

JANDER, Heinz  
Germany Documentation Project  
German  
RG-50.486\*0058 [audio copy]

Tape 1, Side A

In this interview, Heinz Jander, former medical student, medic and soldier in World War II, talks about his life, especially as a German student in the U.S. before World War II. He remembers two professors of medicine from his medical studies in Strasbourg, who conducted human experiments in the Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp. He discusses his reactions when he was first confronted with the cruelties of the Holocaust.

**[01, A:] 00:29 – [01, A:] 10:04**

He comments on his birth and family background and the financial difficulties of his father; comments on jobs of his father and financial difficulties in his childhood; talks about his studying chemistry and medicine in Germany and his travel to the U.S. for a study abroad program at the University of Michigan; mentions his membership in a fraternity in the U.S.; talks about his travels and occasional jobs in the U.S. after finishing his studies; mentions the French campaign of the German army and his thoughts of staying in the U.S.; discusses the reasons for returning to Germany including his oath to return to Germany in the event of war; briefly describes his travel from the U.S. through Japan, Korea and Russia to Germany; analyzes his time in the U.S.; talks about the continuation of his studies in Frankfurt; mentions nonrelevant assignments in the east after he got drafted in the German army; comments on the offer by the army to continue his medical studies; comments on his continuation of studies in Strasbourg where he met his future Alsatian wife.

**[01, A:] 10:05 – [01, A:] 13:20**

He mentions his graduation in Strasbourg; talks about his transfer to an antiaircraft position in Chieming; mentions problems of his French-educated Alsatian wife, who stayed on an estate during the war; talks about his practice in Chieming; remembers the arrival of the Americans; remembers witnessing the quiet capture of the antiaircraft gunmen and their transfer to a detention center; talks about his refusal to follow the order of the commander to join the prisoners; remembers information about the prisoners being transferred to Russia.

**[01, A:] 13:21 – [01, A:] 21:14**

He discusses his opportunity of going to the U.S. in 1937–38 again; reflects on his travel to the U.S. and his time there; describes his time as a medic and difficulties regarding his doctoral thesis in Chieming after the war; mentions his return to the hospital in the city of Traunstein to finish his medical training; mentions his interest in sanatoriums; mentions his assumption of control of a spa hotel in Prien (presumably Prien am Chiemsee); comments on his attempts to establish his own clinic; mentions his success in establishing a sanatorium, later for cardiology; discusses problems with his two sons, both applying for the position of the chief physician of the clinic and exercising

the position, ending in angry disputes and complete familial quarrels; mentions his current new wife; analyzes his financial situation after selling the clinic that was in debt.

**[01, A:] 21:15 – [01, A:] 27:16**

He talks about visiting his daughter in 1972 who was in the U.S. as an au pair; comments on travels in the U.S. and visits to his friends in 1972 and a meeting with a friend on the Virgin Islands in 1973; mentions buying property in Dominica and Italy after his visit to the U.S. in 1972; mentions repeated visits to Dominica and selling the property in Dominica recently after having a stroke; reflects on his personal history and the influence of his travels on his life; mentions that he had never been a member of the “Hitlerjugend” (Hitler Youth); mentions that as a former Boy Scout he was enthusiastic about the Nazi movement; focuses on his travel to the U.S. as a reason for no further commitments to the Nazi movement.

**[01, A:] 27:17 – [01, A:] 39:48**

He comments on his place of birth, his youth, his parents and the family life; discusses his difficulties with the lack of financial support by his parents; talks about the life and career of his father; mentions that his grandfather was a farmer; comments on his obligations in his father’s pharmacy in his youth; talks about his sister; describes the selection process for scholarship for the U.S. and details regarding the travel to the U.S.; describes the U.S. academic system; comments on general questions regarding the differences in living and studying between Germany and the U.S.

**[01, A:] 39:49 – [01, A:] 46:00**

He mentions participation in lectures and social events of a German fraternity, which had many Nazi members; stresses that he has never been member of any Nazi organization; mentions that he was generally enthusiastic about the idea of the Nazi movement at the time and that he was generally interested in joining the SS; comments that his relatives were opposed to the Nazi ideology; remembers his father refusing to perform the “Hitlergruß” (Hitler salute); mentions that in retrospect he is glad he did not take part in the Nazi movement thanks to his travel to the U.S.; comments on the question of how U.S. citizens reacted to the historical events in Germany like “Reichskristallnacht” (Night of Broken Glass) and the kind of questions they confronted him with; mentions the antisemitism of the fraternities in the U.S.

Tape 1, Side B

**[01, B:] 01:07 – [01, B:] 20:49**

He talks about the “Reichskristallnacht” (Night of Broken Glass) and analyzes his former antisemitism; talks about general falsehoods within the opinion of the German public at the time of the Third Reich; comments on his experience with Americans in the U.S. as being a German citizen; mentions strong criticism by his fraternity fellows after the visit of a Jewish dentist; mentions his good experience with Jews in the U.S.; talks about the lack of knowledge of details about concentration camps in the public at the time of the Third Reich; comments on his oath in written form for returning to Germany in the event of war; describes his travels during his time in the U.S. between the German aggression against Poland and his return to Germany; comments on

the question of why he returned to Germany; talks about his duties in installing telephone wires as a soldier nearby Posen (Poznań); mentions the bad manners and misbehaviour of soldiers towards the Polish population; mentions that he witnessed the aggression against Russia from Germany as a soldier; mentions the name Beneš (Eduard Beneš) from Czechoslovakia, who was popular in the U.S. and held lectures.

**[01, B:] 20:50 – [01, B:] 27:51**

He switches to his sojourn in the Caribbean and his personal intention of establishing a sanatorium there at that time; talks about his property in Tuscany, Italy; mentions his current financial difficulties as a consequence of his lacking savings.

**[01, B:] 27:51 – [01, B:] 32:37**

He comments on the question of his transfer from the field service to his studies in Strasbourg; comments on the housing of his company and the renaming of the residential accommodation in Strasbourg under the Nazis; comments on the Alsations in general; comments on his attitude towards his country; comments on his professors in Strasbourg; talks about the subsequent imprisonment of some professors for experiments with humans.

**[01, B:] 32:38 – [01, B:] 47:07**

He mentions his bad memory and former health problems; remembers that the human experiments in Strasbourg were secret; talks about the rumors about the human experiments; talks about the use of prisoners in an Alsatian concentration camp for the human experiments; estimates the number of professors involved at 2 or 3; comments on the good relations between students and professors; remembers the name Prof. Hirt (August Hirt) later mentioned as a pathologist; remembers rumors about Prof. Hirt; remembers the name Prof. Bickenbach (Otto Bickenbach) mentioned later; comments on his graduation in 1944; talks about the order to report to the village of Mühldorf or a similar location for defensive actions against the Americans; remembers his commander in Bad Aiblingen discharged him since his wife was in the region; comments on his first wife and their common studies; comments on his relation with his father-in-law; comments on Alsations in general; mentions his sister-in-law being imprisoned in a concentration camp for sheltering members of the French resistance movement “Maquis.”

Tape 2, Side A

**[02, A:] 00:09 – [02, A:] 07:13**

He mentions his written and verbal protest against the imprisonment of his sister-in-law and her husband in the Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp; comments on their release at the end of the war; comments on the question of rumors in Strasbourg regarding concentration camps; comments on questions about his family background; talks about a dispute with his son in Seebruck and quarrels with the families.

**[02, A:] 07:14 – [02, A:] 23:41**

He comments on the question about Prof. Hirt; comments on Prof. Bickenbach; comments on the clothing of soldier students in Strasbourg; comments on his reaction after he heard about the crimes of the professors; mentions his transfer from Chieming by American troops; talks about his friendship with a medic in the American forces; comments on the question of denazification; comments on former interrogations and the mention of his name as a possible witness in files of inquiry at the Central Office of Administrations for the Persecution of Nazi Crimes in Ludwigsburg; comments on why German captives of American forces went to Russia as prisoners of war (as claimed before); comments on the reunion with his fraternity fellows in the U.S. as a German citizen after the war.

**[02, A:] 23:42 – [02, A:] 46:27**

He reminisces about his time in the Caribbean; comments on when he first heard about the full extent of the Holocaust; describes his reactions to a movie on the Holocaust, shown by the Americans shortly after the war; comments on deniers of the Holocaust; comments on the issue of the Holocaust as a national shame; comments on the Holocaust and the policy towards the state of Israel; comments on Israel and Jews in general; discusses the history of Jewish religion; discusses his electoral and political opinions.

Tape 2, Side B

**[02, B:] 00:29 – [02, B:] 20:14**

He talks about memories of the time of the Third Reich in the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary after 1945; discusses his time in the U.S.; comments on his return to Germany on the eve of the war; mentions that his return was on his own initiative; comments on the question of why he returned to Germany via Japan; comments in retrospect on mistakes he made in his life; comments on what led to the quarrels in his first marriage; comments on the question of where he is living; comments on his religiousness.

*[Shows some family pictures to the interviewers; shows the house to the interviewers.]*