

IMPORTANT

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Interview Transcript Title Page

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Ref. no:	RV265

Interviewee Surname:	Nussbaum
Forename:	Julia
Interviewee Sex:	Female
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Date of Interview:	6 th May 2022
Location of Interview:	London
Name of Interviewer:	Clare Csonka
Total Duration (HH:MM):	46 minutes



REFUGEE VOICES

Interview No. RV265
NAME: Julia Nussbaum
DATE: May 2022
LOCATION: London
INTERVIEWER: Clare Csonka

[00:00:00] *Okay. Today is the 6th of May 2022 and we are conducting an interview with Mrs Hanni Julia Nussbaum. Her son Robert Nussbaum is also with us, and we will be hearing from him a little later. My name is Clare Csonka and we are in London. Okay, Mrs Nussbaum please could you start by giving us your full name?*

My name's Julia Hannah Nussbaum.

I believe you like to be called Hanni?

Hanni, yes.

Well, we'll call you Hanni.

Yes, please. Thank you.

From now on.

Thank you.

Where were you born?

I was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1942, March 1942.

Was that on the Buda side or the Pest side?

Pest side.

Do you happen to remember the street?

Yes. [Inaudible] utca 52.

And was that near the centre?

No. I would say it was twenty minutes from the centre. Quite a long way.

*Right. First of all, thank you very much for doing this for the AJR Refugee Voices Archive.
It's much appreciated.*

Very important.

Very important.

Thank you.

[Phone rings] *It's on silent. I promise you. I swear.*

Could we start by you telling us what you can remember about your family background?

Sadly not very much. I was just – eventually my mother had me only. I never have sisters or brothers, but my father sadly died in the War. My mother and me stayed in our flat, long time. And that's – I have no other family [inaudible]. **[00:02:03]**

So it was you and your mother.

Just my mother.

And you were three when the War ended.

Yeah, 1945.

So you wouldn't remember, you wouldn't really remember. Did your mother tell you when you were older anything about your time in the War?

Sadly not very much. One wants to forget things, you know, not to talk about it. She should have told me more about my father, but not enough.

Do you know anything at all about your father?

Yes, I do because Daddy had left me a beautiful, beautiful letter. And I don't know what made him do that, but – and he had to go to camp in Dachau. He died in Dachau. That I found out eventually. And what else. [Inaudible] what you ask me?

Well, that's what you know about your father.

Yes, he's writing there what kind of man he is, and he says goodbye to me. 'My dear darling only daughter.'

Yes.

And then he tells me what kind of man he was. He liked to go here and there, and he must have been a lovely man. I wish I would have me him.

Yes, of course.

I wish I – I must have been four, at least four years old. I would maybe remember. Not at all.

And after the War, you stayed in Budapest with your mother

Yes, in our flat. Yes. With my mother.

Do you know what happened to your flat during the War? Did you have to move anywhere because it was too dangerous to stay?

Me and my mother, my mother and me went to my auntie in the town. Quite a long way. And it was quiet, finished, the War had finished. We could go back to our flat. [00:04:01] There's a family sitting there very nicely. And my mother who was a very quiet person started shouting, 'What are you – get out of here,' [laughs] and everybody ran out of course. They think that the Jewish family is dead, so may as well move into the flat. And they did. And they went away straightaway. That I remember.

So you had somewhere to live after the War.

Yes, yes, yes. That was our flat before that, and my parents bought that flat together then when they got married. And after the War, we went back there with my mother.

Do you know what your mother was able to do to earn some money to keep you?

Yes, I do, I do. She used to sew. What do you call that? Seamstress –?

Seamstress?

Yes. And she worked for my uncle. And I had to go and fetch the thing. Very, very long way in the town. I was a young girl. And I had to go and fetch it, take it there, bring it home when it's finished. No, she, my mother sew it together, the bits of the jumper, cardigans, knitted things, and that's what happened. Then I went back to my mother to the flat.

*What do you remember about life with your mother in your flat in Budapest after the War?
Do you have some memories? Once things got back to a bit more normal.*

I was forever – we were forever hungry, yet we had no money. And she earned a little bit, I don't know. Got some money from the uncle if she did some sewing for him. And we were hungry, we were poor. Very poor. And we lived there together up until I went away to Israel.

So that was another episode in your life. [00:06:02]

Another chapter.

Another chapter. So, during the time after the War when you were growing up and becoming aware, what was it like being a Jewish survivor of the War when perhaps some of your neighbours were not Jewish and maybe just didn't understand.

There were not. They were not nasty to me. Nasty to my mother, [inaudible] to my mother actually. So, I did not yet know exactly what happened, but I must say, I always will wait that one day my father will come back to us. Always looking. But he never did come back.

So you were hoping.

Hoping, always.

Because some people did miraculously come back.

Exactly. We know that six million plus died.

Yes.

And he must have been one of the six million.

Yes.

[Coughs] Somebody was telling me how he died. I said, 'I don't want to know.'

Oh, someone could have told you?

Yeah, one of the girls who comes to help me here. She could have told me how he died, and I said, 'I don't want to know.' It's very sad, but don't want to know.

You preferred not to know.

I know he died. That I know. It's enough.

So during those years after the War with your mother in Budapest, the Communists were there, it was Soviet occupation. Do you remember anything about what it was like having the Soviet occupation there because you'd been through the War? You were too young to remember, but then there was another invasion if you like, and this time it was Russian Soviets. You were under a Communist system. Do you remember anything about that?

No, because we were Communists as well. [00:08:01] Everybody had to be – do that. So, I didn't understand what's wrong with that. We had to live like all the other people, Communists.

So that seemed normal to you.

Exactly. Exactly.

And yet, you did leave Hungary in 1956?

Yes. Absolutely so. You're quite right. We ran away. Me and my mother, one day we packed up, very tiny, little bit and nobody wants to know – nobody should know that we are going anywhere. And then – was it in the night or day? Late afternoon, we all were marching out of – we had to go to the train station, and there was a train. We went to the certain place. From

there on we had to march. Walk, walk, walk, walk. Now, my mother had a very bad heart, and then she was – she started shouting, ‘I can’t, I can’t, I can’t, I can’t.’ And everybody was saying you shouldn’t do that because the border guards would – that was at the border, they started shooting. They don’t care who it is, just shoot. So she was shouting, and everybody was upset with her. Then somebody gave her a half a lemon. I remember that. And she was a bit better, and then we arrived in Vienna. Very, very near to Hungary, Vienna. And you won’t believe it, people came to us, strange people. From Vienna to Jewish people and that was wonderful, to be welcomed like that.

Do you know what it was that made your mother decide that it was time to go? Was she helped in any way?

I think she was. A friend of hers, a friend of hers, a man, said he will marry her, but she should get out of Hungary. [00:10:07] And then we went to Vienna and that’s why it happened. That’s how she knows that we’ve got to get out in any case.

So do you remember being frightened during this?

Yes, I do. I do remember. We were both very frightened. Yeah, we had no money at all in any case. First of all we had no food, and just marching over to Vienna, and that man who wanted to marry my mother, we never met him again. And that was that sort of – don’t know how we carried on. I don’t remember that.

But he helped in some way.

He helped to get us out of Hungary.

But your mother didn’t marry him.

No.

She married someone else [laughs] later.

Eventually, quite right.

Eventually.

Later. A very, very lovely – very, nice, nice man. Nice man.

So we now have you safely in Vienna.

Hmm-mm.

Which is close to the border. Do you remember what happened next in your life? 'Cos you were what, fourteen or something? You were old enough to know what was going on.

Exactly. That's what happened. Nine Jewish youngsters were taken to Israel. And we didn't know what will be. We went by train, then a boat. We arrive to Palestine that time. Very soon it became Israel, and there it was nice. I lived in a home, a big home. We started as well as – food, everything was there, and it was very nice actually, young people. [00:12:00] And I had an aunt as well, in that place, that area, aunt and uncle. And that's what I remember. Not in that place where I lived, but somewhere.

You must have been very hungry.

Always.

After the War. I wonder –

We had no food hardly.

I wonder in Israel because it is the land of plenty in terms of food in many ways, I wonder whether you noticed anything very different in what you were able to eat there? More choice or –?

Not yet. Not yet, not for a long time. When one doesn't have nothing to eat, if one is lucky to have bread and butter, then one is lucky enough at least. At least that's [inaudible].

So after Israel, what happened then?

Then my mother got married. She phoned me one day, that she met this nice man, very nice man, and they were to get married. She didn't say, 'Is it all right or not.' She didn't say that, but then she brought me back from Israel. She wanted her daughter with her. Brought me back to Germany. I lived there for about six years in Germany, and that father, second father, he thought it's a very good idea that I should go to Israel and live there. And then my mother came to fetch me. Am I getting mixed up? I don't know if I'm getting mixed up a little bit.

Don't worry. I think we're getting the picture about this.

I hope so, yes.

Yes, we are, and if I've understood correctly, you went to Israel with a group of girls.

Yes, nine people.

But your mother didn't come with you on that trip. [00:14:00]

No. My mother came to fetch me from there eventually. One and only daughter. And I went to live with them in Germany.

How did you feel about living in Germany, given what you knew about what had happened to the Jews?

I did not know anything yet. Did not know at that time. Slowly found out what happened, and then I wasn't happy [laughs]. And today, an old friend of mine from Germany, they still there

very happily in Frankfurt. I don't know how come. They're very happy living there. Don't understand that.

Do you remember anything about actually living in Germany? Were you at school there?

No. Yes, I had to learn German. So I went to a school in town and that's it. I learnt German there.

'Cos of course you spoke Hungarian.

Yes.

Not English at that stage, just Hungarian?

Yes, yes.

Then German.

That's right.

And so you spend those six years with your mother and her new husband.

Yeah, absolutely. He was a very nice person, he was.

What were your first impressions of her second husband?

He's a lovely, lovely man. He was. [Laughs] What can I say? Lovely person. He was very happy to have me there. And then – wait a minute – then he thought – he didn't like the people that I was mixing with. I was fourteen/fifteen/sixteen, something like that, so he sent me to London. To a religious school here.

Whereabouts was that?

Stamford Hill [laughs].

Right. So it was a very orthodox, religious kind of place.

Yes.

And do you remember how you felt about studying and living there? [00:16:00]

We were three girls living by that family, coming from who knows where. I came from Germany, Hungary. They came from France or whatever it is. And to me it seemed – everything seemed to be all right. Everything was normal. That's all. I was quite happy.

What were your first impressions of coming to England because you had moved around quite a lot? Hungary, Germany, Austria, Israel. Now you were in Britain. Can you remember what your first impressions were of this country?

I didn't like Stamford Hill, but somebody said, 'Oh, it is a much nicer place. It's called Golders Green,' [laughs]. So, I came to Golders Green, and I looked, and that was much, much nicer. I was very happy. I was okay.

And you were learning English?

Yes. Every day, once or twice – from Stamford Hill we went to – can't remember the name of that place, to learn English in a school.

'Cos that was your third language.

Yes. Yes.

Which can't have been easy.

It wasn't. But I learnt it.

Yes, you had to.

Had to. Absolutely.

Had to. So you were in this country.

That's right.

You went to Golders Green.

Yeah.

And can you remember what happened next in your life after coming to this country? You would have been about maybe eighteen by then?

Yes, I can remember. I got married.

[Both laugh] You wouldn't forget that would you [both laugh]?

I was nineteen when I got married, I think. Nineteen.

How did you meet your husband?

Well, I remember that. **[00:18:03]** Us girls, on *shabbos*, we were walking wherever it was, Stamford Hill, there was say, four very nice young men standing over there and somehow, I liked my husband the best. And then I went back to Germany eventually to my mother and he came to see me in Germany. And then we got engaged and married, yeah, in London. Couldn't get married there because- had five aunties here, older people, so it had to be in London, the wedding.

So you joined another family in many ways.

In a way, but not really because they lived in Stamford Hill, and I didn't want to live in Stamford Hill. Live in Golders Green, in Hendon.

So what did your husband do for a profession?

He was a knitting factory, whatever, yes.

And for you? Were you occupied in something yourself or were you more of a homemaker?

That's what I was. Yeah, that's very easy, but that's what I was. Soon they came along.

Yes, I was going to ask you [both laugh], how many children?

Only three.

You have three. And where do they live? We've met –

Where do they live now?

Yes.

Well, Robbie, Robert, and my daughter was here just before, here in Hendon. And one son in America. The youngest son, the baby. Baby [inaudible]. Fifty – how much? Don't know, fifty-one, fifty-two? He lives in America with his family. He has four children. My baby [laughs].

So looking back, how do you feel now about your life now, here? How do you feel about that? [00:20:07]

I'm very happy. Everything's all right. Got a nice flat, I think, and nice help. And Sheila go home and there comes another nice help, Hungarian. And I'm very happy. Can't walk, but it doesn't matter [laughs].

Is there anything else that you would like to add that maybe I haven't asked about? Anything at all. Anything you particularly would like to say? It doesn't matter if nothing comes to mind.

Well, all I can say is that with my difficulties, I'm very happy. I'm very happy. And that's all I can say. I've got a happy life and I go to – I've got lots of friends in Jewish care and I go there and play cards or whatever it is, and very nice. What a nice life.

Is there anything that you would like to say to somebody in the future who will watch this recording of you, anything at all that you would like to say to them?

[Pause] All I can say is that with all the problems and difficulties, I'm very happy to be alive, and I'm happy that I don't – I was very little at the last War, so I don't remember. I'm upset that my father died. I never knew him. And what a shame and he wrote for me a lovely, lovely letter, it's over there.

Yes, we'll look at that later.

Yes, a wonderful man he must have been. Wish I would have known him. [00:22:02]

So that is a big regret of course.

Very much so.

But there are some positive things as well, many positive things in your life.

Yes. My children. Thank God, the grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc. Yes, the children are very good. All of them. Only three [laughs].

So, any advice at all? Because you've had a very varied life. There's been loss, and there has been gain.

True.

I wonder if because this will be viewed by, we hope many people in the future. That they will learn something. Is there anything that you would like people watching this to learn, to take away from your experiences? Perhaps in the way they lead their lives.

All I can say is, with all the problems/difficulties all along, I'm happy to be alive. That's all I can say.

Thank you very much for doing this interview.

Thank you.

And for giving up your time.

Thank you so much.

Thank you.

I talk so much rubbish [pause].

Can we just go back a little bit to – almost to the beginning really. Your parent's backgrounds. Do you know anything about your father? [00:24:04] I know that you don't remember being with him, but do you know anything about his background, where he was born, where he came from?

He was born in Budapest and he had, I think, very nice parents. Where is the picture of his parents? Very fine people, and he had two more brothers who went to Israel. I don't know

how come. They decided to go to Israel [inaud]. They probably seen what will happen. What will happen, and there came the War. And my father stayed in Hungary, and he had to go away, and he disappeared. I don't know what happened exactly. Yes, he died in Dachau, that I know. I heard about that very sadly. Like six million others died sadly. And I think he was a very, very nice man. As I said, all I know is the lovely, lovely letter that he wrote for me, and that's all.

And his name? Your father's name.

Marcel Prager.

Yes. And your mother's name?

Before she was married, Weiss.

And do you know where she came from, where she was born?

Yes. You don't know that town, Munkács in Hungary. Do you know that? Mukachevo [present-day Ukraine]. It was taken over by the Russians, became Mukachevo and it's somewhere in Hungary. That was a smallish town, but so many Jewish people, apparently lots of- and they all died I suppose in the War. All the Jews from that town.

And in terms of people dying and being murdered within your family or extended family, do you know of other cases? [00:26:10] We know about your father, but were there other people within your larger family who you know were murdered during the War? Maybe your stepfather's family?

My stepfather, very – he was a lovely, lovely man my stepfather. And he's three children, and wife, young wife, they all died in the War. My stepfather Moshe, he had to go to the War. He was a soldier. He was a soldier. One of the soldiers I imagine, don't quite know, and he went away from the home, but he came back to the empty house 'cos mother was not there and the children also, all died.

Was he German your stepfather?

Hungarian. Hungarian, not German. Lived in Germany. It's all I can say.

Well, thank you. Thank you again for everything. It's been –

I can say my pleasure to you. Whatever I know.

It's an absolute honour, thank you.

Thank you very much, thank you. I wish [inaudible] [pause].

Hannie, would you like to introduce this young man sitting next to you?

This nice young man is my oldest son Robert, and what do you think of the oldest – I bet he has got things to say, but he will not, I'm afraid. [00:28:03] How did I speak? How was it? My interview.

S: It was very good. I thought it was very good. There was parts that you missed out about, for example your mother's family, your cousin you were brought up with, your first cousin you were very friendly with in school in Hungary. Eva, Evie.

No.

S: Your mother's sister.

[Inaudible].

S: Had a daughter.

Yes.

S: And what was her daughter's name?

Evie.

S: And you went to school with her, and she was your friend when you were brought up.

Not really. Lived quite a little way from us, and she was two years younger than me.

S: Oh, I see.

And we had different friends.

S: But you became friendly later on in life.

Oh yes, but [both talking at once].

S: We went to Hungary to visit them.

That's right, that's right.

S: Okay. There was also another couple of parts you missed out. Your mother's jobs when she worked so hard when you were little.

We had to eat, and she has heart problem. She had to go to work.

S: She worked you said before she worked for her uncle.

Yes.

S: Sewing.

Yes sewing, that's right.

S: But she also had other jobs. Cleaner?

Not cleaner.

S: In a swimming pool?

Yes, that was her job. But not a cleaner. She was just receiving people coming in swimming pool.

S: In the local pool in Budapest.

Yeah, that's right.

S: Right, okay.

A very famous, big – lovely pool, huge.

S: Okay.

Swimming pool.

S: And when you were young, no one made fun that you were Jewish when you were in school? When you were five, six, seven years old you went to school in Hungary.

Yes, yes.

S: And –

At that young age they don't care about Jewish. [00:30:03]

S: Yeah. When you were ten/eleven?

No.

S: It was okay, your experience in school?

Absolutely okay. It was all right because there were a few Jewish girls, Jewish children. I was [inaudible]. Jewish children, and others were Hungarian, girls and boys. They're lovely. Nobody said anything about that. We are Jewish.

S: And also, your mother remarried. My grandmother.

Yes.

S: My late grandmother, she remarried Moshe Jacobowitz.

A lovely person he was.

S: And his family, what happened to his family in the War?

Three children died and one young wife. Absolutely terrible. Very sad. And his daughter's name was Hannah like me. That's very – just one of those things in life.

S: And Claire asked you about any food that you ate when you went to Israel that was brand-new food.

Yeah.

S: Do you remember?

Before that in Hungary we were always hungry, but there I remember where I went to live in Israel, plenty, plenty, plenty. On the long table. I lived in there. Like a home. Lived there,

studied there, and everything. And there was plenty of food. That was lovely. I was surprised about that.

S: I think when you went on the boat to Israel, or that was Palestine, was that the first time you had an orange?

We were – it was a big boat and us Jews, we were down in the boat right under this. Boiling, boiling hot, and one morning I wake up, there's a big orange in my hand. One of the workers there, they must have put in that time. [00:32:02] That was lovely.

S: And that was the first time you had ever seen –?

Exactly.

S: An orange.

My uncle from Budapest went to Vienna for a business whatever it was, and I got a big present when he came back. An orange [laughs]. One.

S: Okay, and you remember your – do you remember how you got the letter from your father? Who gave it to you?

Yeah. We ran away from Hungary, me and my mother, and a few other people. I remember walking, walking, walking towards Vienna, which is very, very nearby. And my mother couldn't breathe well because of her heart problem. Everyone says, 'Shhhh.' So, somebody gave her half a lemon. Did it help? I don't know if that's what it was and – what was it that you just asked me?

S: About the letter that your father wrote to you. When did you get that?

And as we left our flat, my mother ran back for the letter. Then she gave me that letter. Then. When we left Hungary.

S: Okay and did she not tell you anything about your father?

Very little.

S: Very little, okay.

[Inaudible] little one.

S: Okay, I've actually – shall I – I've got –

We'd like to just ask you one thing. I know you're going to read parts of the letter that you've just been talking about.

S: Sure, yeah.

But I'd just like to ask you while you're here, you are the second generation.

S: Hmm-mm.

You are the carrier of the message in many ways, and I just wondered how your life has been impacted by what you know. [00:34:06] By the fact that your grandfather had such a tragic ending, you would have known him otherwise, and what your mother has been through. Not only the War but escaping from Hungary in 1956. I just wondered whether you feel this has changed or impacted on you at all?

S: I think, yeah. I think there's no doubt it's made me more proud of my Jewishness and proud of my heritage, and that sort of thing. It's also, I mean, my father as well, he was a Holocaust survivor. He was brought up in Austria in Nebersdorf which was Czechoslovakia/Austria, whatever, a small town in the [inaudible] it was called, a small town. Him and his brother and his mother managed to come to London, and his father was killed on the way, I think, trying to escape to Russia, so we were told. His father was killed. And my father's –

Your grandfather.

S: My father was evacuated to Wales with his brother at a very early age. So yes, we were brought up with story – you know, a whole community in shul. My parent's friends, my grandmother's – well, my late grandmother's friends. My father's mother had six sisters and they all lived in Stamford Hill, and there were always stories. You know, none of them – one of them had a husband still alive, the others didn't. So yeah, we were brought up with that always on our minds. Kind of the way we were brought up and, you know, it's an important message to convey to the next generation and – [00:36:08]

Well, that's what I was going to ask you actually. Do you think – I mean, you have a number of children.

S: Hmm-mm.

Do you think that you have brought them up differently or with particular values because of what you have absorbed?

S: I don't know. I mean, I was brought up religious and I've tried to instil those values within my – you know, to my children, and I think they are carrying it forward, and I'm very proud of that. Yeah, you know, they live in Israel all of them now, and that's a different story all together but, you know, I'm proud to have three Israeli children and one Israeli granddaughter, and yeah.

I believe now that you are going to read two short passages from the letter that you have already mentioned.

S: Yeah. So, the original letter is over there. This is a letter basically from my late grandfather, from my mother's father that her mother, as she said, ran back to the flat to get it when they escaped. And so basically this is a letter from Marcel Prager, my mother's father, my grandfather, translated from the original Hungarian by my mother. This was written in

Budapest, March 23rd, 1944. And I'm just going to read the first paragraph, or the first two paragraphs and the last paragraph. *'My dear darling little child, when you get this letter in your hands it's possible your daddy cannot come back to you anymore. My darling little child I would have very much loved to bring you up and would have liked to straighten your ways and your happiness. [00:38:05] But fate which gave me so much in life over the years cannot give me that. In that case, I would at least like – your father would like to get you to know your father in a letter.'* Marcel then goes on and tells his daughter about himself. The letter ends, [coughs], *'Darling little child, now it was your second birthday and you got from me a nice big doll. Every year for sure laugh on that day, have a lovely time, and enjoy yourself, because I want you to be happy. I always walked on the sunny side of life, and now I'm forty-two years old and still too young to die, but I can say while I lived, I lived well. [Pause] If I must go, I will go with Hashem's name. My beloved only child, I say goodbye to you. I kiss you with much love as a father can say goodbye to a child. I ask you if it's not too difficult –*

Stop it!

S: *'I ask you if it's not too difficult for you, think about me every Friday night when the candles are lit, and if you have a little more time speak to me. Tell me what you want to do, your plans, and I will try to speak to Hashem, and with my prayer I will try to help you. Go on your way and it should be successful. Hashem will be with you. Never be afraid. Marcel Prager.'*

Thank you very much.

S: Sure.

It's Robert Marcel.

S: Yeah, Robert Marcel. Yeah.

Thank you.

He would have been such a nice grandfather. [Pause] Sad, it was. [00:40:03] [Pause] I didn't think I will be crying. [Pause]

M: Yes please. Tell me who is in the photograph.

Oh, yes. That's my grandmother and grandfather. A very long time ago. That picture must be 100 years old and more. And my grandfather's – my grandmother's name was Hannah, and my grandfather's name, don't know. It's very sad. I should know it, but I don't. Never met them sadly. It's my father. That's all I can say because I sadly did not – never knew him. I was very, very young. Two or three years old when he died, to the camp, Dachau, in Dachau, and never met him sadly.

M: And his name?

Marcel Prager. He wrote to me a wonderful, wonderful letter when he knew that he will not come back. Yes. All I can say is it's my father and it's my stepfather – no, my mother, sorry. My mother with her new husband, that time, very, very nice gentleman. They seemed to be very happy there in a park, walking in a park. That's what it seems like.

M: Do you know where and when it was taken?

Must have been Germany. That's where they lived sadly, and they went for a walk. I don't know where. [00:42:03]

M: 1950s? '60s?

Yes, '60s.

M: '60s, okay, thank you. Tell me about this photograph please.

Let me see it better. I can't see that far.

M: Yes please.

The new father and the wonderful people, and that was on the balcony of the hotel or whatever it was. Yes, that's what it was.

M: And where was this?

In Switzerland. Switzerland. Don't know the name of the town. Robbie, what was the name of that town? You don't know either.

S: Which town?

In Switzerland.

S: No.

That's my late husband, Albin, but we called him Alan. He was a wonderful person, and we've got three lovely children, a few more grandchildren, lots of grandchildren. He was a lovely person. Sadly he's not here any more. He died. And that's it.

M: Tell us about this picture. Yes please, Hannie.

Hmm?

M: Could you tell us about this picture?

Oh yes, sorry. No. Can't tell you anything. We went – I got married on that day it looks like. No, it was a wedding outfit, me. Yes? Possible then we got married. That very day.

M: This is your wedding picture.

It looks like it, yes.

M: And where did you get married?

In here, in this street [laughs].

M: In this street.

This street, in the shul up the road.

M: And this was in –?

November. It was so cold and raining and horrible. That was – that picture was from inside somewhere. [00:44:03]

M: 1962.

1962.

M: Thank you.

[Inaudible] over there on the photo, and my son Robbie, and my daughter Sylvie. And the third one wasn't here yet. The third one came later. That's a lovely photo if I may say so.

M: When was this taken?

'64 maybe, 1964.

M: Who's in this photograph?

Let me just see. It's my late mother. She was lovely. And my two children, that time. One is Robert, one is Sylvia. The third one came two years later. Four years later, Danny, and it was

a lovely day it looks like, and my mother was here, and sadly she's no more. Not anymore. She came to us to England. Yes.

S: Approximately year.

This looks like the whole family's there. Can't even see it, but everybody's there. All my grandchildren, children and grandchildren. And is my husband – I can't see? He's there or not? My husband is not here.

M: *He is, yes.*

He is there. He was a very wonderful person of course, and he's there on this photo my husband, late husband. Yes, he's holding one of the children. I can see. He loved all of them. And they are lovely children, they are lovely children still. And they are all grown up by now. They became mothers and fathers as well. My dear father sadly died in the War. He was taken away among the six million people that died as well. And sadly, I don't remember him. I don't know, I don't remember him at all. [00:46:01] I was only two years old when they took him away, and he had to go away. And he was a lovely person. He gave me a lovely, lovely letter. He left me a nice letter about himself, about his family, his mother and father who are my grandparents. I didn't know them either sadly and I would have liked to say much more about him, but I did not know him sadly.

M: *Yes, please.*

S: This is the letter.

Oh, this is the letter that my dear father wrote it to me. Of course, I don't remember him, and he starts the letter by saying, 'My dear, darling only daughter. And I was hoping to bring you up and look after you, and take you the right way, but sadly I won't be able to.' And what else?

M: [Inaudible]

I don't have any memory of him because sadly I did not know him. I was very little girl that time. He must have been a wonderful person. And he writes me a lovely, lovely letter, and I don't know how come that he knew that he's not going to come back. And I remember every day I was looking out. I bet he will come back. That was in Budapest. And he never came back sadly. That's all I can say.

M: Thank you so much.

S: [Inaudible].

[End of transcript]