ALICE BODDY
August 22, 1990

Interview with ALICE BODDY

Holocaust Oral History Project

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Interviewers: Sue Siegel, Cindy Clumeck,
Jackie Caldwell, John Grant

Transcriber: Sue Martin

(BEGIN TAPE 1)

INTERVIEWER 1: My name is Sue Siegel. I'm here to listen to the story of Alice Boddy, who is gracious enough to talk to us about her life experience as part of Kinder Transport (phonetic); and with me are two other interviewers.

INTERVIEWER 2: Cindy Clumeck.

INTERVIEWER 3: Jackie Caldwell.

A. Nice meeting you. My name is Alice Boddy.

INTERVIEWER 1: Q. Boddy. Thank you. It's August 22nd.

Well, let's begin by listening to your memories of your childhood. We'll all go back to that and think about what it was like to grow up in Vienna.

A. I was born in Vienna to a very nice family. I'm

the second. I have an older brother, and I grew up in Vienna attending the best private high school called ...(German)... Iberkassen (phonetic).

My life was full and happy until March '38 when Hitler's troops marched over our borders. At that time, I was at the Vienna Opera with my school; and I had no idea what was going on.

My brother, who is quite a bit older than I am, heard over the radio that Nazi storm troopers are marching in downtown Vienna; and he left the party he was at, and he says, "Oh, my God. I have to retrieve my little sister."

And people tried to discourage him, but somehow he managed to find me. Vienna, after all, was a city of over two million. And as I came out of the opera, my brother collected me, and we walked home.

My father had died prior to the Anschluss, but my mother, my brother and I lived in the same apartment where I had grown up.

And somehow we made our way home that night, and it was downhill from there on in. Our main object at the time was trying to get my brother out, because he had served in the Austrian army; and in view of everything that was going on, we were very concerned.

And fortunately, we -- he managed to get an affidavit for the United States, and he left in August of '38, which was not that easy, because we had to stand -- I had to stand in line to get his exit visa and everything else to avoid his getting arrested.

And unfortunately, my mother and I did not register for the U.S. visa at the same time -- for the quota number at the same time as my brother did; and he registered in March '38. We registered in June '38; and while we had an affidavit, the quota was not open. We couldn't come to the States.

And I then tried everything to get my mother and myself out. My mother was born in Czechoslovakia, so she was under a different quota than my brother and I were. And I registered for everything I could possibly find.

I registered to go on a Hashara (phonetic) to Israel; and by sheer coincidence, I heard there was registration in Vienna to get 10,000 Jewish children out of Nazi Germany. And somehow I managed to register for it, not knowing whether I had a chance; and fortunately, in April '39, I was able to get on the Kinder Transport.

That is after -- and I'm sure you heard the stories -- what happened on the 10th of November '38 in

Vienna. It is a night I shall never forget as long as I live. People were arrested left and right, and windows were smashed of Jewish stores, and synagogues burned, and many of our friends disappeared forever that night.

But anyway, getting back to the -- In April '39, I was fortunate enough to be notified by the Virdakurtistaminda (phonetic) that I'm one of the children that will get on that transport. And the day I left Vienna, I left with my number on here, number of the suitcase, and we came to the railroad station.

My mother took me, and all my uncles and aunts that were still in Vienna; and as we boarded the train, the SS troops were marching back and forth. And they said that if any jewelry or more than ten marks apiece is found on any child, the entire train will go to a concentration camp; so it was a beautiful sendoff.

And after I said goodbye -- While I was saying goodbye to my family, I saw a young woman -- And this is always on my mind, and I mentioned it at our reunion in London last year. I saw a young mother with a child standing, and as -- I was one of the bigger girls, and as I started to board the train, the mother came rushing up to me, a total stranger, and she handed me her, I would say, about a two- to two-and-a-half-year-old

child, a beautiful child.

And with tears in her eyes, she said to me, "Please take care of my baby." And the child was also part of the children's transport. She had a number and suitcase, and I always loved dolls. I loved children, and I took that little child, and I took her on the train with me.

Q. How old were you at that time?

A. I was about 15-1/2 going on 16, and I -- So I was considered among the big compartment.

And as I held the little girl, I -- she held on to me, and that's when the SS locked the doors, and all the windows were closed, and the train slowly pulled out of the station.

And I looked out the window. My mother was crying. My uncles and aunts were crying; but at that very moment, the mother of the little girl I held fainted, and that was the last I saw. The train pulled out, and the little girl held on to me.

And I -- Soon after we left Vienna, I realized that the girl was running a temperature, and I had to get a hold of -- We were being escorted. I had to get a hold of an elderly couple that were escorting us, and I asked them to take her. And she was running a

temperature. I think it was the excitement. And I've often wondered what has happened to that little girl. I don't know her name.

In fact, I didn't know anybody on the children's transport. I was in a compartment with more or less children all my age. I only knew one girl, whom I later saw in Chicago; and she has since died. But otherwise, I didn't know anybody.

Q. Did you get to know each other on the transport?

A. Well, it -- I made a personal vow to myself -- I didn't believe that I would make it out of Nazi Germany. It was April '39, and the train was going through Holland -- no, through Germany -- through Germany into Holland.

And I made a vow that I would not eat anything until I made it out of Nazi Germany, because the SS kept on running through telling us we may not make it. You know, they were very encouraging.

And I remember sitting in the corner, and I was hungry and tired and excited, and all of a sudden -- and this is always in front of my eyes -- I saw a gray uniform. I opened my eyes, and I saw a gray uniform.

And he mumbled something, and I jumped up, and I said, "What did you say?"

And he said -- he said, "Dutch Red Cross."

And that's when I jumped up and fell around -- I have always been very enthusiastic. I fell around his neck, and I spilled all the coffee and doughnuts he was holding. But I realized I was on the other side, and -- from Holland -- and this is all described from Holland. We went to Hookafallen (phonetic) and then over to Harrich (phonetic) and in the -- from Harrich to London.

And we arrived in London, and it was like two enemy camps. The children were all on one side, and the people that were waiting for us were on the other side. And we were called by numbers, and different women stepped up to the microphone on the other side.

And I remember a boy about 14 years old sitting next to me, and some woman stepped up, an English woman; and I guess he didn't particularly appreciate the way she looked. And he said, "If they call my name and number now, I'm not going." And sure enough, they called his name and number.

But I was one of the lucky ones. I was with an extremely nice family. It was a husband and wife. He was a retired headmaster, and she was a schoolteacher. They had three sons who, to this day, consider me their little sister.

Last year, when we were in London, they had a big celebration for us. And I have a very nice note from them here. They had three sons: one, a barrister; one, a solicitor; and the youngest, an M.D., who was still studying at the time I was there.

And so I was safely in England, my brother was in Chicago, and my mother was still in Austria. Getting back, from the moment I arrived in London, I tried to do everything I possibly could to get my mother out of Austria, to get my grandmother, who was in Czechoslovakia, and all our relatives who were in Czechoslovakia out of Czechoslovakia.

My uncles, who were still in Vienna, and my British family always laughed at me. They said I was the expert on all immigration visas, because all I did is stand in line here, there, trying to get my family out. Well, I did manage. My mother had her affidavit from my brother from Chicago, but she was Czech quota. So I did manage to get my mother out in August '39, just a few days before the war started; and she came to London.

Q. (Unintelligible)

A. And right after she arrived, the war started; and that we all know. And my British family evacuated me

from London, and I went through another sad experience, but at least I had them. And then by April -- February 1940, I left with another children's transport for the United States; and, once again, I had to leave my mother behind.

And here I want to tell a special story. I was at the American Embassy at One Crowner (phonetic) Square in London. I was finally called to come and have my medical. As you know, to come to the United States, even though you had an affidavit, and even though you had the right quota number, you still had to go through a health check. And all the children that were going on the children's transport, of course, had to have their papers in order; but we also had to be checked.

And I was very excited, and I was at the consul -- at the embassy in London. And we were standing in line for different checks, and I was in one line. I think it was the glaucoma line, and I stood there. I was crying.

And a gentleman came and put his arm around me, and he said to me, "Why are you crying? You should be happy, young lady, going to the United States."

And I said, "I am, but I'm leaving my mother behind."

And he says, "Well, let's see about that."

And he took me out of line and took me to another office, and I entered the office. And all of a sudden, there were two -- two or three gentlemen, the gentleman that took me in, plus his brother and his father were sitting there. And I guess you can tell, it was John F. Kennedy that took me out of the line in London, and his brother -- and the father was the ambassador to Great Britain. And it's the first time I had seen men sitting in an office with their legs on the desk.

And they said, "Well, what's the matter? Why did you bring her in?" they asked him.

And he says, "Well, she was out there crying, and I didn't like to see that."

And Old Man Kennedy asked me -- he says, "Well what's the problem?"

And I said, "I'm leaving for the States whenever this transport is together, but I'm leaving my mother behind."

And he says, "Why?"

And I said, "Because she's Czech quota, and they told me the Czech quota may not be free for another nine or ten years."

And so Old Man Kennedy got up; and he said, "Send for her file."

And my mother's file came in, and he looked through it. He looked at the affidavit. He looked when she had registered for the quota, and he got up -- I'll never forgot that. (Ms. Boddy stands.) He says, "Young lady, here's my word of honor that you'll get the first available Czech quota number; and now go out and get your tests." He stood during this. Sure enough, my mother followed me three months later.

Q. How wonderful.

A. Yes, it was. So I was very -- And I want to get back to last year. I don't know if you're aware, someone organized the reunion of the Kinder Transport. It was the 50th reunion, '39 to '89; and former Kinder came from all over the world. I found out about it by sheer coincidence. I did not know it was going to take place.

I have the vaguest -- If it had not been for my cousin from Cleveland, who came from Cleveland -- We met her in Southern California, and she came from Cleveland and showed me this paper (holding up paper). And she says, "Look. You came with the children's transport. Look at that." And that's when I got in touch and learned more about when the reunion was and everything else.

Former children came from all over the world, and they published a brochure, and the BBC took a lot of videos, and there's the lists published. And whatever else you want to know, it's all in the book.

Aside from my personal -- my family, my mother's family in Czechoslovakia, is completely wiped out. My grandmother, my uncle, my aunt -- aunts -- aunts, plural -- my cousins, they were all sent to Theresienstadt and never heard from again. Whether they died in Theresienstadt or whether they died in Auschwitz, I don't know.

I've been told -- I've been assured by others that my grandmother, at least, died a normal death, supposedly, in the arms of another inmate in Theresienstadt. Whether or not that's so, I don't know.

My husband and I have made several trips to Czechoslovakia where our family property is; and since no one returned from the entire Czech family, the property was left to my mother. My mother has since died, and the property then was left to my brother and myself. We are the only survivors; and, of course, as you know, there was the Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia.

When my husband and I were two years ago in

Czechoslovakia, I approached the authorities, because the people in the village where my grandmother lived just think the world of the family. And they were after us to go to the authorities, that things had eased up, and we should see what I could get from the property at this time.

And my husband and I drove to Peasik (phonetic), which is the government offices; and I walked in, and I wanted to say who I am. And the gentleman met us at the door, and he had a big file on our mass holdings there. And he said, "I know who you are. Just sit down."

And so I sat -- I speak Czech, incidentally, perfectly, because -- I never attended Czech schools, but thanks to my mother, I spent all my vacations in Czechoslovakia.

And I said, "I just want to know how much you are going to give us for our property."

And the gentleman put his arms like this (demonstrating), and he said, "I hate to tell you, it's no longer your property. It's our property."

That just about got me. And I did not exactly use choice words. I said, "The heck it is." And at that point, I got up; and I said to him, "Even if in my lifetime I shall never see my property again, one day my

children or their children will come back and claim what is rightly and justly theirs." And I told my husband, "Get me out of Czechoslovakia." We drove out that night, and I slammed the door in his face.

Well, things have changed since then; and I don't know what's going to happen to it, but -- It's -- It, too, went down the drain. Of course, we loft everything in Austria.

Q. What part of Austria did your mother's family come from?

A. My father was born and raised in Vienna, and we were born -- My mother is from the foot of the Bohemian woods from -- It's near Tabor (phonetic). It's in a beautiful area. I spent all my happy childhood there, vacations there.

And it's just very sad when you think that everything disappeared, and especially that my family, my entire -- My mother was one of four -- All her three sisters, husbands, my cousins, everybody gone.

And my father's family, fortunately, from Austria, all but one sister managed to get out; and that sister was sent to Auschwitz and also never heard from again.

Q. May I ask you a few questions? One of the things that I was wondering about was what it was like to grow

up in Vienna; and in that particular girls' school you were describing, was there any anti-Semitism among your classmates in the early 30's when Hitler came to power?

A. Well, Hitler was not in power in Austria till '38.

Q. I know, but, I mean, was there any overt expression of anti-Semitism during the time that he came to power in Germany?

A. Not that I, as a child, could perceive, not to that point, especially not since my father was very proud. And my father was an officer in World War I, and, well, the -- He was very proud of the fact -- He loved Austria. He never thought that anything could go wrong for our family as such, being honorable human beings and hard working; and he tried to raise us properly, and he came from a good family.

My mother came from a good family. And -- Well, she was from Czechoslovakia. She lived and worked in Vienna before she ever met him, and she spoke beautiful German. And, of course, my father was a veteran of World War I, and --

Q. Did you have any life as Jews? Did you at all go to Jewish holidays?

A. Oh, yes, indeed. My father --

Q. You had Jewish holidays?

A. Oh, of course, of course.

Q. But there was no sense among you, your parents, friends, as you grew up, that there was any danger?

A. Yes. Yes. Very good friends of ours living across the street from us, Shofers (phonetic), a family that lived across the street from us, decided to leave Austria, I guess, in 1933 because of anti-Semitic feelings they perceived. I wasn't aware of it at the time.

And, in fact, that particular family -- My father died, unfortunately, in 1934; and that family, in '35, invited me to join them in Glasgow, Scotland. And I spent a year in Glasgow with them, so there were many people who had that feeling.

My father, he had died; but I often wonder. He would have never left prior to -- He never would have thought it could possibly happen. I remember when I was growing up in Austria, we listened to what was going on in Germany; and people said, "Well, that's too bad, but it could never happen here."

During -- One thing that I would like to make a point is the reason my mother and I were so anxious to get my brother out, as you may know, the Nazis were arresting for no reason at all, especially young men;

and so we tried to get my brother out and succeeded in getting him out in August '38. Austria was invaded in March '38, and -- I wanted to make a point. All our friends disappeared into concentration camps and whatever. And -- I don't know. I was trying to make a point when I skipped now.

Q. During the 10th of November, when there was this trouble, Kristallnacht, what was your family's experience?

A. Okay. 10th of November I shall not forget as long as I live, because I was going to meet -- My brother was in Chicago already, and I was going to meet two of my brother's friends, who also considered me as their little sister. And I was going to meet two of my brother's friends to go to the American consulate early in the morning and find out how our quota number is doing and so forth.

And I left our house in Vienna early in the morning; and as I was walking down the street, my mother looked out the window, and she said to -- She commandeered me, "Come right back."

And I said, "Well, no. I'm meeting the boys."

She says, "No. You come right back."

And I went back, and that was the morning of the

10th of November. The two boys I was supposed to meet were both arrested and both sent to Dachau. I somehow, just because my mother insisted I come back, I escaped. And I stayed home that day; and, of course, they looted and smashed windows and arrested people left and right for no reason at all.

In a way, I count it as a blessing that my father did not live to see that day, that he was a very proud Viennese. He was born in Vienna. He was a very honorable human being. He served in World War I, and he would have never believed that this could happen, as most of us couldn't.

My mother, being born in Czechoslovakia, at one point after -- after Hitler marched into Austria, wanted to take my brother and me to live in Czechoslovakia with my grandmother and the family there. And as much as I used to love Czechoslovakia -- I spent all my summer vacations there -- I had that feeling I wanted to get out of Europe.

I just -- And it took me years. You know, it's a big hurt. It took me years to get back to Europe to visit my father's grave, because it's very hard. You grow up. You love a country. My parents -- My father was in World War I, and he had so much pride in Austria.

Both my brother and I attended private school, good education. And it was very hard and -- under the circumstances under which I lived, so many of our friends having been arrested and disappeared.

I just couldn't get myself to go back; and my husband finally, in 1974, took me back to Austria, and I delayed -- We went all through Europe, and I kept on delaying -- I just couldn't face it.

Q. I understand.

A. It was very hard for me. And then finally, in '74, we went back, and I -- It was very hard coming back to Vienna. I remember the circumstances under which I left when the Nazis locked us -- as I said, I left with the children's transport -- locked us in.

And now I can much easier go back, but I wanted to go back in '74 to visit my father's grave; and, incidentally, I also visited my grandparents' graves. My father's buried on the fourth -- We have four gates in Austria. My grandparents are buried on the first -- first door, whatever it's called, and which is completely devastated. Graves are knocked over. And it was only by coincidence that we even managed to dig it up and out. And I understand since we had the reunion in London that there are some groups that are trying to

have that restored. So it --

Q. What were your feelings when you went back?

A. The first time?

Q. Yes. Did you have any desire to see any of your schoolmates and wonder what happened to them?

A. Well, I went to my old school. I went to the best private school in Vienna, very expensive school. I went there, and they had me -- The principal of the school welcomed me and had me speak in front of different classes. She invited me to speak, and they were amazed how good my German is after all these years. So I said -- Well, it was a good school, once upon a time. It was considered -- It was ...(German)... Iberkassen. It was considered the best private school in Austria.

However -- And I'd like to say something here. A friend of mine, who's also from Vienna, was recently invited by her school to come back to Vienna. I made it a point to stop there. And the school had published -- I was really impressed by that. It did some research and published a number of books (handing paper), and they put up plaques in memory of all the Jewish children that disappeared. And I'm really impressed with that. So I have now --

Q. You want to translate that?

A. I have now written to my school -- I'm serious. I've written to my school, and I said they ought to be ashamed of themselves that they didn't do anything on that basis. And I'm still waiting for an answer, and they ought to be ashamed.

I understand this school put up memorial plaques for all the children that have disappeared, and the school -- You want me to translate this?

Q. I'd be interested.

A. Well, I think it is outstanding. My friend's school published a book, 1938 to 1988, called from ...(German)... Our -- How We -- How We Got Along With Our Past. Wouldn't you translate it that way? And it was published, and this is what impressed me, and I wrote to them by the Ministry for Education.

And this is a book I have recently requested they should send to me, too. So far, they have neither answered nor have they mailed me the book, but my friend brought it back.

And then her particular school published a book called ...(German)... which means --

Q. Meetings?

A. -- Meetings With Forgotten Ones, Disappeared Ones and Dispersed Ones. And I think her school deserves a

lot of credit to have gone to the trouble of publishing that book.

And I don't mind telling you, I wrote to my school, which was the most expensive private school in Vienna and considered the best school, high school, in Vienna, that they ought to be ashamed of themselves that they didn't do equally as well; but I have not received an answer.

Q. What was the percentage of Jewish children in the very good school? In other words, what is --

A. The percentage -- Well, as you know, Austria was mostly Catholic; and I remember we had -- twice a week, we had religion. And, well, the class broke up; and the Catholics went to have one hour with the priest, the Jews went to have one hour with the rabbi, and the Protestants went to have -- very small segment -- a class.

But at Iberkassen, the school I went to, most of the -- I would say half the class, they were without any religion. The parents told them they didn't want them to attend any religion, and they just had -- They were sitting in the classroom doing nothing for an hour while we attended our classes.

Q. And did you say it was ten percent or --

A. Jewish? In that -- In Iberkassen, oh, I would say, oh, about 30 percent. It was a very expensive school, and it was the most difficult school to get into. You had to pass an entrance exam in order to get in; and, as you may know, in Austria, we had four years of grammar school and eight years of high school.

Of course, I didn't finish my high school; but we had -- In order to get into Iberkassen, you had to pass an entrance exam, which miraculously I passed. I don't know how I did it, but I did; and it was a very good school to go to.

Q. Do you know any of the classmates of those -- of that 30 percent of Jewish children?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know if --

A. Oh, yes. I'm in touch with one in -- who lives now in Brakuslava (phonetic). Last year, in London, I saw two of them; and then there is one in San Francisco. It was considered the best school in Vienna.

Q. When you went back, did you have any conversation with any of the non-Jewish people there in regards to what happened?

A. Oh, excuse me. I want to add something. My girlfriend, who was invited by her old school, the one

that I just said, she was asked to speak in front of the school. The school established -- put up little plaques for all the Jewish children that disappeared, vanished, or whatever; and they had her speak in front of all the classes to tell what happened. Okay.

Did I have any conversation? Well, in all sincerity, I must say what eased it for me -- I delayed going into Austria when my husband took me in '74 for the first time. And we got on the train in Switzerland and into Innsbruck, and I still delayed. We stayed in Innsbruck for a few days. I just couldn't face going back to Vienna, because my leaving with the children's transport was so sad. I couldn't -- I just couldn't face it.

Actually, I'm one of the lucky ones, because I managed to get my mother out. Most of the children, as is in this book, that left with the children's transport that day never saw their folks again. So -- But they say the brave ones were the parents that let us go. The children, we went because, you know, it was our only way out.

But going from -- then from Innsbruck into Vienna, which was our last train ride, the only thing that made it easier for me on the -- in the compartment, my

husband and I were sitting -- There was a gentleman seated across from us, and he spoke English. I guess we were obviously Americans.

And the conductor came in, and I said something in German, and the gentleman looked at me, and he says -- Up until then, he had spoken English to us. And he says, "You're a native Viennese."

And I said, "How can you tell?"

And he says, "I can hear that."

Actually, I owe him a lot, because he made it easier getting into Vienna.

And he says, "What's more, I bet you went to Iberkassen, which was my school."

And I was just flabbergasted; and I said, "How can you tell?"

He says, "I can tell." I said -- He says, "You have the polished German, and I can just tell by your bearing and everything."

And this particular gentleman, I feel I owe him a lot. He talked to us on the way to Vienna, and the next -- He knew we had reservations in Vienna at a hotel, and the next day he phoned and said whether he and his wife could come and pick us up. And he came to pick us up with his car and his wife.

And I must have mentioned on the train where I grew up, where I lived; and he put us in the car, and he drove us to my old house. And he -- I feel I owe him a lot. I'm still in touch. It's Mr. and Mrs. Zeitz (phonetic). I'll mention the name. He has made it easier for me to return to Austria. I've since returned several times, but only because of him.

Otherwise, I wanted to visit my father's grave. He took me to my old house, and I want to the cemetery to visit my father, and I visited my old school. But I've -- But they have done absolutely nothing, and I wonder if my letter, now, that I have written, whether they will try to -- Lots of kids I went to school with have disappeared, vanished.

Q. This man, Mr. Zeitz, did he have any comments on what happened in --

A. Well, that's what I want to tell you. My husband and I, a year ago, when we returned -- Well, at that time, we just met him. He made it a personal crusade to apologize to me what happened.

But I didn't really know enough about him and his wife except I happen to be the mother of two sets of twins, and Mr. and Mrs. Zeitz also happen to have a set of twins, my claim to fame, their claim to fame.

And we were in Austria a year ago on my way to the children's transport reunion, and Mr. Zeitz -- I didn't know this. We met him in '74, and we have been close since. And they have really tried everything to -- They've sent me records from Austria and flowers.

We were in Vienna, and they invited us over, and he told me for the first time -- I did not know this -- that he was adopted, and he was adopted by a -- by a Mr. and Mrs. Zeitz. His father was -- His mother was Jewish. Is that correct? His mother was Jewish. Yeah, his mother was Jewish. And when -- His father tried to shield his mother when Hitler came to Austria.

And he also had his problems during -- until one day, his real mother showed up, who was a typical German girl, and tried to tell the world -- tried to tell the -- tried to tell his parents they should get her -- if they paid her off, she'll swear that his father was also a good German and that he's fully Aryan and so forth. And I understand that Mr. Zeitz's father threw him out -- threw her out. And he says that his mother was a top Nazi, and she -- He has many brothers and sisters all over Germany, half brothers and sisters; but he doesn't want to have anything to do with them.

And I feel personally I owe a lot to Mr. and

Mrs. Zeitz that I can face Vienna again. Now I can go back, and I can face it. The first time, it was extremely hard to go back. And this came out at the children's reunion, children's transport reunion, too. None of us could really face what has happened. This is 50 years later that we can think back and see what had gone on.

I was one of the lucky ones. I got out. I managed to get my mother out, and we all joined again together in Chicago. But for many of the children's transport kids, it was a sad time in London, too. I remember running into many of the young kids that I had seen on the children's transport. I didn't know them, but I -- And I used to say, "How is your family?" You know, we met in different places.

And they said, "What family? I'm on my third, fourth family in London."

They ran away. They wound up in orphanages. Very sad. Very sad.

Q. You were very fortunate you had a nice family in London --

A. That's right.

Q. -- to take care of you.

A. I still have them, yes.

Q. That's wonderful. You were blessed.

A. I think so. And they wrote me a very nice letter. I showed -- By sheer coincidence, my picture is in the brochure here. When we left Austria, when we were on the children's transport, I happened to be in the picture. I didn't supply it, but I recognize it. And I sent it to my --

Q. Which one is you?

A. The fourth one. This one.

Q. Uh-huh.

INTERVIEWER 4: Could you hold this up so it's in front of the camera so I can get a good shot? If you can point with your finger where --

A. (Pointing.)

INTERVIEWER 4: Thank you.

A. The family in London, I -- That was when I first -- I saw that picture in this newspaper, and I sent it to them. It's my British family, and they wrote back to me, "By the way, we agree about your being in the picture. We recognized you immediately. I must tell you also that your feelings about the Lewis family" -- that's my English family -- "is not a one-sided affair. We always, all of us, think of you with much love and feel lucky that you were the child

that came to us."

I think that's --

INTERVIEWER 1: Q. That's wonderful.

A. -- very nice after all these years. And this is how we arrived in England with (pointing) --

Q. You had some caretaker, some older people --

A. That were in charge of the transport; but then in London, we were met by our sponsoring families. And all that is shown in No Time to Say Goodbye, the movie I just mentioned that was on TV recently.

Q. And this two-and-a-half-year-old baby that the woman put in your arms, she also had an older person to take care of her? I mean, they did have caretakers on the --

A. There was a couple that was in charge. I handed her over, and I don't know whatever happened to her. I asked, but it's -- You know, it is -- I don't know if -- My children are all born here in San Francisco. As I say, I'm the mother of two sets of twins and first-generation Americans.

And I found that out at the children's transport. None of us have really been able to talk about what has happened. I don't think my kids ever realized until -- maybe until I went back to ...(unintelligible)... what

happened. I mean, it's -- the rug was pulled right under us.

My dad -- I had a very wonderful father. He thought he had secured our future. And he took out -- Just as an example, the day I was born, he took out a -- I think it was called the college fund or whatever. And, of course, everything was taken. And as sorry as I am that I lost my father so young, I'm glad that he died before Hitler marched over our borders, because it would have been very difficult for him to grasp that it's happening to us. He was a very proud Viennese.

And incidentally, I forgot to mention that -- Oh, my father -- I have that here -- My father was buried in Vienna. He died, as I mentioned previously, in 1934; and before my mother left Austria, she had the grave covered, because she figured there's nobody there to tend to the flowers.

And when I visited my father's grave, finally, after all these years, I hit upon the idea that I'd like to say something in memory of all my relatives that disappeared. And after we came back to the States, I was in correspondence with the Sentrafetofe (phonetic) in Vienna, and they suggested -- I was going to buy a special plot and erect a memorial, and they said I have

enough room on my father's grave -- And I did it all by mail, but it came out.

And I'd like to read this, because it's really special. Well, on top it says, ...(German)... and that's what we still put on; and in German, it says, ...(German)... which translated is, "To the most ideal, loving husband and to the kindest, most giving father in unending love." And that's all there was on it.

But then I got the idea, and I added to it. My mother was -- just died and is buried in Los Angeles, but I added to this, because I feel one day maybe my children or their children, they should know what happened.

And I put on there "Bertha Gruenwald," which is my mother, "nee Eisner." That's her maiden name. And then I put the date of her birth, and I wrote in German -- I mean, I had it written in German ...(German)... "1939. She immigrated in '39, and she died February 14th, 1960, U.S.A."

And underneath I wrote, ...(German)... "Beloved wife, mother and proud grandmother. Died and buried in Los Angeles." I wrote that in -- had that written in English, and I deliberately wrote it in English, "Further mourning dear relatives, victims of Nazi

atrocities." And then I went over to German, ...(German)... "Done away with but never to be forgotten," and then I listed all the relatives that disappeared, and underneath -- my name. And underneath, I wrote, "All perished in concentration camps, 1942 to '45. Lovingly remembered by close family in U.S.A."

Q. That's a wonderful idea. Can you see that?

INTERVIEWER 4: Why don't I get a shot of that at the end and any other photos? We'll get nice, full screen shots of them at the end.

INTERVIEWER 1: Q. Tell us -- Would you like to tell us a little bit about what happened after you came to America, you know, what your life was like when you met your husband?

A. I came with another children's transport to America, and during -- during the war; and, again, we were escorted. And I shared -- I came on the Jorjick (phonetic) British line and arrived in New York.

And my brother -- You know, I had no money. My brother sent me a letter. He knew I was on the way, but it was wartime. And he sent me a letter with railroad tickets to go to Chicago; and fortunately, it was delivered, even though it was delivered to me upon arrival. I was always an independent soul. I traded in

the railroad tickets for bus tickets, because a railroad ticket to Chicago, he had paid $28; and I could go by Greyhound bus for 16. So I figured I'm way ahead of the game.

So I went by bus to Chicago and stopped off in Cleveland where an American boy, Kosnis (phonetic), who later told me about the children's transport -- You see, it all falls into line. I stopped off in Cleveland to meet my American relatives, and she was a little girl then, but she remembered I came by Kinder Transport. So when she saw that in the Cleveland paper, she notified me now.

And I came to Chicago, and distant relatives, whom I didn't even know I had, had issued my affidavit. And when I arrived in Chicago, which was quite a different arrival from arriving in England, these distant relatives had a child, and they put me in the room with their little baby boy.

And my cousin's wife announced to me the first morning that she has a job for me. I can work as a maid for her friends, and I was absolutely devastated. This was my first morning in the United States in Chicago; and I was always very proud, and besides, I spoke English. I had just come from England.

I said, "Well, if I have to work as a maid, I'm sure I won't have any problems finding a job myself. Thank you very much."

And I -- all by myself, I took the elevated -- I don't know if you know Chicago. My brother was staying with other relatives, and my mother was still in London. And I got on the L, and I went -- I asked for downtown Chicago, which was the loop. I didn't even know where I was going.

And I went to downtown Chicago, and I went to the employment office, and I heard there was a job in a Jewish orphanage as a preschool teacher. And I went there, and it was the answer to all my prayers, because I could live there, too.

And I came home that afternoon to my new family in Chicago, you know; and they wanted to know if I wanted to take the job that she has for me. And I said, "No thank you. I'm moving today. I am going to be a preschool teacher in an orphanage in Chicago." And my -- the gentleman, who happens to be a dentist, he drove me that very afternoon.

I spoke to my brother, and he says, "How did you ever find downtown?"

I said, "Well, you know me. I find anything."

And this was just the blessing. I -- They paid me $10 a week, room and board, and they did all my laundry. Out of the $10 a week, I saved $9.90. I had no expenses whatsoever. In the evening, I went to Lakeview High School. This is where I met my best friend who went back to Vienna, but it was just wonderful. I had all my meals, and I couldn't have done better. $10 a week was very good in 1940, and they did my laundry. They did everything. I was -- I really enjoyed being there.

And then in -- I went to -- I used to walk to Lakeview High School in order not to spend any money for streetcar fare, but I saved enough money there that my brother and I, when my mother got the visa, we could send her the money to come to the States. Then my mother came, and we took an apartment. My brother and I took an apartment on the north side of Chicago.

And then I managed to get a job at Allied School Machine Company, a school of mechanical trades, which later became a war plant. But my English was good and my shorthand was good, and I was very lucky to get the job in Chicago.

Q. You were a family again?

A. Oh, yeah. We were a family again, and my brother and I both worked and saved our money.

A girl I met in Lakeview High School, who it so happens I didn't know her in Vienna -- she was also from Vienna -- and we became very close friends. And we later left Chicago, and we did it all under our own steam, though. We lived and worked in New York for a year and a half, and I worked for an import-export company. And then from New York, we left again and went to Florida and worked in Miami Beach, Florida, for a year and a half.

We were going to stay only one winter in Miami, but then we made -- Everybody told us the summers in Florida are terrible; and to me, it was a challenge, so I wanted to see what the summer is like. We stayed through another summer, and then we stayed another winter. And we saved our money in Florida, and we had enough money saved then to come to California.

And it took us eight weeks to get here. We crisscrossed the United States. We went by Greyhound bus, but they used to call us the unpredictable twosome. We crisscrosed the United States with the intention of coming to San Francisco, staying here for a year, and then going on to Alaska and Hawaii, working.

But both of us got married in San Francisco, and that was the end of the line. I've since been to Alaska

and Hawaii, but not with Lily, but we're still the greatest of friends. So this was funny. They called us the unpredictable twosome. We always charged ahead, and then I came up with two sets of twins.

Q. Unpredictability.

A. Yes.

Q. During the time you were traveling, your mother was in --

A. Well, my mother was in Chicago -- My brother -- During World War II, my brother was in the service. He was in Germany. He was in military intelligence because of his German. And he -- when Lily and I were in Florida, my brother was -- and her brother, too -- Both our brothers were in the service and in Europe. And my mother was in Chicago.

And later, my brother got out of the service, I think in '46; and then he went back to Chicago. And after Lily and I were settled in California, my brother managed to get a transfer from his company also to California. We were the trailblazers. And my mother and brother moved to Los Angeles. And my mother died in Los Angeles, but at least she did come to California. She -- It was her dream, but it was very hard for her. She lost all her family in Czechoslovakia, we found out

since. I have been looking.

I forgot to mention that my mother's youngest sister -- I have pictures at home -- was married in Yugoslavia. She lived in Zangreb (phonetic) and in Belgrade, later. They had a little girl, my cousin Yitika (phonetic); and the last we heard about them, they were put on a train in Yugoslavia that went through Prague. Our Czech relatives were still free at the time. And they were never heard from again.

My little cousin was four years old. After the war, my mother advertised for the little girl, because we figured maybe she survived, but even if she did, her name is Yitika Miller, and we have looked for her.

My husband and I went to Yugoslavia and have a picture of her. And I went to -- what did we go to? -- the Jewish museum or whatever, and I asked. But, of course, even if she did survive, she -- may I have a Kleenex? -- she may not even know her name. But all I can determine, chances are that she did not survive.

And it was very, very hard on my mother. She tried everything to find any survivors from her family.

Q. How did she adjust to life in America? Did she get into feelings of longing and --

A. Yes, but she was very sad about -- My dad thought

he had provided for us, and everything just went different. But we tried to create as good a life for her as we could.

And at least, as I found out at the children's reunion, I was one of the few children that saw her family again. Most of the children that left on that Kinder Transport never saw their parents again. And as they said, the brave ones were not the children that left; it was the parents that let us go.

And I think that's -- Of course, you know, my father always used to say, "You should know everything and need nothing." Well, he didn't know that I'll need everything and know practically nothing; but somehow I made it.

Q. Your husband is an American?

A. Yes. This is my second husband. I was married before, and I was divorced in 1960. I was married in San Francisco, and I have two sets of twins, and I raised them all by myself. And I worked hard, but I raised very nice children. And now I'm the grandmother of two grandchildren, a little boy and a little girl.

Q. Do you have pictures of your kids?

A. This is the kissing cousins, my grandchildren.

This is the logo, incidentally, of the reunion of

the Kinder Transport.

Q. You have a wonderful story.

A. It was just a few of the -- I don't know if you want to call them highlights of those events, but overall --

Q. What else would you like to share with us that you haven't given us in your brief outline? What would you like to fill in?

A. Well, I think -- We are -- Also, I found I had a picture of when I landed with the children's transport in New York.

Q. It's nice that you kept a scrapbook.

A. There have been a lot of articles published on the children's transport, of which many have sent me articles. See, there we have -- I have this (showing picture).

INTERVIEWER 4: We'll make photocopies of those articles after the interview. Sue, the way we've been doing this now with the second interviewer is at some point, you can toss it to them and see if they have any follow-up questions.

INTERVIEWER 1: Yes, I think that would be very nice. If you would like to --

A. Can I have -- I'm sorry.

Q. That's all right.

A. I don't know. I -- Whenever I think of those days, I become very emotional; and just that's, I guess, why I was -- But most of them, too, were unable to mention it for years.

INTERVIEWER 2: I have a couple of specific questions, if I could.

Q. Tell us a little bit more about how long you were on the Kinder Transport and how did you do on the Kinder, while you were actually on --

A. I fasted. I fasted till Holland. Oh, you mean the Kinder Transport coming to America from England? No, you mean the original one. I have no idea what the food was like. I didn't eat anything until I got into Holland.

Q. How many days --

A. Well, I think it was -- We went -- We left Vienna -- all day, all night and -- two days, and I think about -- It took about -- We went through Germany, and it took about two and a half days before we got to Holland. And then it was -- The whole thing was -- Then from Holland, we had to go by boat to Harrich and from Harrich to London, so it was about three and a half days later that I arrived at London.

Q. And the conditions were --

A. On the Kinder Transport? Well, scary, because we were told we were not supposed to have anything with us. You know, ten marks in those days was four U.S. dollars. That's all we had in the world.

And, of course, I could vouch for myself; but I could not vouch for the other kids that were sitting with me that they didn't have anything else. I had no idea. And they cautioned us that if they find anything at all, they would send the entire transport down the drain; so that's when I decided to fast.

INTERVIEWER 4: Q. Were there Nazis on the train or just chaperones?

A. Oh, of course. There were marching -- Well, there was one elderly couple. I think they were not not Nazis. I think they were a Jewish couple that were escorting us I think as far as the border. I don't think I saw them after Holland, but the Nazis were continually going through the train. Oh, indeed, in the black uniforms.

Q. Were they searching people for --

A. The children, no. They just reminded us what would happen.

But on the other hand, what I did not bring out is

my own personal experience. That's after my brother had left for the States. We managed to get him out. He left in August '38, and I remember I was sitting there typing a letter to my brother.

And our front doorbell rang, and my mother went to the door. And two SS men came in, marched in, pushed my mother aside, and walked straight to me -- and I can still hear it -- and pulled the paper out of the typewriter that I was writing.

And he says, "What are you doing?"

And I said, "Writing to my brother."

And he says, "We have to take the typewriter for tests to see if any anti-government material" -- You know, they'll use any excuse -- "was written."

And I can still -- the noise. We had a Royal typewriter, which was my mother's. And they pulled the paper out, and they took the typewriter and marched right out. And I can just see that -- And I can still hear it, how they did it.

And the next sad experience was my mother and I were home, and our front doorbell rang, and two SS men came in.

And they said to my mother, "Where are your men?"

And my mother, fortunately, had very good presence

of mind; and my mother said, "Well, my husband" -- and she proceeds giving them the grave number and where he is.

And he yelled at her, and then they wanted to know, "And your son?"

My mother said, "He's in America."

And then they went through the house. They looked behind all the pictures, whether we had any safes behind the pictures. And they stopped in front of our coal bin, which was halfway between -- between the kitchen and the maid's quarters. And he wanted to know what was in the coal bin. And to tell you the truth, we had some very important stuff in the coal bin.

And my mother stood there, and I opened up the coal bin, and I said, "Coal. You want some?"

And I knew what was in there. And fortunately, he took the first two pieces of coal and slammed it shut. And afterwards, my mother and I were standing there with our knees knocking.

And also -- I left out -- we had a car, a little Opal. That's when my brother was still in Vienna. This was shortly after the Anschluss. I guess it was in May of '38. I was looking out the window, and I saw that the car was moving. And I said to my brother, "How come

our car is moving?"

Two -- Well, two SS men went in, got in our car, and drove off; and we never saw it again. It was just very -- just like that. And same -- so that's --

INTERVIEWER 2: Q. I just have one other question. You mentioned a friend from high school that's now in San Francisco. Was this friend also a survivor, or did she --

A. Oh, yeah. She went with me to high school at Iberkassen in Vienna, but she didn't leave with the children's transport. She must have left with her parents. I don't know how she left.

Q. Would you give us her name, or if you know the name of any other survivors --

A. Oh, yeah. I will be glad to give you the names of the survivors. My best friend Lily, the one I met in high school in Chicago, who is from Vienna -- I did not know her in Vienna -- but we met in at Lakeview High in Chicago. And we became very close friends and have been close friends ever since.

And we were both -- We came -- We went to New York together, went to Florida together. We came to San Francisco together; and she lives in the East Bay, and I'll be glad to give it to you.

INTERVIEWER 4: Jackie, can you -- did you have some?

INTERVIEWER 3: Yeah, I do.

Q. Before you left on the Kinder Transport, would you and your mother tell each other things to reassure one another?

A. Well, I'll tell you, when Hitler first marched into Austria, our Czech family, my mother's family, told her she should come back to Czechoslovakia. She can get her Czech citizenship back. She was born in Czechoslovakia, and she should go to Czechoslovakia. And they wanted my mother, my brother and me to go to Czechoslovakia.

And I don't know. I just had a sixth sense, and I said, "I don't want to go to Czechoslovakia," which is a blessing in disguise. I used to love it. I spent all my summer vacations there. I said I wanted to get out of Europe.

So fortunately, we didn't go to Czechoslovakia; and, on the contrary, we begged them, our Czech family, to leave Czechoslovakia. And they didn't leave in time. They -- Like in Austria, they thought it could never happen to them.

My mother -- When I left on the children's

transport, she thought she'll never see me again. Most of the parents didn't. And when I left with the children's transport for the United States from England, she again thought she'll never see me again. It was wartime. But fortunately, she did.

Actually, it is my mother, on the 10th of November -- As I mentioned before, I was going to leave early in the morning to meet two of my brother's friends and go to the American consulate in Vienna to find out how my quota number stands.

And I was already waltzing down the street when my mother told me from the window to come back; and I said, "No, I'm meeting the two boys. We are going to" --

And she told me, "You come right back."

And I went back, because she heard on the radio on the 10th of November what was going on.

The two boys that I was supposed to meet in front of the American consulate or, rather, embassy in Vienna, they went there. And both of them were arrested and wound up in Dachau and later went to Buchenwald. So I was very lucky my mother called me back, because I would have been right with them.

Many of the kids that I grew up with, people that I know, have disappeared, vanished, concentration camps.

I know several that -- One of the boys that went to the concentration camp on the 10th of November, he now lives in Chicago. And he got out of Dachau because his brother sent him an affidavit to the States, and he managed to get out. But most of them didn't come back.

You know, it's a very hard thing -- You're raised and you grow up in a country, and you think you have the future by the tail. Your parents are responsible people. You have a good education. And suddenly, overnight, the rug is pulled right under you.

What I mostly remember is the night in March '38 when Hitler marched into Austria. My brother was much older than I am. He was staying up all night yelling, "The world won't allow it."

That night, several of my brother's friends phoned him; and they said, "Why don't we load your car?" As I mentioned before, we had a car. "Let's beat it."

And my brother said, "No way. The world won't allow it."

The world did allow it. So in a way, I counted it as a blessing that my dad, who loved Austria more than anything else, didn't live to see this, because he would have never believed that it could happen to him, being a veteran of World War I.

Q. What did you hang on to to give you the strength to make it through the Kinder Transport and all the changes?

A. Belief in myself. I learned at a very young age that you have to rely on yourself. I am the one that registered for the Kinder Transport. I just found out these things. And in London, my family admired me because I knew about all the requirements and tried to help everybody. I always tried to be aware of what's going on. I had the firm belief that I can make it, and no matter what. And somehow I've always been -- I always feel if I hit rock bottom, there's only one way, and that's to go up.

In 1960, when I divorced my husband, I was there with two sets of twins; and I was married to a totally, utterly and completely irresponsible human being. And I knew it was up to me. And I worked hard. I had three jobs, but I raised four very nice children. And they grew up very nicely. So I always feel you have to rely on yourself.

And I made up for all the hard times in my second marriage. I have a wonderful husband. I'm married now for -- I don't know -- 19 years to my husband. And he often says he doesn't know how I did it when I was alone

and with the kids, but he says I guess I didn't sleep very much. But I did it anyway.

I worked as a secretary during the day, executive secretary; and I worked at night for the famous Flor Elise (phonetic) Restaurant in San Anselmo. Mademoiselle Elise of the Flor Elise -- and very often I can walk in San Francisco, and people will say to me, "Mademoiselle Alice." And Messieurs Charles was very good to me. And on weekends, I did process-serving. I did very well.

INTERVIEWER 1: Q. Who took care of your children while you were working?

A. Well, I had girl from College of Marin living in, Sally, who was very nice. She did -- And as all my co-workers, I'm very friendly with everybody I've ever worked with or had any association with. I get along well with people.

They have told my husband -- I used to -- From the office, I used to call home and say, "Did you read Time magazine yet? Have you done your homework?" And I discussed -- And I would -- The children all learned at a young age to cook, and I would cook by remote control. Whosever turn it was had to put it on and do it.

And, you know, as I always say, my father always

said, "You should know everything and need nothing." He didn't know that I'll need everything and know nothing, but somehow I made it. I did very well.

I was interested in what my children were doing, and I'm very sports oriented. I still am. I exposed the children to many worthwhile activities, which they still pursue.

INTERVIEWER 3: Q. Do you enjoy talking with your children about your experiences?

A. Well, as I said, I never really; and I found that out at the reunion. I never really mentioned it. None of us could face it for years. You know, you just ignored it. The children knew I was born in Vienna, Austria, but not too many of the details.

Since I went to the children's reunion, I bought a book each for my two grandchildren; and they're mentioned in here, too. I had to mention. And I have -- I told them to give it to the children; and one day, maybe they'll understand so that they should know.

It's much easier for me now to talk about it than -- as it even mentions in No Time to Say Goodbye. 20 years ago, I couldn't quite talk about it.

And it's -- By the same token, it's -- The very first time my husband took me back to Vienna, it was

very, very difficult for me. Now I can go back and face it much better. But I feel that many have that identical feeling.

And I still feel that my old school -- and I have written to the board in Vienna -- should do as well as Lily's school did and put something up in memory of all of us that went there and that disappeared and vanished.

INTERVIEWER 4: Q. If I could ask a couple of questions.

A. Sure.

Q. You mentioned the scare you had with the SS going through your coal bin and there was something hidden in there. What was it that was hidden in there?

A. Okay. I'll tell you exactly. I'll tell you exactly. Okay. My father had died in '34 and had life insurance with New York Life. When it -- My mother was left with two children, and when my mother went to collect the life insurance -- This is in -- dates back to 1934. She was told -- He was insured for 40,000 gold dollars. And she was told at the time that he left out one word in the life insurance policy, and that is "irrevocably to my wife Bertha," which, of course, was ridiculous. And they offered her half, and my mother refused to accept half and took New York Life to court

in Vienna, and it dragged on and on and on. And to make a long story short, my mother finally won in 1938. In February of 1938, she won; and she was paid 40,000 gold dollars.

As you know, Hitler marched in. Within no time at all, they came to demand the money. My mother had a safe. She had put that money into the safe, not into the bank. We got the money right after Hitler marched into Austria, and she kept some money at home, fortunately; and that's the money that was in the coal bin because we had to pay to get out of Austria.

The Nazis -- That's after my brother left. A couple of SS men marched us to the bank where my mother had the safe. And in Austria, bank accounts and safes, you have to have a secret word. And my mother's secret word -- that's something I won't forgot -- was furmeinkinder (phonetic), for my children.

And, well, we had to go and open the safe; and my mother had to say, "for my children." And the two SS men went in, and they cleaned out the safe, money and all. And I was a youngster, and I thought it was ironic that she should say "for my children" and two SS men walk off with our money. So the last of that money was in the coal bin, and that's where we were.

When that -- The Nazis would arrest you for anything, let alone if they had found that little bit of money that was in the coal bin. But fortunately, they didn't, so we managed to get us out of Austria. Otherwise, we wouldn't have had any.

Q. What was the physical form that these gold dollars were in? Was this some kind of check draft, or was it actual cash bills?

A. Oh, well, no. It was -- The insurance read "in gold dollars," but when my mother finally was paid, she was paid, I'm sure, in shillings, in Austrian shillings. The insurance was called "gold dollars." It's just unfortunate that the timing was when Hitler came.

And, of course, they also -- Let's see. My father -- I didn't know enough of the details. My father had some stocks, French stocks and bonds or something; and that was in the safe. And we had to order the money back to Austria; and they took that, too.

They -- Oh, I forgot to mention one thing. That's after my brother had left. My mother -- We knew we were going to leave. I guess I was already scheduled for the children's transport, and my mother was advertising for furniture for sale, and she wasn't home.

I was home, and the family came and bought our kitchen furniture, paid me for it and -- my mother wasn't home -- and took the kitchen furniture. And that same evening, they came back and got all the money back with a couple of SS men. That's how successful I was in selling our kitchen. Well, you know the story. I'm so proud of myself that I'd sold the kitchen. Well, it didn't last very long.

Q. You mentioned on the transport that you fasted for two and a half days, and you sort of link that to the SS threat, that they would punish people if they found any --

A. That's right.

Q. -- goods. I didn't quite understand the connection between that threat and the fasting for two and a half days.

A. I made a personal vow to myself. If I'm -- I will fast until I make it out of Nazi Germany. I somehow had the feeling that while I tried, that I'll never make it out. This was over a year later. Austria was invaded in March '38. This was '39, April '39. I had been registered all over the place, and I had an affidavit to come to the States, but the quota number wasn't open. I really didn't believe in it anymore.

When we were on that train and I saw how they talked and so many people had disappeared already, that I wasn't quite sure, and I -- I was so scared. I had the equivalent of ten marks, which was four American dollars. That's what we were allowed. Ten marks were four dollars at the time.

And I had a couple of British coins on me, and I got so scared that I threw them out of the train as the train was going. They didn't even amount to anything. They were maybe a dollar's worth, but I was just afraid, because they kept on emphasizing. And, of course, no jewelry was allowed.

Q. Do you think if they had opened some child's shoe and found a piece of jewelry that they would have sent the entire train --

A. I'm positive. Yes. Yes, indeed. Yes, indeed.

Q. You've told us some very interesting personal stories of encounters with the SS. Do you have a couple more stories like that you could tell us, anecdotal episodes?

A. Well, I'll tell you something -- And I have the full name here, too. I tried to remember. As I mentioned, our -- my whole life, actually, is always priorities. And my priority after the Anschluss was to

get my brother out.

And even though he had an affidavit to come to the United States and he was registered for the quota in time -- he registered in March of '38 -- you needed an exit visa out of Austria. And for that, you had to stand in line. And I didn't want my brother to stand in line, being a young man and having served in the Austrian army.

So who goes, I stood in line. And in order to stand in those lines, you had to be there at 2:00 in the morning. I stood in line together with everybody else. You had to get the income tax department and all sorts -- It was six different exit visas. And I just -- I was always a little -- spunky, little girl. I just stood in line.

I stood in line once, and my mother used to come around 6:00 o'clock in the morning and bring me something to eat, because I started -- And I'd successfully managed to get all his exit visas, but there I stood in line. My mother had just come. I remember that my mother had come to bring me some food.

And all of a sudden, I'm taken out of line by a uniformed Nazi official; and he grabs me by the hand and takes me in front. And my mother was terribly worried;

and then I said to him, "There's my mother."

And he made her sit down, and he said to me he wants me in front of the line. I don't have to stand in the back of the line. And he called me by name; and I said, "How come you know my name?"

He said, "I made it a point to know your name."

Well, to make a long story short, I was in -- That particular -- That particular day, I was taken ahead of all the other people and managed to get the stamp for my brother to go. And he had my mother sit comfortably while she was waiting for me.

And three days later, we received a letter in our house addressed to me; and I memorized the name for the record. His name was SS Shtaferman Rudolph Brayer (phonetic) ...(German)... He writes in there, he was in -- he was very impressed with me. Well, and he was in a motorcycle accident, and he was in a hospital. Would I come and visit him.

My mother was so upset when she saw that letter. She tore it into pieces. And we went up and down and threw each little piece into the gutter on the street near where we lived. But I tried to memorize that name, so he -- that was --

Q. Did you have any interaction with him after this?

A. I should say not. I left shortly thereafter. No. He wrote -- My mother said he wrote a couple more letters. He wanted -- Yeah, he wrote me in the letter that I should not be afraid to come and see him, and he is -- He knew, of course, I was Jewish; but I guess it didn't faze him in the least. And he says, "Please come and see me," and he wants to see me and so forth. Well, I didn't.

Q. How do you understand the apparent contradiction in his behavior from his point of view? Can you make some guesses about it?

A. Well, he said to me -- He said that to me when he pulled me in front of the line. He says -- Even though he was not a soldier, he was in a Nazi uniform. As I say, he was part of SS De Fuhrer, which I think was one of the elite representatives of that group.

But he says, "I come from Germany; and in Germany, we have long since dealt with the Jewish problem. I don't feel that way." That's what he said.

Q. And what do you think he meant by that?

A. Well, he just wanted to have some fun with me. I was a young, innocent girl. And he must have seen me standing in line night after night. I don't think this was the first night he saw me. I doubt it. I did this

for days, for weeks. And he just figured that he'll have some fun. In the meantime, he was in a motorcycle accident, so he thought it would be nice if I came to visit him.

INTERVIEWER 1: Q. How much older was your brother than you were?

A. Six and a half years.

INTERVIEWER 4: Q. Do you have another story about contact with the SS that you could tell us? We'd really like these individual anecdote sort of things?

A. Well, my uncle had -- My uncle Kalgrenvot (phonetic) had the finest leather good manufacturing place in Vienna. He was known practically all over the world. He used to export to Sacks 5th Avenue. He had a retail story and a factory wholesale store. My brother worked for my uncle; and, as I say, it was the finest leather goods in Vienna.

And shortly after the Anschluss, my brother was hauled out of the store to write on the retail store, on the windows, in large -- you must have seen the pictures of that -- in large letters, with paint, "Juden" on my uncle's windows.

And my brother was criticized at the time that the handwriting wasn't very good; and he says, "Well, I've

never done it before." He at least retained his sense of humor.

But my uncle -- and I want to reemphasize again, he was one of the most respected, well-known businessmen worldwide in Vienna -- was hauled out of the store -- it was shortly after the Anschluss -- to come and scrub the streets.

I don't know if any of you have seen the movies of what went on in Austria. Austria was just before election time, and we had "Vote for Shushick" (phonetic) all over the streets. And some young hoodlums, because they had a uniform on, took it upon themselves to have fun.

Incidentally, that's very well portrayed in Friendship in Vienna. It's a movie that was on TV not too long ago, and they show all this.

And anyway, my uncle was asked to come along by an SR man. That's in brown uniform. And he was brought to a place where they had on the sidewalk "Vote for Shushick," you know, regular propaganda. And as my uncle was kneeling down to scrub the floor together with all other prominent businessmen in that particular neighborhood, the young -- I'll call him hoodlum -- told them to -- They had to bring toothbrushes; I forgot to

mention that. He told them to scrub the street with toothbrushes. And then he had the entire group stand up and say together, ...(German)..., which means "We thank you for the nice work." Very sad. Very sad to see that happen.

INTERVIEWER 1: Q. What are your feelings about the Austrians capable of such unbelievable inhuman --

A. I'm glad you asked that. I really -- I really -- Within my heart, I could not forget or forgive.

Mr. Zeitz, who we met on the train, has made it much easier for me, because he has made it his personal crusade. And I forgot to say something. When we were in Vienna last year, Mr. and Mrs. Zeitz invited us over to their house. They have a beautiful home in the suburbs of Vienna. And they invited -- they happen to have a set of twins, grown, a son and a daughter -- over to the house.

And I mentioned, while we were having dinner, very formal and very nice, I mentioned -- I had this paper along from Cleveland, and I mentioned there that I'm going to my children's transport reunion.

And the son, who is a schoolteacher -- He's more than a schoolteacher. He's now at the Ministry for Education, a very nice young man. While we were having

dinner, he was very much interested in hearing about this. And he suddenly turned to and on his parents; and he said to his father, "How could you permit something like this to happen? Where were you when this was happening?"

And, you know, Mr. Zeitz, who has been so nice and so bent over backwards, and the father was -- And he says, "What do you want from me? I was 15 years old. What could I do -- "

And he says, "But how could you live with yourself? How could you permit this to happen?"

And he turned on his mother, too; and he says, "Where were you when this was happening?"

And she says, "I was going to school."

And he says, "Well, why didn't you stop your parents?"

He really -- I mean this -- I must say, whereas Mr. Zeitz turned to us, and he says, "My son and I just don't see eye to eye."

And actually, Mr. Zeitz himself was an adopted child; and, as I say, he was adopted by a Jewish mother. And he himself -- But the son, I was happy to see that the new generation can see through a bit of what happened. And I think -- I think the new generation,

both here and over there, should be made aware of what can and what has happened.

I often think whether my dad ever, in his wildest dreams, thought what happened could happen. Never. I mean, it was un -- Nobody -- I remember at home, we used to -- my parents used to talk about what's going on in Germany. And people talked about it, but then they forgot. They forget. That's over there. It's another country; it can't happen here. But it can, and it did.

And I'm sorry that it -- It hurts me to think of the many people that died innocently. Many of the children I went to school with, I don't know where they wound up or how they wound up.

And even getting out was very hard. It was hard in England for many of the kids. I was lucky, in that I was with a nice family. Many of the children I used to run into at Bloomsbury (phonetic) House in London -- and I said, "How is your family?"

And they would say to me, "What family? I'm on my fourth family," or they wound up in orphanages.

But as was brought out, we all made out well, because we knew we had to rely on ourselves; and that's the only way, anyway, to face realty.

INTERVIEWER 4: I still have a couple more

questions, if I may. Let me roll the tape for five seconds for an electronic track, and then I will turn it off.

Q. Can you tell us what your earliest memory of anti-Semitism is, when you first encountered that as a thing in life?

A. In school.

Q. What form did it take? Can you tell us a little bit about that?

A. In Austria, we had to have -- Religion was part of the school system; and the way it was divided up in school is that twice a week, the priest would come to school, and the Catholic kids would go to Catechism. The Jewish kids would have a rabbi there and take them -- It was all -- It took place during the same hour, but we would go to different classrooms. There were very few Protestants in Austria; and the rest were nonbelievers, and they remained in the classroom.

But somehow, some of the teachers in our school were very, very pro-Nazi, and they would know exactly which were the Jewish children, at least we felt. Especially, I remember my English teacher, Professor Bittner (phonetic), who was against all Jewish children in the classroom and gave us very poor grades, whether

we deserved it or not and emphasizing, which was not up to her at the time, how nice it would be to have a greater Germany.

Q. And how did you come to understand that this was anti-Semitism? I guess you'd done well in the class, and then you looked at your report card and you had a D or a C and --

A. Yeah. We had 1, 2, 3, 4. 3 or a 4. That's right. You -- You could sense that. You knew you were being discriminated against.

Q. How old were you at this time?

A. When I first sensed this?

Q. Yes.

A. Well, we start high school -- See, it's different from here. We only have four years of grammar school, and then I had to pass an entrance examination, as I said, into Iberkassen. So I was ten when I started going to high school.

Q. And what about, did you experience any anti-Semitism from other students in the school?

A. Yes.

Q. What form did that take?

A. Just in remarks, in thoughtless remarks. That's prior to Hitler. Thoughtless remarks.

Q. What sort of thoughtless remarks? What do you mean by "thoughtless remarks"?

A. Generalization. "The Jews are no good." "The Jews are crooked." "The Jews have caused the problems in Austria." And I don't know. The way I was raised is never to generalize anything and to stick to a subject, and I used to hate that.

Q. Those were remarks made by your fellow students?

A. Oh, yeah, definitely.

Q. Repeating their parents?

A. That's it exactly. That's precisely.

Q. Do you recall in 1933, when Hitler came to power in Germany, do you recall in your environment in Austria the response of the adults or people in the environment to that?

A. Well, as I mentioned, I was young; but I remember my dad being very worried about Germany but strongly feeling it could never happen here. He loved Austria. He was a World War I veteran. He was born in Austria. His parents were born in Austria. He took great pride in his country and thought he had carved out a good future for his children.

Q. Was your family in your childhood a religious family?

A. Yes, but modern religious, I would say, not in the black coats and the sideburns. No. In fact, I have a picture here of my --

Q. Would you say that your family was assimilated into Austrian society?

A. Definitely.

Q. You thought of yourself as Austrians before you thought of yourself as Jewish?

A. Yes, I would say so. That I would say so.

Q. Could you tell us a little bit about the period in London during the war? I take it you were there during the bombing and air raids?

A. Well, I was there from April '39. That's when I came to London, and I left in February 1940. So I was just there from April '39 to 1940, not two --

Q. Ten months?

A. Yeah. And the day I left, you know, it was wartime. And first of all, my British family took me along to Woolhampton (phonetic), which is between Redding and Newbury, a day before war broke out, because we piled all our belongings -- not all our belongings -- minimum belongings, and we left London because there was the scare that London would be bombed. And after being out there for about six weeks, we returned to London, as

did everybody else.

And when I finally knew I'm going to go to the States, the American embassy advised me that I should have my steamer trunk packed, and they were to pick it up. It is wartime, and they cannot tell me whether I'll leave in a week, in two weeks, in a month, or maybe a year; but I will be going to the States with the next available children's transport.

And so my steamer trunk left, and I was only left a small suitcase. And one night, they came knocking on my door, and they told me to be at Victoria Station at 7:00 o'clock the next morning. And I wanted to say goodbye to everybody; and I asked Mr. Lewis, my British family, to bring my little suitcase to Victoria Station, and Mr. Lewis said he would.

In the meantime, I forget -- was it the V-1's or V-2's that were flying against London? And I heard on the radio -- I was saying goodbye to my mother, who lived someplace else. She did not stay with the same family I lived with. And I heard that --

(END TAPE 1.)

(BEGIN TAPE 2.)

A. When I came to Victoria Station, I'll never forget that Mr. Lewis was sitting on top of my little suitcase calmly smoking a pipe. And enthusiastic as I always was, I ran in; and I said, "But Mr. Lewis, you are here?"

And he looked at me; and he says, "I said I'd be here, didn't I?"

They could have blown him to bits; he would have come down from heaven to bring my suitcase to Victoria Station. He was hurt that I even questioned that he was there.

Q. Did you go to school while you were in England?

A. In London, no. All I did is stand in line at different consulates trying to get my family out. No, I had no time.

I had to -- I was in England before, though. I had gone to school in England. My parents always believed in foreign education. My parents -- After my dad died, my mother sent me for one year to Glasgow, Scotland. I was in Scotland '35, '36; then came back to Vienna 'in 36 and then spent the summer of '37 with a French family so I would learn French; came back to Vienna in time for school in '37. And in '38, Hitler marched in, so I was in Vienna at the wrong time.

Q. Just to duck back to your childhood for a moment, was your social circle of friends as a kid exclusively other Jewish kids, or did you have a big circle of friends?

A. Oh, definitely a mixed circle of friends. Definitely.

Q. It was based in your school?

A. And neighbors, neighbors. Plus, as I said, we were brought up by ice-skating and skiing and you name it. I was exposed to a lot of music lessons. I was exposed to a lot of various and different activities where I met people and had friends.

Q. Let me ask you: It sounds like, as a child, you came from a fairly affluent and privileged environment.

A. That's correct.

Q. And then later on in your life, after your divorce, for example, as a single parent raising four kids and working three jobs, that you had a much more difficult sort of economic environment.

A. Indeed.

Q. I was just wondering what your feelings were about that and what kind of adjustments you had to make in your own emotions and mind about your situation.

A. Well, actually, my adjustment -- My entire world

changed since Austria -- since Hitler marched into Austria, because when I went -- when I came to England, I arrived with 10 marks, which was the equivalent of $4.

The British put in our passports, "No work paid or unpaid while in the United Kingdom"; so even if I had wanted to, I could not work in England. The family I lived with gave me 5 shillings a week as pocket money so I'd have some money to come around with.

I came to the States with absolutely nothing. My brother sent me the ticket to get to Chicago, and -- but fortunately, I started to work right away and saved my money; and I've been working ever since.

Q. Did you have to have a talk with yourself about how there was a new game as far as what you had to do in your life?

A. I'm very self-reliant, and the new game started when I came to England. That's why I had a good adjustment to being with my family. To this day, they write me nice letters, and they consider me as their child, but I did not take advantage of them.

And I feel you have -- And I've tried to do -- to raise my children accordingly. Whenever they had a problem, I used to say, "Well, what are you going to do about it?" Actually, nobody else can solve your

problems but yourself, and --

Q. When you -- You may have alluded to some of these things earlier. Excuse me if I'm going over old ground.

A. That's all right.

Q. When you went back to the reunion in London last year, did you encounter people who you remembered specifically from the transport?

A. No. As I said, I didn't know anybody on the transport. I just happened to be assigned to that particular transport because, fortunately, I did register with the main woman who was in charge, which I have all in my notes here.

But the only one I knew is another girl. Her name was Lutzi Lutzner (phonetic), and she was in my compartment going to London. And by sheer coincidence, I met her again on the Kinder Transport going from England to the United States. And she, too, was going to Chicago, but unfortunate -- She was the only one. Her father always, when he saw me, he used to call me "Hello, Kinder Transport." But she died of polio many years ago in Chicago. And that's the only one I really knew.

But in here are lists of different children, but I didn't really know anybody on that transport. On the

other hand, I'm still in touch with girls I went to high school with in Vienna, and we have visited with them, but they didn't leave as I did.

Q. I think you may have mentioned this earlier, but what was it that your father did? What was his business?

A. Oh, no. Nobody asked me.

Q. Nobody asked you?

A. No. My father was with Levor (phonetic) Brothers which, in Vienna -- You know, it's an international cartel. Are you familiar with what Levor Brothers is?

Q. The soap?

A. Uh-huh. In Vienna it was called ...(German). In fact, it's a very romantic story. My father was in charge of their big manufacturing plant outside -- in the suburbs of Vienna. And my mother came as a young girl to Vienna from Czechoslovakia, and she worked as a foreign correspondent for that company, but she worked in Vienna.

And later on, the offices and the manufacturing plant were combined. And my father, being at the head of it, was standing outside welcoming the group's arrival. And he asked his assistant, "Who is that attractive, dark-haired girl over there?"

And his assistant answered him, "That's the Czech gal you always talk to on the phone and you can't stand."

He had only heard her slightly Czech accent. She spoke German perfectly, but she had a Czech accent. That's the first time he had met her. I guess he had talked to her for a couple of years on the phone. They were later married, and it was a very happy marriage.

INTERVIEWER 1: Q. Is this your mother?

A. That's me. And they had a very happy marriage.

INTERVIEWER 4: Q. And he died of what?

A. Cancer.

Q. Cancer?

A. Yeah, unfortunately. And actually, my world ended when my father died. He had all sorts of plans for us for the future and had paid into college insurance funds, and he encouraged -- You know, when I went for the entrance exam at Iberkassen, you know how older brothers are. My brother said to me, "Why bother going there? You'll never pass the entrance exam."

And my dad says, "Go ahead and do it"; and I did.

But he was an exceptionally wonderful person, very much liked.

Q. Let me ask you one final sort of reflective

question here. How would you say that your experience with the Holocaust ended up affecting your life and sort of your behavior and conditioning, the way you lead your life and sort of principles of your life?

A. Well, all I can say is it has changed my life. My life wouldn't have been as hard as it has been. But on the other hand, I -- And I try to emphasize, one should live in the present and be aware of what is going on. You cannot go on wishful thinking in anything. You can't say, "It'll work out somehow."

You have to be self-propelled, and you have to make every effort. And I feel that decency and consideration and education and awareness, in the long run, pay off. It's the old story. Whatever it is, do it. Don't just talk about it; do it.

Q. Is there anything else you'd like to add here that we haven't touched upon? We'll get some shots of these photographs when we finish this part of the interview here. Are there any other episodes you'd like to talk about or general thoughts you have?

A. Well, I fail to see how anyone can have the audacity to deny that the Holocaust really has happened. There's still many of us living who were witness to it.

And I'd like to say -- I'm sorry I didn't bring

that -- my brother was with the American Army with the Seventh Army in Europe when they liberated Dachau, the concentration camp; and he took pictures the day Dachau was liberated.

And when they found 80 boxcars full of dead people -- I have it in my album at home. And it was such a sickening sight that my brother, who's strong, and he was an American GI, the next thing -- He mailed me those pictures; and the next thing, I was notified by the American Red Cross that my brother wound up in the hospital.

He was not wounded. He was so sick at seeing -- They found 80 boxcars of dead people that were just bones, and it just made him sick. I think he spent two weeks in the hospital. He asked the Red Cross to notify me, rather than my mother.

And I have since been to Europe and gone to Dachau. And, in fact, my brother was in Europe at the time; and he drove us to Dachau. And I wanted to go in; and my brother said to me, "I'm sorry. I can't go in. I'll wait for you outside," because he remembered what it was like when he saw it.

And the one thing -- I mean, I know a lot of people that disappeared in Dachau and in Buchenwald; but

what hurts me very much is my Czech family. My husband finally took me back to Czechoslovakia -- I forgot to mention that -- where my mother -- where I spent my childhood, happy summers, Easter, Christmas vacations, school vacations, where I learned to speak Czech.

And the first time we came to Czechoslovakia to Drakovitz (phonetic) was in '74; and, of course, you know, children remember. There are things you do remember very well. And I -- We rented a car in Prague, and we drove.

And as we turned into Drakovitz, the village where I spent my happy childhood years, I looked around for my grandmother's residence, and I did not recognize it. And we saw a grocery store in the middle of town, so I told my husband, "Hold the car."

And I ran into the grocery store; and as I walked in, I didn't even open my mouth -- this is in 1974 -- there were a few women standing in line buying bread or whatever. And I walked in, and one gal looked at me, and she held a loaf of bread in her hand and dropped it. And she screamed, "Litsinka!" (phonetic) She recognized me after all these years.

And the woman behind the counter immediately fell around my neck and started to cry and said to me, "I

should be paying you rent."

And I said, "Why should you be paying me rent?"

And she says, "I'm in your house."

Okay. The Communists had made a grocery store out of our living room. That's why I didn't recognize the house; and, indeed, she was in my house, and she -- my grandmother's house, which is mine now.

And she -- All the people that were standing in line, half of them were former kids I used to play with. And you asked whether we associated with non-Jewish people. These were all non-Jewish. But whenever I came to Czechoslovakia, the whole group, including the priest, used to stand in front of my grandmother's house and wait for Litsinka, because all I did is change my city clothes, and I became one of the kids. And to this day, they think the world of my Czech family.

Well, anyway, we -- after we came to that store, I ran out, and I told my husband that this, indeed, is my house. I just didn't recognize it. Not everybody has a grocery store in the living room.

And we were invited to see the people across the street. They invited us for lunch. And as we were sitting there, different people appeared including an, I would say, 80-year-old man. And he knelt down in front

of me and kissed my hand; and he says, "You know, I used to work for your grandfather, and you used to bring me soda water in the fields."

And then they took me -- And then several people came in Drakovitz, and they brought -- they all told me their stories. And they remembered me very well, my brother, my mother, my dad. And then they took me by the hand and took me across the street; and in front of the World War I memorial, where, as children, we used to play, the citizens of Drakovitz erected a memorial in memory of my grandmother, my aunt, my uncle and my cousin, who, in front of them, were taken by the Nazis and sent to concentration camps. And none of them ever returned.

And my grandmother told them at the time -- they told me this -- "I will never come back, but one day, my daughter," meaning my mother, "or her children will come back. Please give them this."

And would you believe, after some 30-odd years -- Well, we then went back to the place where we were having lunch. After some 30-odd years -- People were yelling at their kids; and all of a sudden, different children appeared, and one gave me my grandmother's passport; one gave me my aunt's passport. They gave me

pictures, and they gave me jewelry that my grandmother, on the day she was taken to the concentration camp, left behind. And the people kept them all these years hoping that one day my brother or I will return, and I thought that was remarkable. Plus I have a picture of the memorial they erected for my grandmother.

And I now am in the process of fighting to finally get that property back. It was nationalized under the Communists; and now that Czechoslovakia is free again, I don't know whether or not I'll come into possession. But as I told the man two years ago, if not in my lifetime, my children will reclaim it.

My grandparents didn't win that property in the lottery. They worked hard for it, and it is unfortunate that the Germans put such a horrible end to our Czech family.

Q. Did the man who's living in it now come into it before the Communists came into power or after?

A. Oh, no. This is even better. I have a letter now from Czechoslovakia since we were -- And they have done -- Oh, no. Well, the Comm -- It was --

What happened is Czechoslovakia became free after World War II, as you know; and then it -- then my mother's name was put on it as being the sole owner of

all the Czech property.

But then in -- what is it? -- in '49, there was the Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia. And my mother died in 1960, and then it -- Since she was the only survivor, we are her heirs. Then my brother and I were made heirs of that same piece of property, and we're officially registered in the books.

And then, of course, there was the Russian takeover, complete Communist takeover; and they rented out the house, I understand. They made a grocery store out of it. And I just a few months ago received a letter that for a while, they rented it out to different people.

And then the people in the village who were -- just loved my Czech family, spread the story the house belongs to Americans; it's haunted. So nobody wanted to live in it, and they used it as storage. But the grocery store was still there, but they used it as storage. We went back and saw that. All the rooms were full of junk.

But since then -- and I have a letter at home -- a gentleman wrote me. The Communists made a -- what did they make? They made a bakery, a laundry, and the last thing is a sauna, out of it. And he writes, "But none

of the things are working."

So at this stage of the game, I don't know if the house is still standing or not. May be torn down, but I wish somebody would reimburse us for all the years they milked it. Plus the property is still -- I mean, the ground is still there; but I don't know if I'll ever see a dime out of it, but I feel I owe that to my grandmother.

INTERVIEWER 4: Cindy, have you got any more questions?

INTERVIEWER 2: No, I don't.

INTERVIEWER 4: Q. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

A. I don't know what --

Q. Let's look at some of those pictures.

A. Okay. Wait a minute.

Q. I'm going to turn to -- I need a second to roll the tape here.

You'll tell us what this is please, Alice?

A. It's my father -- My father died in 1934, and he was buried in Vienna, Austria, on the fourth door of the Ventrofskeo (phonetic), and it had the inscription on it at the time in German, ...(German)..., which, in English, is "To the most ideal, loving husband, to the

kindest, most giving of fathers in unending love." And that was all that was on it.

I later had the idea of adding my mother, who died and is buried in Los Angeles, but I figured that's the way it should be, plus all the relatives that disappeared. So the next item on it is "Bertha Gruenwald nee Eisner," which is my mother, and then I put her birth date on it and "Left Austria in 1939, died February 14, 1960, in U.S.A."

And then I had them inscribe in German ...(German)..., "Beloved wife, mother and proud grandmother, died and buried in Los Angeles." And then I wrote deliberately in English, "Further honoring dear relatives, victims of Nazi atrocities"; and I continued in German ...(German)..., "Done away with, but never to be forgotten."

And then I put down the names of all our relatives that vanished, and that's family Justig, Eisner, Figdor, Kohlbeck, Muller, Klinger, Entenberg and Faktor; and underneath, I had them inscribe in English, "Perished in concentration camps during 1941 to 1945." I don't know the exact dates. "Lovingly remembered by close family in U.S.A."

Q. Okay.

A. And then it's on the fourth -- that is on --

Q. Okay. Can you tell us the date of this picture?

A. It must have been --

Q. Okay. This is a picture of you taken in September '38?

A. That's correct, while he was flying.

Q. While your brother --

A. While he was flying out of Austria to France to catch his ship. That's a picture of --

Q. Can you tell us who this is and when that was taken?

A. That's in 1933 on the Kobensler (phonetic), which is like Mount Tam in Marin County. It's on a little excursion out of Vienna.

Q. Okay. Now, can you tell us who this is?

A. That's my dad.

Q. And when this was taken and where?

A. Before I was born. It was taken World War I. He was the commanding officer in Kiev in Russia. I have a number of pictures.

Q. Was this taken in Kiev?

A. Yes.

Q. I see. Can you please tell us what this photo is?

A. It's my father (pointing) with some of his

assistants in Kiev in Russia during World War I.

Q. So could you guess about the date on this, roughly?

A. Well, I have them all 1918. It's when they were still facing ... (unintelligible)

Q. Alice, please tell us about these photos.

A. We were in Vienna and went to the first gate of the Vienna Ventrofskeo trying to find my grandparents' graves. And we had the exact row and grave number, and we went in and couldn't find them.

And we went back to the front and asked for an escort, and he tried to find it, and we realized that everything was overgrown and knocked over. And the gentleman told us he knows the cemetery. They're just not there.

And as we were walking out, I was crying because I could not locate my grandparents' graves. I had brought flowers, and I left the flowers on somebody else's grave. I couldn't find them.

And when I came to the front of the gate, the gentleman at the gate said, "Why are you crying?"

I said, "Because I couldn't find my grandparents."

So he, in turn -- he, in turn, said, "Well, we must find them."

I had the grave numbers, and he went back with a little cart. He drove back, and we looked all over and bent back overgrown weeds; and lo and behold, we found a record of my grandfather's grave first with a beautiful inscription.

And then I said, "My grandmother must be here, too"; and sure enough, we found it later. Hers was still standing up. In other words, his was knocked off the top.

Q. And that's hers?

A. Yes, but his used to stand on top.

Q. Now, were they knocked over by natural causes, or were they knocked over by vandalism, or don't you know?

A. Vandalism, I'm sure.

Q. That's your guess? And do you have any idea when that vandalism occurred? Did this occur in the '40's, or did this occur in the '80's?

A. I'm sure in the '40's.

Q. In the '40's.

A. It's a miracle that I even found it. And I notice now in my latest newsletter from the children's transport, they're trying to get the city of Vienna to restore the first gate, because it's a disgrace, what it looks like. I was burned with nestles all the way up,

my husband and I, trying to go through everything. You can see what it looks like. We took those pictures.

Q. Okay. Alice, please tell us about this picture.

A. Someone must have submitted it --

Q. Where are you?

A. Here. I'll show you. This (pointing).

Q. That's you?

A. Yeah.

Q. Right there?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. This is a children's transport photo?

A. Yes.

Q. And you're on the boat to England here?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay.

A. And I also have a photo --

Q. Now, this is a photograph of the children's transport from England to the States; is that correct?

A. That's correct.

Q. And you are right -- this child right there (pointing)?

A. Yeah. I marked it for my brother.

Q. "This is me."

A. Just in London.

Q. All right. Alice, please tell us what this photograph is.

A. It's my pass to get into the swim club I belonged to.

Q. And so what year was that taken, and how old were you then?

A. I don't know. It doesn't say the date on it. This is the original pass, but I had it from age eight on.

Q. Okay.

A. So it's somewhere in between there. I have no idea. I'm probably ten years old here. I don't know. I'm guessing. For some reason, it doesn't have the date on there.

(END TAPE 2)