped what we had to have
7 because when my husband brought the paycheck home we
8 just had this was for rent, and this was for the food,
9 and sometimes there was some for shoes left and
10 sometimes for nothing left. Gas and so on. Very tight
11 budget, very, very tight.

12 And the kids went to school and, but we didn't pay
13 anything for the school at that time, I don't think so.
14 I have the picture here where Steffi went to school and
15 then we gave them two of these things for their first
16 day with chocolate in it.

17 Q. DID YOU EVER HAVE, WAS YOUR HOUSE EVER
18 RAIDED, ANY POSSESSIONS THAT WERE TAKEN?

19 A. No, but we had to give it up. We had to give
20 the rings and everything we had, so out of fear we did
21 what they told us. We would never hide anything, not to
22 get caught and go to the camps so as I say I gave the
23 beautiful ring and I don't know who took all my beds and
24 my tables and everything, that was taken away when I
25 moved out. I took my stuff and moved out and left
26 everything.

1 Q. SO YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR
2 APARTMENT AFTER YOU LEFT?

3 A. No idea, huh-uh. But the things my parents
4 sent to me and they paid for it, that was taken back to
5 Germany because they were sending it to Sweden to my
6 kids and they hoped that I could get it there but I
7 couldn't. Never got anything out of there.

8 Q. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT YOU MAY HAVE ANSWERED
9 ALONG THE WAY AND I JUST DIDN'T CATCH BUT WHEN, THE LAST
10 TIME THAT YOU HEARD FROM YOUR PARENTS WHERE WERE THEY?

11 A. They were in the same street in Breslau where
12 they used to be.

13 Q. AND WERE YOU ABLE TO TELL FROM THEIR LETTERS
14 IF THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS HAD CHANGED MUCH OR WHAT?

15 A. No, but you could read through the lines that
16 they were very unhappy and wanted to get out and that
17 broke my heart and I couldn't do it, couldn't help them.
18 There was no connection whatsoever.

19 Q. SO IF YOU HAD, YOU HAD FRIENDS WHO WERE ABLE
20 TO TAKE THEIR ENTIRE FAMILIES OUT, IS THAT CORRECT? I
21 GUESS MY QUESTION IS IF YOU HAD HAD A LOT OF MONEY WOULD
22 YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET THEM ALL OUT?

23 A. Yes, at that time, yes, '38, '37, yes, you
24 could get out. But most people didn't because they
25 didn't think it would last. Some people were smart and
26 sent their money out and they were accepted and they got

1 the visa to get out. But not very many. Because six
2 million didn't believe, right, otherwise they wouldn't
3 have been killed.

4 And then they only told them they go away to make
5 room for other people and they didn't know that they
6 were going to camp and so on and so forth. And out of
7 the camp they undressed them and took their gold teeth
8 out and -- only human being can be that cruel and not an
9 animal.

10 Q. WELL, MOVING ON TO ENGLAND, WHAT DID YOU
11 HAVE, WERE THERE JEWISH COMMUNITIES SET UP THERE?

12 A. This I have, I don't know because I worked in
13 that hospital and I never got out. And my day off I met
14 my girl friend from my home town and we had some coffee
15 together and then I went back. I never even knew there
16 was any but I'm sure there was a community, I'm sure.

17 Q. WHERE DID YOU GO TO RELIGIOUS SERVICES,
18 TEMPLE?

19 A. Not at all. Not at all. Never. Not in
20 England, huh-uh. Not in Shanghai, either.

21 Q. DID YOU, WAS IT AVAILABLE TO YOU, I MEAN DID
22 YOU WANT TO GO? DID YOU WANT TO GO TO TEMPLE?

23 A. You mean in England? I don't know. Because
24 I didn't even know my way around too much there and to
25 ask somebody, I don't know.

26 Q. THERE WAS BACK IN GERMANY, I JUST HAD A

1 QUESTION ABOUT THE DENTIST OFFICE. WHEN YOU WORKED FOR
2 THE DENTIST DID HE HAVE ONLY JEWISH PATIENTS?

3 A. No, no. He had others, too, other religions,
4 too.

5 Q. EVEN UNDER THE NAZIS?

6 A. Uh-huh, oh, yes. Definitely, yes. Because
7 it wasn't even a problem that you asked about. If it's
8 a good person then you didn't ask if what religion they
9 were. That was the second. We were first German.

10 See when the Polish refugees came over from Poland
11 in, I don't know, 1933 or so, we couldn't believe it the
12 way they were dressed and way they didn't have anything.
13 We didn't have anything either but at least we were
14 clean. They were, didn't even look clean to us at that
15 time.

16 So it's a different growing up maybe or I don't
17 know. Because they came to Germany quite a bit the
18 Polish refugees. Everybody was hungry. It started
19 already.

20 Q. WAS THERE ANY REGULATION of the DENTIST
21 OFFICE BY THE GOVERNMENT?

22 A. No, not at the time when I was there, huh-uh.
23 He had a few patients and I did the bookkeeping for him
24 and I don't know if he ever got out out of Germany. I
25 don't think so. I don't know. I left in such a hurry
26 that I couldn't even -- I asked my parents to call him

1 that I won't be there on Monday. I couldn't even reach
2 him before I left.

3 Q. WHAT WAS HIS NAME? DO YOU REMEMBER HIS NAME?

4 A. Isn't that funny, I don't remember his name
5 any more. Huh-uh. No, I can't remember his name. Did
6 I say it before?

7 Q. YOU MIGHT HAVE.

8 A. Yes. I can't remember now.

9 Q. THEN THE NEXT QUESTION I HAD WAS ABOUT
10 SHANGHAI. WHAT KINDS OF THINGS DID YOU DO THERE FOR
11 FUN, DO YOU KNOW?

12 A. For fun? We were sitting outside on a street
13 and having a little bit fresh air. That was our fun.
14 There was no fun. Sometimes we went there was a
15 restaurant we went for coffee but otherwise we didn't do
16 very much.

17 Q. AGAIN THERE DID YOU FEEL LIKE THERE WERE,
18 WELL, ACTUALLY I'M SILLY ASKING THIS QUESTION ABOUT A
19 JEWISH COMMUNITIES OR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION?

20 A. Oh, yes. There was, there was, they had
21 homes there for Jewish people they made so they could
22 sleep there and I don't think they paid any money,
23 jewish camp, and then the American bombed one of these
24 camps. This I know. But we had one room. We had
25 enough money to rent this one room but some people
26 didn't have any to even rent a room but they lived in

1 that camp and --

2 Q. THE LAST QUESTION I HAD ABOUT SHANGHAI WAS
3 COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY, WHAT IT
4 WAS LIKE?

5 A. Oh, yes. This is, that is by Chinese law
6 because Hitler took our state away, citizenship, so you
7 had to go to a restaurant where people can come in and
8 you had to have two witnesses and a lawyer. And then I
9 have the certificate at home in Chinese that we got
10 married on July 30, 1942. Two witnesses were the Antons
11 the delicatessen store we lived above, and the lawyer.

12 And that was accepted here in America because we
13 were stateless but when an American was in Shanghai and
14 married by Chinese law this was not accepted in America
15 because he was an American citizen. He has to be
16 married by American law. Because I know a case which
17 didn't work because she thought it was okay but it
18 wasn't. And he did it on purpose, by the way.

19 Q. SO WERE YOU ABLE TO GET A SPECIAL DRESS FOR
20 IT, FOR YOUR WEDDING?

21 A. Oh, no, no. We didn't have the money for
22 that, no, no, no, just whatever we wear.

23 Q. I WAS JUST CURIOUS, DO YOU STILL HAVE THAT
24 BOWL? THAT BOWL SOUNDS, THE BOWL, ONE BOWL THAT YOU DID
25 EVERYTHING IN?

26 A. Oh, no, I left it in Shanghai. No, I

1 couldn't take that with me. I left it in the room. It
2 was a little bowl.

3 Q. I THINK THE ONLY OTHER QUESTION THAT I HAVE
4 REALLY WAS WHEN YOU CAME TO THE U.S. DID YOU -- WHAT
5 WAS YOUR RELIGIOUS LIFE LIKE? DID YOU FIND A TEMPLE
6 OR --

7 A. No, we didn't even look for one at this time
8 because we were so glad to be here and tried to get a
9 job and tried to get some pots and pans and we were so
10 busy working that we didn't join anything at this time,
11 huh-uh.

3236 12 And then my daughter got married at the Sharis
13 Israel on California and my son is a member at the, what
14 is th the other big temple? I don't remember.

3233 15 California Emanuel. Well, he is more religious because
16 the people he was with were more religious than my
17 daughter's so there is a difference.

18 Q. OH, THE PEOPLE IN SWEDEN?

19 A. Yes, the people in Sweden were raised, he was
20 very religious and my daughter, they didn't hold
21 anything but they did good things. They kept my
22 daughter and fed her and dressed her for so many years.

23 Q. SO I THINK THAT IS IT.

24 SYLVIA PROZAN: Q. WHAT DID THE POLISH REFUGEES
25 LOOK LIKE WHO CAME TO BRESLAU?

26 A. They were all these long caftans, what you

1 call it, and they all had these beards where people are
2 having now which we never seen, and a hat. They all
3 wear hats.

4 Q. THERE WERE NO OTHER PEOPLE JEWISH PEOPLE LIKE
5 THAT IN BRESLAU?

6 A. No, not with this, no. Only people when they
7 went to the orthodox school, they were dressed like this
8 but most people did not go to these schools.

9 Q. AND DID THEY BRING STORIES WITH THEM AS TO
10 WHAT WAS HAPPENING?

11 A. No. They didn't even speak German. They
12 only speak Polish.

13 Q. SO THERE WAS NO CONTACT?

14 A. No, no contact at all.

15 Q. DID YOU WONDER WHY THEY HAD COME?

16 A. No. Well, they said well, the other people
17 said to talk to them it was very bad there. They
18 couldn't have any jobs and was very much hate there but
19 that was before '33. It was before Hitler came they
20 came already to Germany.

21 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE YEAR? WAS IT BEFORE YOUR
22 DAUGHTER WAS BORN?

23 A. No. It was after, after my kids were born.
24 It must have been in '34 or so. I think Hitler was
25 already in power because he came to power in '33, but
26 they still came because nobody thought it would get that

1 bad. At that time nobody knew that.

2 Q. DID YOU EVER HEAR HITLER SPEAK?

3 A. Oh, sure. Yes. We had to listen to it on
4 the radio, sure. Ein fork, ein fuhrer, sure, shliter.
5 terrible.

6 Q. WHEN YOU HEARD THE SPEECHES THAT WOULD BE IN
7 THE PRIVACY OF YOUR HOME OR --

8 A. Yes, privacy of our home, yes. We had --

9 Q. WHY DID YOU LISTEN?

10 A. Well, because it was always ugly against us
11 and it we are the report that everything is so bad and
12 we did this and we did this. And maybe some people did
13 it but I didn't know anybody who did something that bad
14 as he said it.

15 Q. ARE THERE ANY SPECIFICS YOU REMEMBER?

16 A. No. They all are rich he said always. These
17 are the rich people, the Jews. And I could tell them
18 different but they wouldn't listen to me. I was scared
19 to say anything.

20 Q. DO YOU RECALL WHAT YOUR THOUGHTS WERE AS YOU
21 HEARD HIM?

22 A. Yes. We knew that it was bad but because
23 they had so many plans to kill him and we always hoped
24 it will go through one day and it didn't.

25 Q. WHERE DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THESE PLANS?
26 GOSSIP?

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1 A. Gossip, yes.

2 Q. AND WHO WERE THE PEOPLE WHO WERE GOING TO DO
3 THE KILLING?

4 A. Well, who were in the same things and they
5 wanted to be number one as he is. Goebbles wanted to
6 the kill him once we heard this afterwards but it didn't
7 work either.

8 Q. YOU EVER SEE HITLER?

9 A. No, not in -- we never went whenever he
10 spoke, huh-uh, we never went there. I don't even
11 remember that he was ever in Breslau. I can't recall
12 that. We stayed mostly at home because we were scared
13 to go on the street because God forbid you said
14 something and somebody heard you, they catch you.

15 Q. DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PARENTS?

16 A. No idea. No idea. It was the last time I
17 heard it from Shanghai and that is all.

18 Q. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN BACK TO GERMANY?

19 A. No.

20 Q. WOULD YOU GO?

21 A. No.

22 Q. BECAUSE --

23 A. No. They throw me out, why should I go when
24 I've been thrown out?

25 Q. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN BACK TO SHANGHAI?

26 A. No. No.

1 Q. BUT YOUR CHILDREN HAVE BEEN BACK TO SWEDEN?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. AND HAVE YOU EVER RETURNED TO ENGLAND?

4 A. No.

5 Q. WHERE DID YOUR HUSBAND LEARN ENGLISH?

6 A. Which one, the first one?

7 Q. SECOND ONE.

8 A. Second one. Well, in Shanghai we spoke a lot
9 and then here in America but he had English in school,
10 too.

11 Q. In Munich?

12 A. Munich, yes, uh-huh.

13 Q. DID HE HAVE BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

14 A. No. He was the only one.

15 Q. AND --

16 A. And his parents passed away all right, I mean
17 not all right, but they passed away without being in a
18 concentration camp. They passed before, before Hitler.
19 Natural, yes.

20 Q. HOW DID HE HAPPEN TO TAKE UP TENNIS?

21 A. They were quite rich people and they played
22 tennis and things. And then during 1922 I think when
23 Germany was very bad his father lost everything and he
24 became a tennis teacher in that club overnight to make
25 money to support his parents and that's how he became an
26 instructor then. And he was instructor always, all his

1 life.

2 Q. AND SO HE WAS THE SUPPORT OF THE FAMILY?

3 A. Yes. At that time and then the parents
4 passed away before he left Germany. They were both
5 dead.

6 Q. AND He WAS ABLE TO GIVE TENNIS LESSONS IN
7 SHANGHAI?

8 A. Uh-huh, yes.

9 Q. TO WHOM DID HE GIVE THE LESSONS?

10 A. To mostly, when the Americans came came the
11 Americans. And so other Chinese took lessons, too,
12 before then, but then the Chinese disappeared for some
13 reason and only the Americans, he had only Americans.
14 Then they put it, before they put the Americans in camp.
15 And we took a boat and went to the came and visited them
16 and brought them some food and rice and they had not
17 much to eat, the Americans. We took boat trip once.
18 This I remember, too.

19 Q. A BOAT TRIP FROM SHANGHAI?

20 A. To the American camp.

21 Q. TO THE AMERICAN CAMP?

22 A. With the American, yes, where they put them,
23 not very far, just maybe few minutes but you couldn't
24 get otherwise, you had to go by boat. This I remember.
25 I don't know where they were.

26 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT THE CAMP LOOKED LIKE?

1 A. No. We just landed there, gave them the food
2 and left again but we can't even go in. I don't think
3 they let us go in even.

4 Q. TO THE AMERICANS?

5 A. To the Americans.

6 Q. THEY WOULDN'T LET YOU GO BACK?

7 A. Uh-huh, yes. This I remember. We went there
8 once. I was scared stiff not to come back. I thought
9 they might keep us there, too, but they didn't.

10 Q. DID YOUR HUSBAND CONTINUE TO GIVE TENNIS
11 LESSONS IN THIS COUNTRY?

12 A. Yes, uh-huh, even when he worked for
13 Standard, they, he taught people, uh-huh.

14 They enjoyed it. And we went to a game once and
15 this one fellow he played with my husband he said, "Hi,
16 Edie." And I said, "Oh my gosh, I didn't recognize you.
17 I never seen you dressed," which was wrong. I shouldn't
18 have said so. His wife looked at me and he, he
19 explained what it meant. So he dressed, he was nice
20 dressed and otherwise in tennis court you go like in a
21 tee shirt and stuff, in shorts. I said, I made error
22 over errors.

23 Q. DID YOUR HUSBAND EVER MAKE ANY ERRORS?

24 A. I don't remember any. I was the one who made
25 the errors, I think.

26 Q. DID YOU EVER SEE IN SAN FRANCISCO ANY OF THE

1 PEOPLE FROM SHANGHAI OR GERMANY THAT YOU HAVE SPOKEN
2 ABOUT?

3 A. No. From Shanghai I saw a few people but --

4 Q. WHO?

5 A. That was Martin Koehn but he passed away
6 since and I know his wife remarried. I don't know where
7 she is and who she married. I hardly know anybody from
8 Shanghai because we are not, we were not in the business
9 at all. People who knows exchange money from American
10 dollars to Shanghai dollars but my husband was always
11 tennis only and so we were never in the business. We
12 lived little bit outside from Shanghai few blocks away
13 from the main street where everybody else lived so
14 whenever I met somebody years ago said, oh, you were in
15 Shanghai? How come I never saw you? I never met you
16 because we were never in a group, in these groups.

17 Q. WERE YOU GETTING NEWS IN SHANGHAI ABOUT WHAT
18 WAS HAPPENING WITH THE WAR IN EUROPE?

19 A. A little bit, yes. Through radio, uh-huh,
20 through the radio.

21 Q. THE JAPANESE ALLOWED YOU TO LISTEN TO THE
22 RADIO?

23 A. Well, we didn't have one but my friend had
24 one and they listened so I guess they allowed it. I
25 don't remember that they didn't allow it.

26 Q. YOU GOT THE NEWS FROM YOUR FRIEND?

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1 A. Yes, uh-huh.

2 Q. DID YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE DEATH CAMPS
3 WHILE YOU WERE IN SHANGHAI?

4 A. Oh, yes. We heard, yes, we heard about that
5 too, uh-huh. Yes, sure. We were upset and upset and --
6 but then we so worried about the war ended and
7 everything is over, that we could do something about it
8 but you can't do anything unless the war was over.
9 Shanghai you couldn't do anything about anything. We
10 were just lost there. We were thankful that they took
11 us in and that we saved our lives.

12 Q. YOU WILL ALWAYS FEEL ABOUT, THAT THE, THERE'S
13 HUGE HOLE IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOUR CHILDREN WERE?

14 A. Definitely, definitely. Yes, yes.

15 This I will never forget. But as I said before you
16 cannot make up time. You can make money but not time.

17 Q. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER YOUR CHILDREN HAVE THIS
18 SAME FEELING?

19 A. I think my daughter has more than my son
20 because she was looking after him all the time so he was
21 not that alone as my daughter was.

22 Q. DO YOU THINK THIS IS SOME OF THE REASON THAT
23 THEY, BOTH CHILDREN HAD -- THAT YOU HAVE SIX
24 GRANDCHILDREN AND SEVEN GREAT GRANDCHILDREN?

25 A. Yes. And my daughter enjoys the
26 grandchildren of course very, very much because she

1 missed so much when she was not with me. So it's hard
2 to understand really. I will never forget it.

3 Q. OF ALL THESE YEARS FROM, LET'S SEE, 1930 TO
4 THE PRESENT, WHAT IS THE MOST VIVID MEMORY THAT YOU
5 HAVE?

6 A. That I had to take, give up my children.
7 That is my vivid memory. When they came back it was, it
8 was a most wonderful day.

9 Q. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
10 GAIL KURTZ MAY I?

11 A. Yes.

12 SYLVIA PROZAN: Q. WHAT ABOUT THE TENNIS LESSONS
13 THAT YOUR HUSBAND GAVE?

14 A. Yes. He gave lesson to the Swedish counsel
15 and the American was sitting on the side waiting to be
16 taught and so in English when you teach tennis you have
17 to show them how to do it and it's a swing back and the
18 Swedish counsel said, please, teach me in German because
19 I like to know German more, so the word is aus holen.
20 So any time he swang back, my husband said aus holen.
21 When the lesson was over the American said, Fred, why
22 did you call him an ass hole? He is such a nice guy.

23 Q. I'm glad we got that.

24 (Pictures shown to Mrs. Wertheimer)

25 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS PICTURE, PLEASE.

26 A. I dont' remember when it was taken. Maybe

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1 1935, '36. And we had to have the picture taken with
2 the left ear showing.

3 Q. WHO IS THIS a PICTURE OF?

4 A. Me. oh, it's my picture.

5 Q. AND TELL US ABOUT THIS PHOTO, PLEASE.

6 A. These are my parents. The last picture I
7 have got and took it with me wherever I went. They were
8 in their fifties at the time.

9 Q. WHERE WAS THE PICTURE TAKEN?

10 A. In Breslau.

11 Q. WHAT YEAR DO YOU THINK IT WAS TAKEN ROUGHLY?

12 A. I think 1935, '36.

13 Q. TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS PHOTO,
14 PLEASE.

15 A. It's my father-in-law who was a soldier at
16 the time. I think it was World War I. That is all what
17 I know.

18 Q. WHAT IS HIS NAME AGAIN?

19 A. Leveli. I don't know his first name. I
20 forget his first name. Leveli is his last name.

21 Q. DO YOU KNOW WHAT UNIFORM HE'S WEARING?

22 A. No idea. No idea.

23 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS PHOTO PLEASE?

24 A. Okay. That is me when I worked on the hat
25 shop and it shows that they would give a photo like this
26 to people who buy two hats. It was just an

1 advertisement and it was in the window.

2 Q. DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR IT WAS TAKEN?

3 A. Probably 1928. When I was, what was I, 16
4 then, yes. 1928, '29.

5 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS PHOTO PLEASE.

6 A. That was taken when I was 16 years old and I
7 got this onyx ring from my husband and then I had to
8 give it up to Hitler. And he, I think he paid two years
9 on that ring. My 16th birthday when I got my first
10 lipstick from him, too. That was 1912 -- 1928.

11 Q. DID YOU TAKE THIS PHOTO WHEN YOU LEFT
12 GERMANY?

13 A. This, yes. I took this photo with me. And
14 my parents' photo. I had it in my purse.

15 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS PHOTO PLEASE.

16 A. That is a passport picture, was taken I
17 don't, I think that, no pardon me, that was when I was
18 still in hat shop and they had a few pictures for me in
19 the window to show, to advertise what the photographer
20 can do when they buy two hats. It's all the same time.

21 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS PICTURE PLEASE.

22 A. That was my first husband when he was about
23 19 years old and I met him then. And then we got
24 married two years later. Yes, that is.

25 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS PICTURE PLEASE.

26 A. That is my mother-in-law. He was, she was

1 diabetic case and I don't know, I heard that they didn't
2 give them any insulin any more so she would have passed
3 away in about three, four days anyway.

4 Q. DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS WAS TAKEN?

5 A. No. It was taken in Breslau but I have no
6 idea where. And when. I had these pictures in my
7 purse. Some of them my son took it from his father.

8 Q. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS PHOTO.

9 A. All right. That is my husband and me when we
10 were both about 17 and he was 21 and I had to smoke so I
11 practiced every day when he came up in the evening to
12 visit me so I could smoke. And I was sick as a dog but
13 I still smoked. I wanted to be a big shot.

14 Q. WHERE WAS IT TAKEN?

15 A. This was taken probably I don't even remember
16 where it was taken. Maybe in on the ocean where you can
17 lay down on the sand or so. That is where it was taken.
18 There was a swimming pool in the middle, yes, that is
19 where it was.

20 Q. ON A DAY OUTING?

21 A. Yes, on a day outing. And I think that is --
22 only a different or different things.

23 Q. SAME DAY, DIFFERENT --

24 A. Just wanted to have my hair straight and
25 loused it up as usual.

26 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS PICTURE.

1 A. We went on an outing and so we took the
2 picture with the kids Steffi and Peter.

3 Q. AND WHAT YEAR WOULD YOU GUESS THIS WAS?

4 A. I would think about 1934, '35. Steffi was
5 about five years '36 maybe. That's what she looks like.

6 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE IT WAS TAKEN?

7 A. On a beach someplace.

8 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS ONE.

9 A. That is a first picture after Peter arrived
10 in Sweden in 1939. He was five years old then.

11 Q. SO THIS IS TAKEN IN SWEDEN?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. IT WAS SENT TO YOU WHERE?

14 A. To Breslau, to my home town. That was 1939
15 maybe in May, June. They sent me the picture right
16 away.

17 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS ONE.

18 A. This is my daughter's first picture in Sweden
19 in 1939.

20 Q. WHAT THOUGHTS DID YOU HAVE WHEN YOU RECEIVED
21 This?

22 A. Cried. Cried a lot. And --

23 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS PLEASE.

24 A. Okay. We could not go in a park anymore
25 because there were on the benches no Jews, so I took
26 them to the cemetery to get some fresh air, my son and

1 my daughter and myself.

2 Q. DO YOU KNOW WHAT YEAR?

3 A. It must have been 1936 about. Steffi was
4 probably five years old then.

5 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS, PLEASE.

6 A. That's Shanghai. And they called me Marlana.
7 They thought I looked like her, so they took the
8 picture. I don't know why.

9 That's what I told you. Do you like that? You
10 want to take picture, too?

11 Q. WELL, I'M TAKING TWO DIFFERENT VIEWS OF IT.

12 A. Oh, how interesting. I have no idea what
13 he's doing.

14 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS, PLEASE.

15 A. That is my daughter's first day in school and
16 we always gave this, I don't know what you call it, as
17 presents on the first day, those things which she is
18 holding with candies in it. That was what you did.

19 Q. WHAT YEAR WAS THIS TAKEN?

20 A. She must have been -- 31 and 6, '37. She was
21 probably six years old then. Six-and-a-half or so, no,
22 six we had to go to school. '37 maybe 1936 somehow.

23 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS ONE.

24 A. That was in Breslau when we just planning to
25 get married. In 1929, 1930.

26 Q. WAS THIS NEAR WHERE YOUR PARENTS LIVED?

1 A. No, no, that is far, further away. Huh-uh.

2 Q. PARTICULAR SECTION OF THE CITY, DO YOU
3 REMEMBER?

4 A. I don't remember. Looks like the cemetery on
5 the side. I don't remember where it was.

6 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS ONE, PLEASE.

7 A. That was my son when he was in the navy.

8 Q. WHAT YEAR WAS THIS ROUGHLY?

9 A. 19, must have been '53, '54, 1955, something
10 like that. He was through with college. How old are
11 you through with college, 22?

12 That is my -- okay, that is my second husband, the
13 tennis instructor. That was taken, I don't know, maybe
14 1947, '48 when we came here.

15 Q. HOW LONG WERE YOU MARRIED?

16 A. 30 years. Passed away in '72.

17 Q. This would have been your 50th?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. TELL US ABOUT THIS, PLEASE.

20 A. That is my husband with one of my
21 granddaughters who was two years old at the time. Now I
22 don't know, I don't know, when it was taken. Must have
23 been in the '50s, '60s.

24 Q. DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER'S NAME?

25 A. Sharon, that is Sharon.
26

