

-TITLE-HERBERT WALLACE
-I_DATE-
-SOURCE-SAN FRANCISCO HOLOCAUST ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-EXCELLENT
-IMAGE_QUALITY-GOOD
-DURATION-95 MIN.
-LANGUAGES-ENGLISH
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

0:00:00 Herbert was born on June 16, 1918 in Offenbach, Germany. He lived there until 1936 when he went to the Jewish Hospital in

0:01:53 Berlin as a registered male nurse.

0:02:34 Description of Father's livelihood as a leather goods store owner. They had a comfortable life. His sister was more than nine years older than he.

0:03:00 Began school at 6 years of age. He attended school until he was no longer able to attend school because he was Jewish. The only available school was a trade school and he signed up but was only there one day.

0:04:00 One day a teacher was lecturing on Fascism and looked around and saw Herbert and said, "Oh, you better leave, you don't belong." He had always gone to public school except he went to Switzerland for one year at a private school when he was 9, in 1928.

0:05:00 The Jewish congregation to which they belonged was very assimilated. Herbert's family was not religious, they went twice a year to services. Theirs was a close community, esp. after 1933.

0:06:06 The community would get together to share news. He had both Jews and non-Jews as friends.

0:07:00 The first effect of Hitler that he noticed was the signs put up on Jewish shops, not to shop there.

0:08:00 Expressions of anti-Semitism accelerated. Mostly verbal attacks, bullies would make remarks.

0:08:56 Herbert belonged to the Jewish Boy Scouts and was very active. The group would be threatened at times, verbally

abused.

0:10:05 People felt that they didn't know what the outcome was going to be. Assimilationism came to haunt many Jews and it was easy to procrastinate getting out. They knew a lawyer who observed a judge giving an anti-Semitic verdict and said that if there is no law in Germany anymore they had to get out.

0:11:00 In 1936 a family friend said, go to the American consulate but father procrastinated a few months.

0:11:45 People did not realize how important it was to get out of Germany immediately. Herbert has no family left in Offenbach. His father had 3 brothers, 2 sisters. His Mother had 1 sister who emigrated early to Israel with her husband and had a son.

0:14:00 Herbert was a happy-go-lucky type and school was not a big priority; he bicycled through Germany and enjoyed it very much. His mother was ill for many years and he cared for her. She had MS for 9 years. Sister got out of Germany early, she was a medical student in Italy. She got a PH.D. and is in Santa Fe now, retired. She had to go to Italy out of necessity because that was the only way to continue her education.

0:16:00 The family began to realize that their "number" on the visa quota list would not enable them to leave as part of the early batch for the U.S. Relatives wrote to distant relatives in the US to help with visas; someone deposited money in London from New Jersey, relatives who owned the Bamberger Dept. Stores, they were his Mother's relatives.

0:18:00 He and his sister felt that Germany was not really their place. They were glad to come to England and to the US. His father had really liked Germany except for the business reversals that occurred as a result of the crash. He had built a new factory with a non-Jewish partner and the mortgage was called in and they had to liquidate the business. His dad switched to selling Insurance. The crash really demoralized him and the future seemed bleak.

0:21:29 Describing Kristallnacht. Herbert was in Leipzig in the Jewish Hospital. The SS came in and went through the rooms to look at the nationality of patients. It was a very traumatic experience; the SS lined people up, the people to take away Herbert was put with the group to go but he slipped away from that group and went into another room and escaped. Most of those taken went to camps.

0:23:40 His father was taken to a camp for one month. I typical Germany fashion he got packed and was waiting like others

who responded with compliance and orderliness. His father went in a group with a rabbi, and other acquaintances.

0:26:11 He did not have good relationship with his father. Only in later years did they understand each other. Herbert's mother was in the hospital and his father would not leave her. She died in 1938. Father left Germany in June 1939, (two minutes before midnight).

0:27:37 Family came to the US in 1940 and his father started a new life. He was close to 60 at the time and he died in 1946. Herbert went to England on May 1st. 1939, spending a couple of days in Holland before that with relatives.

0:29:00 The American family put sufficient money into the Bloomsberg House in England so that every one in his immediate family could go to England. Family history was important to his Mother. Her family went back to the 1500's in Frankfort. His Mother had a book by Dietz (ph) about Jewish family in Frankfort.

0:32:00 In order to get out of Germany you had to have the birth certificates of your parents and all your grandparents. His father's family came from the Rhineland. The family name was Valler and his Mother's maiden name was Goldschmidt. His sister left Germany in 1933 to go to Italy to study medicine and then she went on to England as a domestic because that was the only way to get in.

0:35:00 Life in England for 6 mos. was wonderful. The sense of freedom was incredible after Germany. Learning the language was fun. He used to sit and try to read the London Times. He lived on the stipend of money deposited by the American relatives. While there he had to give up his camera and register with the police. He visited Oxford and Cambridge and enjoyed life.

0:39:00 His father's family was left in Germany, only he and one brother survived. His father's sisters who had had a linen shop, were deported to concentration camps and died. His uncle Hugo, wife Trula, mother-in-law Gert Belst, lived in Rotterdam and were hidden for a while but then discovered and died in concentration camps.

0:43:00 His father's brother Richard lived in Toronto and had two children there. Father's belongings caught before they left Germany and Germans produced a document of auction of the contents which they claimed paid for storage and the surplus was \$10 which Herbert was given. Harry managed to carry some photos with him when he left. There was not much supervision of them as aliens while they were in England; they had to register and that was all.

0:49:00 In Leipzig in 1939 he volunteered to help people returning from concentration camps. At that time he caught

diphtheria and had to be isolated and while that happened he received his visa but couldn't go until cleared of diphtheria. It was common for a man to be a nurse in Germany/ Herbert was trained in the Jewish Hospital in Berlin and that was really the only place he was allowed to train.

0:53:00 Then England was at war and as soon as they knew they could get affidavits for travel, they booked passage. It was wartime so they went in a convoy with merchant ships and escort ships. They landed in New York.

0:55:00 He and his family were met by a distant cousin who had secured rooms for them. He knew he had to get working right away and he was able to get a job as an attendant in a sanatorium in

0:57:00 Westchester County. He stayed there until the war broke out and he was drafted and in the army for 4 years.

0:58:00 Physical problems put him on a limited service list and he was sent to a military hospital in S.C. to become an X-Ray technician. He became a citizen and changed his name to Wallace.

0:60:00 Father became a representative for a South American leather goods businessman. In 1946 he died in New Jersey while on a trip. It had been hard for him to be here in America and to lost German ways.

0:62:00 When his sister came here she didn't try to get licensed as an MD but since she also had a Ph.D. she became a psychologist and practiced in Conn. and New York. She is now retired in Santa Fe.

0:63:00 In 1969 his wife retired from being a nurse with large company they decided to try and go live in Calif. He met his wife in 1948 and married her.

0:64:00 In 1985 he went back to Germany for the first time. He and his wife went on a trip to Scandinavia and decide to go to a part of Germany that he had always wanted to see but he had mixed feelings about it.

0:66:00 Felt sensitive about being there but there were no unpleasant experiences and he preferred to speak English while he was there.

0:70:00 He felt some anti-Semitism in the Army; these were the masses of people many of whom had no idea of what it meant to be a Jew. There is a certain amount of anti-Semitism in the U.S. today. It is social and not frontal.

0:72:00 After retirement he went to Community College and

became active in student organizations of the emeritus college (for older people). He was appt. by the County to the Health Council

0:74:00 and is on the Board for the County Center for Aging.

0:76:00 Life is pleasant and busy for them now; his wife is on the Commission of Aging.

0:78:00 Remembering the time that the SS came to the Hospital he believes that he was not thinking in any logical way and that he was young and didn't realize the consequences of what was happening but there is apparently a self-preservation mechanism which takes over and that is what he thinks happened in his case.

0:82:00 Can't remember when he first heard the rumors, about the concentration camps. He remembers their rabbi Max Steinman being taken to a concentration camp but he can't remember when that was.

0:85:00 He has just received a copy of the book, The Jew of Offenbach and it has the names and addresses of people who have spread throughout the world. He doesn't want to go back to Offenbach as he understands it has changed quite a bit.

REMAINDER OF TAPE SHOWS FAMILY PICTURES:

1. Paternal grandmother, Duisberg Germany
2. Paternal grandfather, "
3. Father's brother and wife, Truda
4. Father (Otto) uncles Hugo and Richard
5. Father's sisters:
6. Herbert with aunt and uncle who perished.
7. Family home in Offenbach which the family had to sell at a loss to a non-Jewish family.
8. Mother with sister and Herbert
9. Photo of Herbert's mother at about the time of her marriage.
10. Photo of Herbert's father as a young man.
11. Mother and Father as tourists in Italy.
12. Father's military co. in WWII.
13. Father's newly built factory in 1927.
14. Mother's sister in Israel (left Germany in 134)
15. Twin cousins in Israel
16. In Israel, Uncle (arch. of Leipzig syn.), aunt, their son
17. Mother's sister and husband
18. Uncle who lived in Canada
19. four of the Valler family, two boys and two girls.