

Why don't you ask me so that I know when to start.

Yes.

OK, tell us who this is, where it was taken, and what year approximately.

I do not remember where it was taken. The year must have been about 1919, maybe, or 1920. I was a little girl. I was born in 1914. So it's obvious I must have been four or five years old I guess. In those days it was very important to have a big bow in your head.

OK. And where was this taken again?

I do not remember. I do remember now one thing about the bow. When my grandparents had their 25th anniversary, I was all dressed up with a big bow in my hair. And my mother left me alone in the bedroom for a moment and I had seen my father putting the pomade in his hair. It was a big jar. I put the whole idea of pomade in my hair.

OK, tell us about this photo, please.

Well this is myself and my brother. And it was taken in Berlin, that I know. The dress I remember was bought for the wedding of my mother's brother. I can remember the hem that had all these feathers. I don't know what kind of feathers they are. I don't remember exactly the year. I probably was maybe 10 or 12, between 10 or 12 years old, so '14, '20, '24 maybe or '26, somewhere around there.

How many years older--

My brother was born 1921, and he must have been there three or four years old. When he was very little he had beautiful curly hair, which I didn't. I was very jealous. Eventually, they cut his curls.

Tell us about this photo, please.

This was taken in a place about an hour from Berlin, in Petershagen, where my grandparents had bought a house to stay. And on the second from the left is my father standing. The third from the left is my mother standing. The head next to her is my uncle, the husband of my mother's sister. His name was Leonard. The woman on the right, the first on the right is my mother's sister, the wife of this Leonard. The woman in the middle with the white blouse or whatever is my mother's mother, my grandmother. And the man kneeling in front of her is her husband, my grandfather. The other people are cousins of my father and the boy kneeling is the son of one of them.

So you are not in this photo.

I am not.

OK. And that's your parents second from the left and third.

Yeah. And that must have been taken, oh, I would say maybe 10=926 or something like that.

Tell us about this photo, please.

This is my brother. And I would guess that at the time he must have been me maybe 14 years old. When I left Germany he was 13, and I think this picture was sent to me after I left. He looked very much like my father except for his eyes. He had brown eyes, my father had blue eyes like I. Blue-gray.

Tell us about this photo, please.

This is when we were on vacation in what in Germany is called [SPEAKING GERMAN], middle high mountains. And my mother, my brother in the middle, and I. I'm making a funny face, I don't know why.

About how old were you?

I'm about 12 or 13.

Tell us about this photo. This is my brother. And I think it was taken at the same time as the picture that you saw just before this.

And where was this?

That was in the middle high mountains.

And what's the writing behind him, do you know?

I don't remember. [SPEAKING GERMAN] I don't know what that means. I have no idea. Maybe that was the name of a restaurant or an inn or something.

Tell us about this picture, please.

This is my father. Unfortunately, I don't have any good pictures of my parents It's not a very good picture.

Do you happen to know when and where it was taken?

It must have still been some time before the Hitler period, so I would say maybe the late '20s.

Why do you think it was before the Hitler period?

Because I don't have any pictures from--

Nobody saved any after that period.

Tell us about this photo, please.

This is my mother, and I imagine that it must have been about the same time that my father's picture was taken. I had some pictures that were taken when she came to the United States, but I didn't bring any.

And tell us what this photograph is.

This is the village of Casacalenda, in the province of Campobasso. And that little cross you see on top is the place where the concentration camp was.

That little arrow in the middle.

Yeah.

And the village was kind of up on top of a hill. The railroad station was way down. You had to walk up. There was no cable car or anything. You had to walk up.

To your knowledge, were any pictures taken of it during the internment period?

No.

Tell us what this is, please.

This I don't actually have to say because it's written in English. I was working for the American Joint Distribution Committee as a secretary. And Giuseppe Levi, the signature you see on the left-hand side, he was the executive director. And then you have Horowitz on the other side that was another director. And we all had to have a card, because otherwise you couldn't get into the building. At that time I was about, oh, maybe 30, 32 years old, something like that.

Flip that over so we can see the other side. Same document.

Yeah, that's the signature, valid for January, February, March 1948. So 1948 I would have been 34.

Tell us about this document, please.

This is an identification card after I came back from the concentration camp to Rome. And on hand of this we were getting food stamps, which of course was illegal under the German occupation, but the Roman agency who was in charge of that was giving it to us anyway.

And so what year was that photograph taken? I think-- Doesn't it say '44? I can't quite see '44, '45, something like that. Because I came back to Rome in '43, so this must have been during that period. I don't know.

This bears your real name, Hanna Cassel.

Yeah, this is '44 I think it says, doesn't it? Looks like '44. I can't tell.

'44 on the bottom right.

I think it says '44. So that was

Same document.

There's my birth date on the left-hand side, 6/12/1914. Berlin. I don't know what else it says. Maybe those are the signatures of the people who signed it. I don't know.