

Interviewee: Stephanie  
Date: November 29, 2012

Z- I begin on day one of your life . . .When were you born, where were you born, what did your parents do?

S- I was born in Berlin in Germany, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1921. And I stayed in Germany for 10 years. Then my father got another job in Amsterdam, in Holland.

Z- In '31?

S- He opened up an office, a mortgage firm to represent an office in New York. And then when the war broke out . . .

Z- Hold on, what did your father do?

S- He was a banker.

Z- And your mother?

S- He was Jewish, my mother was not Jewish. He was Jewish. So we were quite happy to go to Holland because of Hitler, people were all worried about Hitler.

Z- Were you raised Jewish?

S- Not really.

Z- Or was it both?

S- We didn't practice any religion, I wasn't brought up with religion.

Z- Okay, and your mother she was German?

S- Yeah, both were German. Both were born in Germany.

Z- And did she work?

S- Work? No.

Z- She was a housewife?

S- Yeah, at that time women didn't work.

Z- Okay. And did you have any brothers or sisters?

S- I had a brother, but he died when he was 17. In Holland he got tuberculosis and at that time I guess they couldn't help him, so unfortunately he died. He was only 17.

Z- Was he younger or older?

S- He was a year and a half older.

Z- And you were the only two?

S- Yeah, only the two of us.

Z- So what about school? You went to school in Germany and then when you moved to Holland . . .

S- I don't remember much of my schooling in Germany, but we went to Holland and I went to [0:02:59] (sounds like Lycee).

Z- Lycee?

S- Yeah, I stayed there and then after that I took a secretary course and became a secretary. I worked also for a banker, I was his secretary until the war broke out.

Z- And then what happened?

S- My parents got notice that they had to go to concentration camp in [0:03:37].

Z- Your mother too?

S- Yeah. My mother didn't have to go, but she wanted to go with my father. And they didn't want me to go, so I . . . I was living with a Dutch family during the war. I was kind of hiding, like changed my name and my birth date. I became a different person.

Z- So you were passing as someone else.

S- Yeah, that's right.

J- You changed your . . .

S- My name. I don't remember what kind of name I had, but I was always worried if I would be stopped by the police and they ask me for my name and my birthday that I would forget it, but that never really happened.

Z- Were you blond, fair hair?

S- Yeah.

Z- Because you are blue eyed.

S- Kind of brunette. I almost was caught by the Gestapo, because after my parents left I went into a rooming house in Amsterdam and I still was working, and they said if ever I would have to leave I should phone a certain person. So one day I came to the rooming house and she told me "you better leave, the Gestapo was here for you". And they wanted to get me and they said they would come back. So right away I left, phoned people in another part of Holland and they said I should come right away and stay with them. So I stayed with them for a few years and then kind of . . . they got a little worried because there was some rumors about my being Jewish and that, and I had to go. They said that I better leave and go to another place. So I went to another place in Amsterdam, and there I stayed until the liberation.

Z- Did you work or were you just in hiding?

S- No I just was . . . at the last place there was a little boy who was 2 years old and I looked after him. His father was a doctor, the mother was running a pharmacy, she was a pharmacist. And I looked after the boy and did some cooking. So I stayed there until we were liberated, and too bad because my father just three months before liberation he got typhoid and it killed him. My mother came back.

Z- What was your father's name?

S- Franz [0:07:01]

Z- And your mother?

S- Anna Marie Leyser. I was very sad that my father . . . he almost made it.

Z- So your mother came back to Amsterdam?

S- Yeah, to Amsterdam, and then we were liberated, and that's how I met my husband, he was in the Canadian forces. I met him in a dance hall.

Z- In Amsterdam?

S- In Amsterdam, yeah.

Z- When? In '45?

S- In '45.

Z- So you were 24?

S- Yeah. So we went out together and he said he hoped that he could marry me, but he wanted to go back to Canada and make sure that he had a job. So he got his job back. He worked for Northern Electric in personal.

Z- So what did you do when he went back?

S- I still worked at the bank.

Z- And your mother, you still lived with your mother?

S- Yeah, we lived together. One year he sent me engagement ring to Amsterdam.

Z- When was this, '46?

S- Yeah, and a year after I immigrated to Canada.

Z- How did you go?

S- I went by boat to New York. I had an aunt and uncle in New York and they lived in White Plains.

J- And when was this?

S- 1947.

Z- So they picked you up?

S- They picked me up, I stayed a few days with them and then I took the train to Montreal and there I met my husband. He had three sisters and mother was happy that I kind of got a new family.

Z- So did your mother come with you?

S- No, but a year later . . . 2 years later I think it was, she came to visit and she decided to stay.

Z- So she lived with you?

S- yes, for a little while and then she got her own apartment. But she stayed with us, I don't know, a year or two years, and then she got her own apartment. And at that time she didn't have to go back to Holland to immigrate. She was allowed to stay, so she asked some friends to send her some furniture that she had. So I was very happy she stayed

Z- So when you came in '47 . . .

S- Yeah, it was very very hard to find any apartment.

Z- What was the name of your husband?

S- Edmund Tuttsen (spelling). Yeah, he was 10 years older than me.

Z- So he was 35.

S- Yeah, and I was 25. I started out on [0:11:21] which is the [0:11:23]. There was a rooming house and we had one room with kitchen privileges. We lived from a card table and different people were living there and we took turns in cooking. After that we went to [0:11:42] some place, it had a burner, a hot burner in my living room with a little bed, and we stayed there for 6 months. And then we had a little apartment in the [0:12:03].

Z- So did you speak English?

S- There was no trouble with English. In Amsterdam you all have to learn languages, once you leave the country they don't understand Dutch. So in school German, French and English is taught. And because I was not so good in mathematics I had to take Latin and Greek as well, which was a little bit hard on me—all these languages I survived.

Z- So you knew English. When you met your husband you spoke English to him.

S- Yeah, yeah.

Z- And what did you speak to your mother? German?

S- When my husband was around we only spoke English.

Z- But when it was just you and your mother?

S- Yeah, we did speak some German.

Z- So your husband is he Jewish?

S- No, he was Anglican. I was married in an Anglican church here in Montreal.

Z- Did you convert?

S- Yeah. I was brought up more or less Lutheran.

Z- From your mother?

S- Yeah.

Z- So you had no identity as being Jewish except during the war?

S- Not really no.

Z- So was that a difficult decision? Can you talk about that?

S- It wasn't difficult, but most of friends of my parents were Jewish people. But we didn't . . . the Jewish holidays we didn't really do anything special like other Jewish people.

Z- Your husband knew that you were Jewish right?

S- Oh yeah.

Z- And he wanted you to convert?

S- No, he wanted to be married in the Anglican church. I would say that he was very religious. He went to church every Sunday. And I did go with him, not every Sunday, but quite often. And my children they were also Anglican. And when I came here I started working again for a while. I worked at the CBC national service on Crescent St.

Z- When was this? In '47?

S- Yeah.

Z- What did you do?

S- I looked for work and I asked around where I should look, and they said "why don't you try the CBC, the international service on Crescent St.?" And just then they had an opening in the German section. And they were all Jewish people there. Four men, they run it.

Z- And they were Jewish Canadian?

S- Yeah. During the war they were interned, they had to go to camp in Petawawa.

Z- How come?

S- Because they were German.

Z- But they were Jewish.

S- Yes, I know. I'm amazed too.

Z- Okay, I didn't know that. I knew that Germans were interned but . . .

S- They were well treated, but because they were Germans. . . If I would have been here, not married, I would have had to go to that camp to.

Z- Even though you were Jewish?

S- Yeah, half Jewish.

Z- So no matter where you were, it wasn't . . . right . . .

S- Yeah. But anyway it was nice job because the office, all the European countries they had an office there, and we broadcast to our country to tell them what Canada is like, get some information for them.

Z- In Germany?

S- Yeah, every Wednesday I was broadcasting overseas. My mother could hear me in Holland.

Z- That must have been very nice for her?

S- Yeah.

Z- Was it a well paying job?

S- I think I got \$35 a week or something like that. It was well paying.

Z- And you like the people you worked with?

S- Yeah, they were very well educated. They were clever people.

Z- Did you talk about the war?

S- Not that much, no.

Z- How come?

S- I don't know.

Z- 'Cause they're journalists of sorts, right? And they didn't want to know what happened or?

S- No, it's all so long ago now . . . but I worked there until the television came and they moved to Toronto. All the people moved to Toronto.

J- What year was that?

S- That was 1950, and then I was pregnant.

Z- So did they ever invite you to their house? Did you socialize with them at all?

S- Oh yeah. I made some friends, especially in the Dutch section. They were people, of course, from Holland and we became friends and visited each other in our homes, you know.

Z- But not the Jewish Canadians.

S- No, no.

Z- Did you have any other relationships with Jews who came as immigrants?

S- Not really. No really not.

Z- Is there any reason why or it just happened that way?

S- That I didn't have Jewish friends?

Z- Yeah.

S- No, it's just people I met I guess were just not Jewish.

J- You met Edmunds friends? And you would socialize with them?

S- Yeah, that's right.

J- Who were Edmunds friends? Were they Canadians?

S- Yeah, and the people that I met at work, except in our German section these men were all Jewish, but in other countries they represented they were not Jewish.

Z- So did you want to just leave that Jewish part behind? For you was it frightening and . . .

S- Actually I was quite happy at that time to leave Holland, because of all that had happened. I wanted to start a new life.

Z- So in 1950 you go pregnant.

S- Yeah, and then again three years later, was pregnant again.

Z- Did you work after you got pregnant?



S- I worked for a while, and then when the boys went to school I helped the librarian in the library. I was kind of a helper there.

Z- A volunteer helper?

S- Yeah. But, no really when I came over women didn't work then. Most women didn't work. Now it's altogether different. I was quite happy staying home and raising my family.

Z- So all your women friends didn't work once they had kids?

S- Yeah. Some worked and some didn't. But I was quite happy to stay at home, do a little bit of volunteer work.

Z- And you had two sons?

S- Yeah, but one died 5 years ago.

Z- Sorry.

S- My younger son, I had two boys. He died of cancer.

Z- That's hard.

S- Yes, that's very hard on me.

Z- How old was he?

S- He was 54.

Z- And did he had a family, or does he have a family?

S- I have three grandsons, but they live in Ontario, so I don't see them very often. But I had a good life. I'm not complaining.

Z- So Montreal had the largest immigration of Holocaust survivors in all of Canada.

S- Oh yeah?

Z- It had over 40% right, and then Toronto and Winnipeg and a few here and there, but Montreal had the largest percentage. So do you remember reading or hearing about the community, in the late 40s and 50s, how the survivors were treated or their struggles or their success? Do remember hearing anything? Or you were just separate from that community?

S- I know when I came over I had to get married within 10 days or they would ship me back to Holland.

Z- Really?

S- Yeah, I guess maybe some people wanted to come to Canada. I know when I came over, I came on a boat, there were a lot of war brides on it. And some of them they were told . . . they came to Canada and the guy they were supposed to married was married. My husband told me that very often they told them lies. They got involved with them and then came and they were married. So that wasn't nice.

Z- No. So you got married within 10 days.

S- Yeah, oh yeah.

Z- Did you end up buying a house or renting?

S- Finally on Clarke Ave and Westmont we got a nice apartment and we had to pay extra money, key money they called it, and we paid \$75 a month. It was the highest rent in that whole apartment building. \$75 a months.

Z- And do you remember how much the key money was?

S- A few hundred dollars.

Z- That a lot of money.

S- Yeah.

Z- And that was just to get the apartment right?

S- Yeah. You had to wait until somebody died to get it. It was very hard. And then we had a little house in [0:27:05]. It's a small town outside of Montreal. We stayed there for 10 years and then me moved to Laval and we had a nice house in [0:27:23], near [0:27:26]. That was a very nice house. We stayed there for another 10 years, and then we decided my husband wanted to sell the house and move to Montreal. We ended up in an apartment on Forest Hill.

Z- Where is Forest Hill?

S- It's near Cote-de-Neige, near the cemetery. It was a nice apartment. Weekends we walked all around the mountain. It's beautiful there.

Z- How old were the children then?

S- They were, gosh when was that, I guess they were in University. They both went to McGill.

Z- Okay so they were older, so you decided to move back here. So was that renting an apartment?

S- Yeah that was rented. And then my husband died, and that was very hard on me. When he died I was in the hospital too, I don't remember much of it, but I don't want to breakdown anyway, it was terrible. I couldn't stay in the apartment anymore, so a friend of mine said that I should go into a residence. The first residence was in . . . where was it . . . the [0:29:20] home, it's a big residence, over 200 people.

Z- When did your husband die?

S- He was 82 years old.

Z- So you were 72.

S- Yeah I was 72. I don't remember the years. So 15 years or so.

Z- But you didn't like the residence?

S- Yes, but I . . . they thought the resident is too big for me, I should go to a smaller one. Then the social worker put me in a smaller one [0:30:22]. From there I went to Appleton. From Appleton I went to Jean Brillon (Spelling?). From Jean Brillon I went here. So I moved an awful lot. One thing after the other.

Z- Did your children know that you were Jewish, or half Jewish?

S- Oh yeah.

Z- You talked to them about the war?

S- Yeah, especially how I met my husband. The first date I had in Amsterdam he told me we would meet at a certain place in Amsterdam. I went there in the evening and I waited half an hour and he did show up. And I was going home, I could have gone home several ways, you know. Anyway, I walked for 5 minutes and there he came. He said he had to break another date in order to see me and that he was so sorry that he was late. Had I gone another way, I would never have seen him again. In was kind of fate.

Z- Did you ever tell anybody the story of the war?

S- I like to talk about it with my son. He is the only left who knows my past. But other people are not that interested in it, you know.

Z- What about your husband? Did you talk to him?

S- Yes, he knows. Yeah.

Z- So were the memories difficult when you first came?

S- Now here, one sister was here and she kind of took care of me, to get me ready for the wedding and everything. We had to buy clothes and she was very helpful. And she became a good friend of my mother too when she came over.

Z- And you were very close to her?

S- Yeah. My husband had two other sisters. The one here in Montreal she was a nurse, and the other one she was a nurse too. It was kind of nice I had . . .

Z- A family.

S- Some family.

Z- And when you were with your mother here in Montreal, did you talk about the war years?

S- Yeah. They always worried about me. They thought I had a better chance surviving the war not going to the concentration camp.

Z- Were you angry that you were separated from them?

S- I missed my parents, that's for sure, but I was really never afraid. We had very little to eat in Holland during the last winter, so with our bicycles we went to the farmers to exchange some goods—the best thing was cigarettes—to get some food. And then coming back, quite often we were stopped by the Germans and they took all the food away. I was lucky they never questioned me very much. If they would have found out who I am, they would have caught me.

Z- You didn't have papers?

S- Not on me. No. But I remember we stayed with the farmers and we slept in the barn with the animals [laughs]. I don't know how I did it, but when you are young you can do so much more.

Z- It's true.

S- And our bicycles, the tires, we didn't have rubber tires, it was wood. I don't know how we did it, go on the bike like that, but we did. When I met my husband he always come, he visited me in Amsterdam, because my mother always bought me many cigarettes. With cigarette you could buy anything.

Z- It was like gold.

S- Yeah.

Z- Were you a smoker?

S- I smoked a little over the years, but not very much. My husband smokes a little too much, that's why his lungs were weak. He always had problems with his lungs. Yeah, a lot things can happen in a lifetime.

Z- So coming to Canada was relatively easy?

S- Yeah I had no problems.

Z- Did you like it?

S- Oh yes.

Z- What were your first impressions of Montreal?

S- I found it . . . all that snow I wasn't used to it, because in Amsterdam it hardly ever snows. So I found the winters kind of tough, but then I loved to go up North and go skiing with the boys, and all those things I did. I did a lot of sports when I was young. I always liked that.

Z- So was your family cultural too? Was there music? Was there theatre?

S- My husband loved to play bridge, he played bridge every weekend.

Z- But your mother and father? Before the war what was your cultural life? What did they do outside of work?

S- My parents? That's so long ago. My father died in the concentration camp so I don't remember much what happened in German. And then in Holland they entertained and they played bridge and we went to movies.

Z- And you did sports? What types of sports did you do?

S- I played tennis and I played golf. We went in Holland to the North Sea quite often, you know, and I swam there.

Z- Was it cold?

S- Yeah.

Z- So you were a good swimmer?

S- Yes. I'm glad I did it all because I can't do it anymore, because I have arthritis. I never thought that I would live to be 91, because in my family nobody lived long. On my mother's side they had TB, it was in the family. That's how my brother died. He inherited it.

Z- When did your mother die?

S- My mother died here, at the General Hospital. She was only 64, she got cancer. She died at 64. Now my father was 64 as well when he died. So that's why I'm surprised that I'm still alive.

Z- So your father was a lot older than your mother?

S- yes, I think 15 years.

Z- So she didn't live that long in Montreal before she died?

S- She was 64 and when she came over I think she was 50. She was born 1900, I came '47. Yeah, she was 50 when she came over. I also hoped she could marry again, but there was nobody. She worked for a while at Morgan's, the department store.

Z- Yeah, which is the Bay.

S- Yeah the Bay now, but was a beautiful store then. She worked on the ladies floor then. She kind of liked it. It gave her something to do. Weekends she always came and visited me, she had an apartment here in town.

Z- Where did she live?

S- On Tower St., downtown.

Z- Did she have friends?

S- She had one good friend she met at Morgan's, a lady also from Europe. They became very good friends, but then the friend wanted to work beyond the age of 65 and she couldn't do it at Morgan's, so she left and she went to San Francisco and she wanted my mother to come but she no, she was going to stay here because of me. So she lost her good friend, that was tough on her.

Z- And were there other friends?

S- She was friendly with my husband's sister.

Z- Was your husband's sister older than your husband?

S- I think she was the oldest one, yeah.

Z- So the age difference wasn't that great.

S- No.

Z- She was closer to your mom than to you.

S- No really what happened after the war my mother had a brother in Australia and he wanted us to come over to Australia and had everything ready for us to immigrate to Australia, but then I met my future husband. So if I wouldn't have met him I would have gone to Australia. He was a professor at the University in Melbourne so that's . . . we would have been in Australia.

Z- Are you religious now?

S- Not really.

Z- So after your husband died, you sort of left religion?

S- I should be I guess. I had trouble going to the Anglican church, I had trouble following the service always. I couldn't get used to it you know.

Z- How come?

S- I always had to be shown which page. I found it very difficult. My husband always felt so good when he came out of church. I never had that feeling. That's strange, yeah. He just felt wonderful, and I didn't get that feeling.

Z- Well look at your different backgrounds, right. Did you ever go to a Lutheran church?

S- No I never went to a Lutheran church. And at Christmas we always had a Christmas tree and some of my parents friends didn't like it, being Jewish. But I'm glad we had a Christmas tree.

Z- Have you ever gone to synagogue?

S- No.

Z- Not even in Germany before the war?

S- Before the war I was 10 years old. It's strange that I remember very little of the first 10 years. Why I don't remember that.

Z- It's not unusual.

S- In Holland I remember everything.

Z- So how do you self-identify now? Do you think of yourself as Anglican, Lutheran, Jewish?

J- Canadian?

Z- Canadian, German, Dutch?

J- There's a lot of options.

S- And now here it's so French. I have trouble getting really to get to know the French Canadians because I have trouble learning French. I speak some, but not enough to have a good conversations, you know. The other languages don't do me any good, Dutch and German.

Z- So how do you think of yourself?

S- I consider myself quite luck that I have good health, I mean especially now a lot of people get Alzheimer's and I'm so far . . .

Z- Oh no, you're good, you're very good.

S- I'm okay. I'm very happy that I can stay here other than in a residence, because the residence I was in there was only 9 people and everyone kind of had Alzheimer's and to be around them all day is kind of depressing. You can't talk to them, they don't remember anything. So I was happy when my son suggested that he would get a bigger apartment and we should live together. I'm very thankful for that. I don't expect much anymore.

Z- So Stephanie, if someone said what's your nationality what would you say?

S- What I am?

Z- Yeah.

S- I still feel of course that I'm a German. I'm interested in what happens in Germany, follow all the news. They are doing very well now. But I enjoyed my life in Holland too. I don't know what I really feel the strongest. Now I have very little chance to speak German, and nobody to speak Dutch with. But that's life.

J- When you worked for the CBC what kind of news or information did you broadcast? What were you sending out to Europe?



S- Just what life in Canada is like, the people you know in Montreal.

Z- So what did you say about life and the people?

S- I don't remember. I didn't write. We had people, freelancer who was writing stories and I just read it.

Z- Oh so you were the reader.

S- Yeah, that's all. .

Z- So if someone asked you your religion what would you say?

S- I would say Anglican, but I felt more at home in the United church sometimes.

Z- Because it's less . . .

S- Less . . .you don't . . . The Anglican church you get up and kneel, get up and kneel all the time [laughs].

Z- Just like the Catholics hey John?

J- Too much kneeling.

S- And I kind of . . . the Unitarian church I suppose interesting too. Like my husband said if he went there he wouldn't feel that he went to church. He was brought up Anglican like I said.

Z- So you were more secular than he was, right. For you religion isn't that important?

S- No.

Z- And Culturally how would you define yourself? Would you see yourself as German first and foremost?

S- Yeah. I still feel more German than Dutch, because I was born there.

Z- Only 10 years of your life and how strong that feeling is, it's very interesting.

S- And we never could get the Dutch nationality. It was very very difficult. We couldn't get it. When Hitler came I was made Stateless. They called us Stateless. I was . . .what to you call it . . .only then my husband. I had to wait 5 years and then I got Canadian citizenship.

Z- How long were you in Holland?

J- From '31

Z- '31 to '47.

S- We left in 1932 I think. Went to Holland until '45. I lived longer in Holland than in Germany. Oh dear.

Z- It's just fascinating right, how those first 10 years of life . . . you know how they stay with you.

S- Do you think I should have done more for the Jewish people?

Z- No, not at all. I think you need to do what works for you. What's curious for me are the choices people make and why they make the choices and what are the reasons, right.

S- I was happy to give up my name because here people couldn't pronounce it very well.

Z- No they wouldn't be able to.

S- I was happy to get rid of that [laughs].

Z- No, no, I'm not a religious person at all, it's just interesting how things play out.

S- Well in a way I'm sorry I'm not more religious, because people who are religious they can take hard times better than the ones who are not religious.

Z- I agree. I agree, I totally agree. Do you think living through the war sort of questioned your religion or made it more difficult for you?

S- It was difficult to survive the war. Then I must say those people who took me in, if they would have found me, the people would have been killed by the Germans. They would shoot them if they would have found me, because they were not allowed to hide Jewish people.

Z- They were heroes.

S- Yeah, I never will forget them.

Z- Were you in touch with them after the war?

S- The last place I went in Amsterdam, the doctor – he was a doctor in a hospital – he came to Canada and visited my husband and me. I think it's very brave to do that.

Z- A lot of people I interviewed they were religious before the war but after the war .  
..

S- No?

Z- No, and some people continued. But there were many who really changed. The war sort of . . . you know, that was it.

J- And then their children would be religious. They were very surprised by that, that their children became religious, because they weren't religious.

S- I thought that nowadays people don't go to church that much anymore, like they used to.

Z- It's true, they don't. Do your children?

S- Not anymore.

Z- And your grandchildren?

S- Don't.

Z- So you asked me the question if I thought you should have done more for the Jewish people. Do you think you should have done more for the Jewish people?

S- Yeah, I don't what I could have done so . . . But I see they still write about Holocaust survivors. I get the Gazette every morning and quite often there's stories of people who survived it and how they did. But they had a hard time I think. They'll never forget what they went through. It must have been terrible, just terrible. I don't know how they survived being hungry.

Z- But what you went through was terrible too.

S- I wasn't mistreated you know.

Z- But you were still constantly fearing for your life.

S- Yeah.

Z- For people who were taking care of you.

S- Yeah.

Z- You were hungry, I mean it was terrible.

S- We had very little to eat, but the people I guess . . . only the old people and the very young, it was hard on them. I never really was starved. We don't have to eat that much really, nowadays we eat too much.

Z- But you were scared a lot.

S- Scared?

Z- Yeah.

S- No. I was scared sometimes when I went on those trips to get food and I was stopped and had to give it all to the Germans. I was always scared they would ask me questions and I would forget my birthday and my name.

Z- I think that life is hard and complicated and we do the best we can, that's all we can do is the best we can.

S- Yeah. Did you have a hard time during the war?

Z- Well I was born after the war. My parents were in the war.

S- Were they here in Canada.

Z- No, both of my parents were in concentration camps.

S- Where were they?

Z- My father was in Dachau and my mother was all over and ended up in Bergen-Belsen.

S- Oh, that's terrible, it's terrible.

Z- But you know for a lot of people there seems to be like a hierarchy of survival and struggle and don't understand it. Like, you know, yes the concentration camps were terrible, they were horrible, but people who were in hiding, who lived in forests, who had to take on different identities, it was all terrible. You know, one suffering isn't worse than the other. Any other thoughts?

S- Is my story similar to the other people you interviewed?

Z- Totally different, totally different. The one thing that is totally similar is that no one asked you about the war. Those Jewish men you were working at the CBC, why didn't they ask you about the war? And everyone I've interviewed had the same thing. No one asked them about the war. No one wanted to know about the war.

S- That's right.

Z- I want to know why.

S- They thought it would be hard for us to talk about it, if you would get upset about it and they wanted to avoid that.

Z- So who were they protecting? . . . . Is that you?

S- My wedding picture. I look quite different now, I was 25.