

IMPORTANT

This transcript is copyright Association of Jewish Refugees

Access to this interview and transcript is for private research only. Please refer to the AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive, prior to any publication or broadcast from this document.

AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive

AJR

Winston House, 2 Dollis Park

London N3 1HF

ajrrefugeevoices@ajr.org.uk

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this transcript, however no transcript is an exact translation of the spoken word, and this document is intended to be a guide to the original recording, not replace it. Should you find any errors please inform

ajrrefugeevoices@ajr.org.uk

Interview Transcript Title Page

Collection title:	AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive
Ref. no:	192

Interviewee Surname:	Joseph
Forename:	Inga
Interviewee Sex:	Female
Interviewee DOB:	9 March 1927
Interviewee POB:	Vienna, Austria

Date of Interview:	22 September 2016
Location of Interview:	Sheffield
Name of Interviewer:	Dr. Anthony Grenville
Total Duration (HH:MM):	2 hours 28 minutes



REFUGEE VOICES

Interview No. RV192
NAME: Inga Joseph
DATE: 22nd September 2016
LOCATION: Sheffield, UK
INTERVIEWER: Dr. Anthony Grenville

[Part One]

[0:00:00]

Today is the 22nd of September 2016, and I'm interviewing Mrs. Inga Joseph in Sheffield. My name is Anthony Grenville.

Well, Inga, I'd like first of all just to thank you for agreeing to do this interview for the AJR's Refugee Voices program. And I'd like to start by asking you just some detailed questions. First of all, could you tell me where you were born, please?

I was born in Vienna

And the date of your birth?

9th of March 1957 [1927].

And your name at birth, please?

Inga Pollak.

And your name now?

Is Inga Joseph.

Joseph – right. And just one question I have to add on to that. I know that you published your diaries. What name did you publish those under, please?

Ingrid Jacoby.

Why did you choose the name Jacoby?

I didn't initially want people to know who- who'd really written them, I suppose.

But why Jacoby?

Because it was the nearest to Joseph. I didn't want to be- I didn't have the courage to go completely different, so...

I understand...

... something really seemed to be related to it.

I understand. I'd like it to, to, to... Look at your family background in Vienna first, please.

What did your father do as a profession?

He was a businessman.

And what was his name?

Walther Pollak.

And what sort of business was he in?

Textiles and things, I think.

He his own business?

Yes, he did.

Yes...

Like his father before him.

Was it a family firm?

Yes. Yes.

And- and what- what part of Vienna did you live in?

The centre - Wipplingerstraße.

Oh yes, so that's in the...

Right in the centre- well, not at first. At first in the Hintzerstraße.

In which Straße?

Hintzer...

Which- I don't know...

A much nicer- a suburb in the- you know Vienna?

Yes.

It was- it was off the Lang- a very long street called the Langgasse, or something. Land- Landstraße [Landstraßer Hauptstraße]. And it was a lovely area, but we left that to move to- to Wipplingerstraße, because that's where my father's firm was, and I suppose it was an economic move. I don't know.

[00:02:38]

So, do you remember which- Bezirk- which- which District your first home was in?

The first one was in the 3rd District.

3rd District – oh, yes...

The Hintzerstraße. But the- the Wipplingerstraße is central.

That's the 1st District.

The 1st- 1st District. Yes.

That's quite posh.

I didn't think it was posh as the 3rd District, actually.

Oh, right! [laughs] Yes. And... coming to your mother now, what was- what was her name?

Emma.

And her maiden name?

Guttmann.

And did you have any brothers or sisters?

I've got an older sister, yes.

And what was her name?

What, her present- married name now, you mean?

Her first name...

Oh – Lieselotte. Yes.

Yes. She came to England...

We came together. Yes.

And how much older was she?

She was just- just under three years older.

Were you close?

...Yes and no... Yes and no. We were- closeness was forced on us, really, when we came alone to England.

Mn-hnn?

Don't think we were- we were too different, really, to- we weren't such great friends in Vienna. But it was forced us, of course.

Yes... What sort of family life did you have? I mean were you- do you feel you were - the family - was fairly prosperous?

No, not at all.

No?

Sort of middle class - middle class.

Did you live in a- in an apartment?

Yes. Yes, everybody did. I think you had to be a millionaire to live in your own house.

Yes ...yes. Could you describe the apartment- how big it was, roughly speaking?

Oh, it was... completely old fashioned, looking back on it now. It was quite spacious. On the third floor. And I remember - I don't know if that was common in those days - but it had two lavatories side by side. One for the servant, and one for the family. I've never come across- Then we weren't very prosperous. But I don't know. Were most flats like that? I have no idea. The servants weren't supposed to- the maid was not supposed to use the same loo.

Oh, right. So, you had a live-in- a live-in maid?

[00:04:39]

We did. Yes. Yes. Then again, everybody did.

Yes... yes. And I mean Wipplingerstraße, if I remember rightly, that's where the... Isn't that where the- the Rathaus is?

A bit further down, towards the town – Schottenring - yes.

Yes.

I don't know if you ever read a book called... Oh dear, because it features in it... I've forgotten the name of the book now. Amber eyes- "*The Hare with the Amber Eyes.*"

Oh, yes...

And of course, the Wipplinger- there's a map in it, and the Wipplingerstraße is in it. Cause it takes- some of it takes place in Vienna.

Yes. That- just for the tape, "The Hare with the Amber Eyes" is the best-selling book by... Edmund de Waal – Edmund de Waal, his name is.

That's right, de Waal. Yes... yes.

Yes. And obviously your parents were Jewish, but would you- could you say how Jewish they were? How observant?

My mother would have liked to be more so, but my father wouldn't have any of it. He absolutely forbade any kind of... keeping of Jewish festivals, or anything.

Really? So, you didn't... hold Seder on Friday nights?

No.

Or go to synagogue?

Occasionally I think we did- yes. We did occasionally.

On... High Holy Days?

Probably, yes. Probably.

And how do you- How do you remember your early days? You know, your early family life?

Well, it wasn't a good marriage, so it wasn't- my parents' marriage was not a good marriage. Which surprisingly, didn't rub off at all on my sister and me. Just the opposite. So, it shows it doesn't... Children are not so easily influenced as people think, I think. But no, it wasn't a good marriage. And he was, he travelled a lot. He went on business. He was- I suppose he arranged it so that he could be away quite a bit. He went abroad quite a bit because- probably because it wasn't a good marriage. I don't know. But I know it wasn't.

So, your- it was mainly your mother, then, that she stayed home and looked after you?

Yes – yes. And my grandmother lived with us.

Your- is that your...?

Mother's mother. Yes.

Oh! What was her name?

Guttman – Guttman.

Yes, her first name?

Regina – Regina?

[00:06:49]

Regina. Oh, yes, well these are very German - German sounding names. At least not - not terribly Jewish. Regina... I suppose they were- did they consider themselves... Austrian?

Yes.

Viennese?

Viennese, yes. I was quite old before I found out there was a Jewish- I was Jewish. I didn't know what it meant. [both laugh]

When you say quite old...

Well, I suppose about eight, nine, ten. I don't know.

What about your education in Vienna? Where did you start. Did you go to a... primary school?

When we lived in the Hintzerstraße I went to the Bergegasse I think; that was quite a well-known school, I think. And then... well, to the *Schwarzwaldschule* [Eugenie Schwarzwald].

Let's just deal with- with the little primary school first. Do you remember it at all?

Yeah, I remember there were boys in my class, which I didn't like. [both laugh] They always bullied the girls. They always seemed to be- you don't get a chance really in a mixed school... Well, it's probably better now, but you didn't then.

And that school was... part of the state system. Presumably not a...

Yes... yes. An 'elementary school' it would have been called. It still exists, I think.

Yes. And that was obviously religiously mixed as well.

Oh, absolutely. Yes.

How many - roughly speaking - what was the proportion of Jewish children in the class or the school? Do you remember?

Oh, I have no idea...

No? So, it didn't really play a role?

Not at all. No idea.

You- You didn't experience any...

[00:08:28]

Never in my life. I've never, ever in my life experienced – if you're going to say antisemitism - that's just a word to me. I have never, ever experienced it. Ever.

Right...

I don't know if you have, but I certainly haven't.

Well, no. But I wasn't- I wasn't brought up in Vienna before...

No, but this happens here, I suppose. I don't know.

*I suppose it does. Oh well- well, that is good to hear as far as this country is concerned.
And...*

But after Hitler came...

Of course...

... it was different. And even then, I only remember once going for a walk with my bosom pal in Vienna. And some boys came by, and I had a little handbag with my initials on it which was 'IP'. And they came by and said, "O - *Judenpande*".

Oh!

And that was- instead of "*Judenbande*" [*the word would be Juden**b**ande, but to remark on the initials IP they pronounced it Juden**p**ande. That was the only time I've ever...*

You had... Jewish... gang.

The only ever time I've ever felt anything- experienced anything like- well that- you wouldn't even call that antisemitism really, would you?

Well, just about.

Yes.

I think I would. Well, anyway- well... so. What age were you when you left the school and went to the Schwarzwaldschule?

Well, whatever the normal age was- it was 10, I think it was - yes.

Because the Schwarzwaldschule is- is very well-known indeed...

You had to take an exam I think, an entrance exam. Did you? And it was a fee-paying school, of course, wasn't it?

Yes. That's quite unusual in, in - in Austria. It's very famous...

Well, the headmistress [Eugenie Schwarzwald] is very famous.

Yes.

I found a photograph of her. Somebody came here and brought me a photograph of- of her. The headmistress. Together with this famous author - Karen somebody or other. I'd have to look it up. Anyway, it's a photograph of the headmistress of the *Schwarzwaldschule*, whose name I've forgotten. She's sitting with some other people, and one other them is Karen... can you think of the word?

The only writer I can think of is Karen Blixen... the... but it wouldn't...

No, there's Karen Gershon too, but it wasn't her. I'd have to look- I've forgotten. It doesn't matter - anyway.

[00:10:26]

Yes. Do you remember her? Were you taught by her?

No, I don't remember her at all!

Oh!

Not at all.

Right... [laughs]

...Not at all. I could- I don't think I ever- we was- I think we didn't come in contact with her. I don't think she did any teaching or not- perhaps not at that level. Perhaps higher up.

Yes. How long were you there for?

Well, it could only have been a year.

Yes. And where was the Schwarz- just for the tape, where was the Schwarzwaldschule situated? I mean...

...Did I go across...? I think I seem to remember walking past that clock. That famous clock in the market place... Was it Kohlmarkt?

Kohlmarkt.

Would that have been where it was?

It was somewhere in the- in the 1st District.

Yes. I think so, I'm not- or was that the Jewish school we had to go to? No, I can't- I'm not sure.

It doesn't matter. Do you- do you remember any of your teachers there?

Yes.

Could you tell me a little about them?

Yes, well, the religious teacher was- I've got a *Stammbuch* somewhere with his signatures in, but I'd have to look it out for you.

For the tape, a Stammbuch is a book where children write little – little messages.

Yes, and teachers and children signed themselves. And, and do I remember a teacher, did you say?

Ah, yes...

I do remember a French teacher called Schrammel who was actually quite anti-Semitic. Now think of it, she didn't like me, and I think- she was said to be anti-Semitic. But I thought she just didn't like me. I don't know why, because I was good at French. But that- it was said afterwards; I wouldn't have known. She was called Schrammel. That's all I remember.

Presumably, quite a lot of the teachers were Jewish. I mean the Schwarzwaldschule had quite a number of Jewish chil- Jewish pupils.

I suppose there must have been. I don't know what the teachers were. I suppose they must have been. Yes.

So really, they didn't- did this- the, the- The religious or racial divide didn't impinge on you?

Not at all. No, not...

I mean, I've read other memoirs by, by people who went to the Schwarzwaldschule, like the writer Hilde Spiel, and- but most of them were Jewish. But if- perhaps it had changed. Hilde Spiel would be... fifteen years older.

Oh, yes. Where have I come across that name Hilde Spiel? Where have I come across that? Who was she?

She was a sort of grande dame of Austrians literature in the...

Yes...

60s, 70s, 80s...

[00:12:50]

Yes, I see. Yes.

She'd come here as well.

Yes...

Then went back... Because it- it's actually a, a famous progressive school and... as you say, fee- paying.

Well, I don't know why I went there, because my sister didn't go there. She went to a quite academic school. Oh... it had a long name... Especially for young ladies. Well, it's no good. I can't remember. 'Volk...' – can you think of any famous school for young ladies in Vienna? She didn't -but because we'd moved by then, and I think the *Schwarzwaldschule* was nearer. That's probably why I went there.

It's the only- apart from where my – my mother went, I, I only know the Schwarzwaldschule.

Yes yes...

But...

I wonder if she was there when I was there.

My mother?

Yes.

No... She's- she's, she's- oh, she's- would have been well before. Well before you. She's more Hilda Spiel's generation.

Aha. Yes...

But she was at a ...a similar school. But friends of hers were at the Schwarzwaldschule.

Anyway... I'm not here to...to speak about my family history. Sorry.

Probably more interesting than mine.

Oh no, not at all. Not at all. ...So, you- you were at the Schwarzwaldschule for about...

For about a year, I think. Yes.

Before the Anschluss, how were your relations with- with Vienna around you? Would you say? I mean you, you - you were – what? - eleven- just under eleven when...

When Hitler came, yes.

When Hitler marched in.

Yes. On my birthday, actually, the Anschluss, more or less. More or less. Yes. I had to cancel my party – my birthday party.

Do you remember the Anschluss?

Yes. I remember it distinctly.

Can you describe it for us, please?

I remember my father coming in from the office. And... into the drawing room, and there was a sort of sideboard there. And he just went like this- [Inge recreates father's expression]. Utterly, utterly despairing. And his- and his head drooped. And we said, "What's the matter?" And then he told us. It didn't mean anything to me, of course. And the next thing was Schuschnigg on the radio...

Yes?

Have you heard of Schuschnigg? Of course.

Yes.

Sure- what did he say? ... "*Rot, Weiß, Rot bis in den Tod.*" That's right. On the radio. Have you heard that?

"Rot-Weiss-Rot" – yes. The Austrian- The colours of the Austrian flag.

[00:15:24]

Yes, because they were apparently standing behind him with pistols, but I don't know.

Mnn... Schuschnigg, for the tape, was the Austrian Chancellor who was deposed when, when...

That's right. And before that was Dollfuss...

Yes.

...whom I also remember. And I remember he was assassinated. And we were on holiday. I was about seven years old. And my grandmother read out to me that Dollfuss had been assassinated. And that was my first experience of politics. Made an enormous impact on me.

Where were you on holiday?

Reichenau, I think.

Oh yes, Bad Reichenau. Yes.

You know it too, do you?

I know of it, yes. Is that- is that the sort of place where you spent your- your holidays?

Yes, and Waldeck. A place called Waldeck as well, which we went back to... much later, with my husband. It had completely changed. Have you heard of that? Waldeck?

I've heard of it... yes. But these were pretty nice places.

Yes. People didn't seem to go very- well, they did actually, I think. They did! People who had more money did go to- on- abroad to Italy and so on, on holiday. But... we never did.

How about your neighbours? The other people living in, in- in the... apartment block where you- or the house where you- where your apartment was? How were your relations with them?

I don't remember any at all. Not at all.

Right.

I know all my neighbours around here. I can't understand why we didn't seem to mix with neighbours in the same building! I can't remember any of them.

Oh, well. Going back to the- the Anschluss. I interrupted you. You were talking about how you remembered the Anschluss. Your father came home, and you listened to Dollfuss – sorry – Schuschnigg...

Schuschnigg. Yes...

...That speech on the radio.

Yes.

And what happened then? I mean what about the arrival of German troops in Vienna?

...German troops I don't remember. The swastika flags went up straight away; that I do remember.

Yes...

And my father immediately left the country, of course. Immediately. He knew what was going to happen. But he- it was escape from a bad marriage, and it was escape from Hitler. Not that he could have foreseen what would happen. But the idea was to fetch us... later. He went to- he had links with Paris and Italy.

Oh, so he went...

He didn't stay. He didn't wait for the Nazis to imprison him. He went. He left immediately.

And he went to France?

No, he went to and Italy first.

Aha... Where? Do you know?

Milan, I think.

And then...?

Well, the Germans caught up with him every time. And then he went to Paris and the Germans caught up with him there. And finally, he came to Plymouth because we were- just sixty miles from where we were.

Yes. I think we'll come on to that later.

Yes. That's jumping ahead.

And... what- what impact did the Anschluss have on you and your sister, and your mother, and how you lived after March 1938?

Greatly reduced circumstances, of course. We had to take lodgers in...to the flats.

Were there other Jewish people, or...?

I think he was. I particularly mentioned one, you remember, Otto Seifert? And somebody else. Yes, you had to take lodgers in. Obviously, because my father had left. I don't know if you could send money back to Austria. I don't know... how she lived, really.

[00:18:44]

And must've been very difficult...

Must've been difficult! Would he have been allowed to send money to...?

I think- I think you could send money in... but not out.

No. Well he must have done! He must have supported... I don't know.

How did- do you know how he kept himself in Paris?

He worked.

Oh, he got a job!

Well, he had his own business. I think he had some link there.

Oh, I see, yes.

Some business link there. ...because he often travelled.

Yes, so- that was a big advantage. So, he could...

Yes. Yes... yes.

He could subsist, and even send- probably could send money back. I'm sure they had no objections to French francs coming- coming in to- to Vienna.

I suppose so... Yes.

And you continued going to school?

Yes. No, we had to go to a Jewish school.

Ah... yes.

We had to leave.

Yes...

It was called 'Sechs Krugelgasse' [Kegelgasse] I remember, and it was quite a long walk. *Sechs Krugelgasse?* Does that...?

No, it doesn't mean anything to me. Is it still in the- in the 1st District?

I wouldn't think so. I remember a very long walk. It was probably in the Jewish district.

The 2nd District.

Probably - yes.

And how did you get on there?

I don't seem to remember much about that really. I felt it was... I don't know. I never seemed to integrate or- of course some of my friends came with me from the... but I don't know how good it was academically I- really. I have no idea.

I was going to ask you how it compared with the Schwarzwaldschule.

I wouldn't- no, it couldn't have been as good as that. It couldn't have been.

[00:20:15]

And was your sister there as well?

I can't- No, she wasn't. I think... Because she was in this school that- whose name I can't remember... *Verein. Frauen... Frauen... verderb...verein!* That's what it was called. ... *Frauen... verderbs...verein!* [Frauenerwerbsverein founded in 1866] That's what it was called. Very posh name for a grammar school, I suppose is what it was. Yes.

Do you know where that was?

No... a tram ride away, I think.

Mn-hnn. And apart from the obvious financial problems that the Anschluss caused, did it have any other- and the change of schools- did it have any other impact on you and your life? I mean did you feel the restrictions? Because obviously there were certain things that Jews weren't allowed to do any more.

I was very sad when you couldn't go to the cinema any more.

Exactly - Yes. Had you been a keen cinema-goer?

A very keen: Shirley Temple. [Anthony laughs] Oh, dear! And somebody else – Freddy Bartholomew, was it? And... Oh, very keen cinema goer. Yes.

Were you already interested in books and writing?

Strangely enough, I didn't come to reading until fairly late. My sister was the reader and while she read, I sat and drew. I just drew- I just drew all throughout my childhood and- and wrote. And I didn't seem to find time to- to read. I came to reading quite late.

When did you start writing a diary?

I could tell you that to the day actually. I used to know that. I think I was about 10 years old - in German, of course. Yes.

Yes...

And I thought everybody just had to write everything down, or it will be forgotten. And how- and it would be awful if everything you did in life was forgotten. So...

Do you still keep a diary?

Yes.

Gosh...

Yes, but not every day.

[00:22:11]

No... Well, I've- I've read your diaries from the- from when it started. The published version that goes up to nineteen-fifty...

Did you enjoy them?

Oh, very much. Very much.

Well, you know they're left to the Bodleian Library, don't you?

Ah, yes...

In Oxford.

Yes. I'm sure that- that's valuable. For anybody reading the tape, the diaries are highly recommended and the- the- So you're telling me that the- the actual physical diaries are...

Are bequeathed to the Bodleian. I have to... ...what do they call him? Cyril. I've forgotten his name now. I might have told you about it at the time. Anyway, he wanted to meet me in Oxford, so I went to Oxford to meet this.... What is the head of- the Chief Librarian of the Bodleian Library? And I took a sample... in, because they're all- They're all edited in a hardcover thing there. I took a sample and they said, "Yes, we'd like that for the...". So, I had to put it in my will actually, that I actually bequeath to the Bodleian Library. Which is a nice way- place for them to end up, isn't it?

Oh- There's nowhere better in this country.

I've haven't spent all my life writing things down just for them to be thrown away...you know?

Quite right. ...how- When you went- I'm interested in this... transition from the Schwarzwaldschule, which is very assimilated and integrated, both Jewish and non-Jewish pupils, but then you went to this 'Jews only' school...

Oh, did they have non-Jewish pupils as well in the *Schwarzwaldschule* then?

Oh yes. Yes, it was very....

Oh yes, I remember- I remember now. Yes. Yes.

What was it like going to a Jewish school where there must have been, I presume you were taught Hebrew, and things like that?

I do seem to remember a couple of Hebrew lessons, yes. But not for long. I'm not sure if it was compulsory.

Did you- did you make friends with the other Jewish...

[00:23:57]

Well, as I say, a lot of the people came with me... there...

Oh, from Schwarzwaldschule?

From the- yes, we ended up in the same school. So, whether I met any new ones there are not... I mean, in fact I knew- two of them I'm still in contact with, or was. Well, very sadly- One went to Australia. I think she's in a home now. But the other one, in London... Britta Lamberg. She came from a much better family than me; her father was a solicitor. And sadly, they perished there. But she- and she ended up in a concentration camp, and she actually- and she- and she came to England.

So, she- she survived?

Well... she got dementia. I think she's in a home now. But I did- yes, we did meet up again.

And that's- that's a friend from the Schwarzwaldschule?

From there- yes. Yes. Yes.

What I'm trying to get at is, you know, how you- how you felt about being in a purely Jewish school environment?

Well, I felt it was academically, you know, rela- it was- it was not academically to the same standard I felt, and- no. I don't think I was very happy about it.

And I suppose all the time... there was, well, preparations for- for you to leave...

That's right.

...with your sister.

That's right, yes.

Did you know that- that, that your father was abroad and planning for you to join him?

Well, he said that, but I don't think ever did anything much about it. He said he couldn't, but... because there was- an excuse was my grandmother. They wouldn't let old people out, did they, or something? Or it was more difficult?

It was difficult for them to get in anywhere else.

So ...yes.

Yes.

It was an entirely due to my mother that- my mother that I'm alive. My father had nothing more to do with it. She organised the Kindertransport for us and everything.

Could you tell me about that, what you remember? I mean, how- how- do you know how she organised it?

Well, there was some woman, some friend she had, who- who had joined some organization. And you had to get a guarantor.

Yes

You couldn't go before- unless you had a guarantor. And that was found for us. At first, he- he was only going to take one of us, and then he heard there was another one, so he took us- both of us.

A guarantor, for the tape, is someone in Britain who would...

Who- who guaranteed to keep you till you were eighteen, I think it was.

Yes, and put up a guarantee of fifty pounds.

That's right. Yes. Yes.

We'll come on to them. But... Were you aware that these preparations were...?

[00:26:24]

Yes! I was very excited. I was very excited. Must have been very stupid. I just thought it was very exciting.

Coming- coming to a foreign country? Coming to England?

Yes, the whole thing was frightfully exciting. ...I thought, yes.

Could you describe the, the- the preparations when it got towards June 1939?

Well, we had to buy this special trunk, which I've still got. You know, cabin trunk. I've still got it with your initials on. And... I... No, I was just excited about it all, and... I can't remember what I wrote in the diary about it. I wasn't...

[sound break]

Just starting again, after replacing the lightbulb to light the interview.

We were talking about your preparations for leaving for England. Did you talk about it with your older sister?

Oh, we must have done. I'm sure we did. Yes.

She was a bit older than you. Did she understand more of the situation?

Yes, and she knew English and she... she was in the same class as Betty Rothschild, who was English. And she told her so much about England, and my sister was just longing to get there. She thought they were all full of Betty Rothschilds I think, or that family. [both laugh]

Yes... And when did your mother tell you, you know, that she'd made arrangements for the precise train, date...?

Oh, I think it was a very short space of time only.

Did you then go and say goodbye to relatives?

Yes. We had a round of saying goodbye to relatives, yes.

Were there lots of them?

...No... no.

What about them? Did- did some of them escape as well?

Well, as you know, my mother and grandmother didn't but... my father's father was in Czechoslovakia at the time... with his- with his daughter. And when they emigrated and they couldn't take him, he committed suicide.

Oh dear!

Yes. I... It was dreadful. But we were already in England then, when my mother wrote and told us that he'd committed suicide. Because he- he didn't want to be a burden to his daughter, and with no way out.

And what about the daughter? Did she manage to get out?

She went to Israel, I think. Yes.

[00:28:47]

So, going back to yourself- what happened then? Your mother then told you... you were going to go to England?

Well, it all- we went to see some friends, Bielitzers, that's right. And they- they arranged it all I think, for us. Because we sort of came to know about it at the- all of us at the same time, I think.

And how did the departure for England actually unfold? What happened? How do you remember it?

Excitement... quite exciting.

Where did you leave from?

The Westbahnhof... at eleven o'clock at night.

Yes...

Like everybody else.

So, could you describe the scene, what you remember of it, when you and your sister were taken by your mother to- to the Westbahnhof?

I just remember... when my grandmother was looking out of the window and waving us, "Good-bye". As we came...the taxi- the time- I'd hardly ever been in a taxi, and by taxi to the station. I remember looking out of the window and waving goodbye to us. And all I could eat was an apple. I think I mentioned that in the diary. I didn't- I couldn't eat anything. That was the way children- if they were very excited, they couldn't eat, could they? And that was a typical example. Yes.

Do you know why the trains left at- late at night?

Yes, I have been told that since. It's because not to... Do you know why? There was a reason for that, wasn't there?

Well, you tell me what you knew...

They didn't want anybody to know about this. Is that what it was?

[00:30:15]

I think so. So, there was- congregation of so many Jews in one place was undesirable.

Yes...

That's what I've heard as well.

Yes... Yes.

Do you remember saying goodbye to your mother?

Of course... of course.

Could you- could you describe- I know it's a difficult question. Could you describe your feelings?

Well... You can imagine them, I think.

Yes... Yes. And what about the actual train journey?

Well... it was all a bit hazy, really. Lots of children, lots of noise. Sandwiches we were given for two days we ate in one go. So ...

How did you- how did you travel? You left from Vienna and...?

Now, I did know that didn't I? Where did we cross over? Where did we go from Vienna? I can't- I- I would have to look it up, quite honestly. I've- luckily, it's written down, as you know.

Yes...

Where did we go from Vienna? I've gone blank.

Possibly through Belgium, or through Holland?

Through Holland. And Holland they were very nice and passed us some chocolate through the- when we stopped in Amsterdam or somewhere. Yes, they were very friendly in Holland.

Did you have any contact with German officials? Nazi officials?

Well, I remember them coming in... and- but they barely- you know, we were very nervous. But they barely bothered with us. And one child there had a violin. And he was very apprehensive about that whether he could take it with him. But he could; it was all right.

And you had this obviously quite substantial cabin trunk...

Yes, but that went separately.

Ah, yes...

They were sent separately; they came later.

Yes. Because I thought Kindertransport children were only allowed a rucksack.

That's right. Or they came later. Yes.

Ah, yes. And you- but you were with your elder sister?

Yes.

That must have been...

That must have been- I would have- I don't know. Well, I suppose if you had not had a sister, and had always been alone, you would have handled it. But that- if we'd been separated, not because we were so close, but she was there; she was somebody else from home. Although she wasn't particularly keen to look after me. [Anthony laughs]

And do you remember anything of the other children?

Yes. There was a little girl who was in absolutely frantic, because she'd lost a case of- it was the key to her suitcase. I mean, whether she ever found it or not, remains one of the unanswered questions in my life. She was in a terrible state about that, and my sister was very good to her.

And you noticed the difference when you left Germany for Holland? And the reception you were given in- in Holland?

[00:32:53]

Yes- oh yes, of course. Yes.

What did they do, apart from giving you chocolate?

I don't remember; we didn't stop for long. Just while the train stopped there. We didn't get out or anything.

Probably at the border.

At the border. Yes. I don't know what the border town would be. What would it have been?
...Doesn't matter anyway.

And then you would have gone through to Hoek of Holland. Do you remember...?

Hook of Holland, yes.

Do you remember the... the crossing?

Yes. I was very sick.

Oh dear!

Into the laundry cupboard. [both laugh]

Well, you'd been travelling...

In the middle of the night – yes.

You'd presumably been travelling for about twenty-four hours already.

That's right. That's right. And I'd never been on a ship before.

What were you- what did you think of the- of the sea?

Well one of the children thought it was a huge cabbage field, I remember. [both laugh] I didn't know what to make of it. It was just a lot of water and I liked swimming. And I looked forward to swimming in it, I think. [laughs]

Yes, rather you than me, in the North Sea, but still...

Don't you swim in the sea?

I used to but...

I suppose, I didn't- I haven't done for a few years, but...

And then... about arriving in Britain. What were your first impressions of this country?

Food. Funny food.

But when you first came into... presumably Harwich?

Yes...

The Kindertransport ships...

Yes. Yes, there's a plaque up there now. Have you seen it?

Yes, I know- I haven't seen it.

Yes. And we went back there- last year we were in Harwich actually, for something or other. And... What was my impression? I was in a daze... to tell you the truth.

Yes.

Everything seemed unreal to me.

What about the foreign country? Foreign language?

I didn't know any English and... it was just a haze.

[00:34:42]

Yes... So, you and your sister then went from Harwich... to London?

To London. Yes.

To Liverpool Street Station?

Yes.

What- what happened there?

Well, we had some friends there called Müller. And... they put us up for the night. And then...

Do you remember where?

In London.

In- do you remember where they lived in London, or...?

No. No idea. They were called Müller and they had two sons and... And the next day they put it on the train down to Cornwall.

Right, so that would have been Paddington... Station?

Yes. Yes, Paddington.

Do you remember any impressions of London at all?

I remember running for the train and I lost my shoe. [Anthony laughs] That's about what I remember. Yes.

So- where did you go in Cornwall?

Falmouth.

Falmouth. And that was where this guarantor...

Yes - where they lived.

Yes.

Everybody thought we were very lucky, because most children seemed to have guarantors in Leeds... Manchester and all towns that had a bad name - northern industrial towns. And we were lucky enough to find somebody in- in beautiful Cornwall, which nobody had really heard of. Not Falmouth. Never heard of it.

No... And what was it like when you arrived in Falmouth?

Well... 'Strange' I suppose, is a euphemism, but... well, not terribly strange, but they were a very wealthy family.

What was the name of- of...?

Robbins. He was the local notary, and they had no children because I think they'd married quite late. But they didn't know what they were taking on. They should have gone for some babies; not big girls like us.

Right...

They had dogs - they had a lot of dogs. And in those days, two cars... in 1939. So that they must have been very well off...

Oh, yes. I should have asked for the- for the tape, what date you arrived in this country and what date you left Vienna.

I think you did ask me.

That was on the paper.

Oh, I see. Twenty-second of June 1939.

Thanks. Yes. Sorry I should have- it's not on the actual tape.

No...

That was just for our paper records. So, you actually arrived- well, not that long before the outbreak of war.

No, not at all.

So, you were with the- the, the Robbinses...

Yes.

And you said they were wealthy, so presumably that- their house...

They educated us. Oh yes! A lot of people- my best friend went into- ended up in Portsmouth in a shop, she was just from the age of fourteen and she just had to look after the shop. She got no education at all. We were educated.

Yes. What was her name? Your best friend?

Ruth.

Ruth...?

Findler.

Aha- Because she features in your diaries, if I remember....

[00:37:30]

Yes. And we're still in touch, as I say, except now I think she's in a home. And they went to Australia anyway but... yes.

Was her upbringing back in Vienna different from- from yours in any way?

They were all pretty similar I think except her father was a bit more... lenient and religious and kindly I think, yes.

Because if I remember correctly, I mean she married into a... a Jewish...

She did marry an English Jew. Yes, she did. Yes.

And was more religiously inclined...

It wasn't that so much, that I - why we lost touch. It's just that he was uneducated. And at that time, you know, neither my sister nor I moved in circles like that. And... he was- I mean, he was completely uneducated, and I couldn't understand how she could've married him really.

Yes.

I remember him saying, "You mention any book... You mention any book, and I won't have heard of it", he said proudly. That was my Achilles heel...

Yes. On the subject of education, where did the Robbins's send you to school?

We went to the high school. The only school that was there. You know, the others were the elementary or the secondary modern where...

Yes. And so, you-this was the equivalent of a grammar school?

Absolutely! Yes.

Right! And did you...?

Had to pass an exam. Yes.

How did you do that?

Well, I was older than usual. I was more than eleven, so I was- I was thirteen, so I probably was quite easy for me.

Well, yes, but you- the exams were written in English.

In English. Well, but by that time I knew enough English, I suppose. Anyway, I passed.

Yes. So, you were- you were twelve...

Yes.

So, there was about a year.

Yeah, that's right - exactly.

I still think that's pretty quick to pass the exams. And your- your elder sister did the same...?

She passed it too, yes.

Oh, well. You must have learnt the language fast.

Well children do.

Yes. I know, because having read your diaries, I know when the- quite soon you stopped writing in German.

That's right, yes. Yes.

You say...

Yes.

How long do you think it took you to, to become... fluent - more or less – in English?

A year. We had private English lessons.

Oh, did you?

Yes.

So, the, the Robbinses looked after you quite well financially.

Absolutely.

But how about personal relation...?

Emotionally, not at all. ...Not at all. No, I didn't- the most unhappy time in my life.

Oh, really? Because they didn't...

Well, they got rid of us, as you know, and sent us to this happy go lucky...

Well, I know, but the people watching this tape won't know, so you'd better- we'd better, tell - tell the tape.

Well, they couldn't handle it...

Because after all, your sister was on the verge of...

She was a fifteen or something, yes. She got on better with them actually, than me.

What did you... not like about them?

[00:40:26]

I didn't- there was nothing I liked about them at all.

Oh, dear...

I liked him better, but she was a- a very difficult woman. She was obese even at that time, and very grumpy and... Well, just- nothing. Some people were very lucky. They had great fun

and a good foster home. But that... was a nightmare, really. But then we were sent to this- to stay with these two lovely ladies! Two maiden ladies who- devout Catholics - who lived in a lovely big house. I've often been back there since. Which had been a convent, and had a cross on top.

Oh!

And... But they took in- they just- as I say, they were two maiden ladies...

What was their name?

Davies. And they kept ...They were all full of children who- fathers were in the war... and their mothers couldn't keep- you know, too big families and children who had no homes. We were the only foreign ones. But that's what they specialized- they made- It was a sort of boarding school, but... They weren't academic at all. ...They were- went to a different school. They weren't- there were- there were children there, who went to - in the drawing room I think they put some desks in there, in term time, and called it a school. But, you know, anybody could set up a private school in those days, if you remember.

Yes.

It didn't have any license. They'd had no qualifications.

And that was in the interim before you started at... Falmouth...

Yes.

The high school.

St. Joseph's. Yes, I did go there for a bit.

Oh yes it was called St. Joseph's.

It was called St. Joseph's. Yes.

Yes, the former- a former convent. And how many children approximately speaking, did the Misses Davis...?

Who were living there at the time I was? I suppose at the most... when... five, six, something like that. Yes.

Right. And they just- I mean, this was a really charitable...

Absolute- well, I suppose the parents paid them, but most of them were only there... temporarily. We were the only permanent ones, I think.

And did you make particular friends there?

Yes. The niece of... She was my great friend, the niece of one of the ladies.

What was she called?

Connie. Connie.

Was she Davies, yes. She was the niece. So, where was- where was her father?

Where was – sorry – where was what?

Her father?

Her father was... out in Poona!

Oh, in India.

Yes, he was in India. And he was a governor there or something. Yes. So, he was there during the war... And she just lived with her mother and older sister and brother, I think. Yes, I think he was in India also after the war. I'm not sure.

What sort of young girl was she?

[00:43:03]

Connie? Well, they were very posh, but a bit- not much in the upper story. [Anthony laughs] Typically sort of, I don't know, that- that type of person has died out now, haven't they? Very posh English people, who really didn't- weren't very clever. They were educated

privately, because they couldn't get into any- couldn't pass an exam, which she was. But she was a great friend - a great friend of mine.

What did you get up to together?

Oh... [laughing] Buying chips, looking at American sailors in town and...It was great fun. Yes.

And there were presumably boys there as well- as well as girls, at St. Joseph's.

Yes... Oh, yes. Yes.

And did you have any particular friends amongst them?

Are you speaking about Denzil if you remember him, do you?

I do.

He didn't actually live there. I think he was with the church. They were, they were all Catholic church friends, the people who came to the house. Yes.

And did they- did the fact that this was a... Catholic institution, did that make any difference to you? Did they try and convert you or proselytise?

They didn't so much, but they had a priest who used to come and visit. Father... Mel? Something. Anyway, it doesn't matter. He certainly had a go at us. He did try to- I think it was written down. It said something- we were 'heathen'...

Oh...!

...it said. And we ought to with time be converted to Catholicism. This the visiting priest did. It's not- the priest shouldn't really have been like that, should he?

No.

But...

I suppose he thought he was doing the right thing. But even so...

Well- like water off a duck's back, I mean...you know.

Yes. And you said this was in contrast to the period you spent with the Robbinses. Oh! Very happy - very happy.

How long did you stay at St. Joseph's?

Well, off and on for several years until I came into Oxford. But then when my father came to England...

Oh, yes...

... he thought it was a bit... not disciplined enough. And he had us live somewhere else and it wasn't a success. I always went back to St. Joseph's, and they always welcomed me.

Tell me how your father came to England. I mean he was in France...

He was in France. And then France fell but- and he caught the last boat, I seem to remember. To Plymouth. And he had nothing except the clothes he stood up in. We had to give him- I remember out of our pocket money we had the buy him brush and comb and handkerchiefs and he had nothing - absolutely nothing.

He probably came from- I suppose from Brittany then, or... Normandy. ...Or down south.

[00:45:38]

What's the name of the place where he came from? All the- a lot of the refugees ended up in Falmouth, in the cinema. Oh, what was the place where they came from? A particular town. I would have to look it up; I'm sorry, I can't remember.

I don't know. Oh, so- so they came on a – what - on a British ship?

With the BEF, I think.

Oh, British Expeditionary Force. So, with evacuated soldiers.

BEF. That's right.

Yes.

And then he had to join the Pioneer Corps.

Oh, right. But when he arrived, he turned up in Plymouth which is, as you say, very near...

Yes!

It's quite near. So, you- you and your sister went to see him?

No, he came to Falmouth.

Oh, yes, because how could you know?

We couldn't travel. He came- yes.

You say you couldn't travel. Was that because of the restrictions?

Well, my sister couldn't. I suppose I could have done. There was some restriction if you were over sixteen, was it?

Yes - yes. Yes. I mean, I didn't ask you; I should have done. How the outbreak of war affected you, in September 1939.

Third of September, yes.

How did it affect you? Do you remember it?

Well of course my first thought was, "I'll never again see any- either of my parents."

Yes... my goodness.

Yes, I remember Chamberlain's speech... "We are at war with Germany" ... on Sunday morning.

Yes... Yes of course that- that must've been a... terrible moment for you. ...But then your father did – did- did turn up. And you say he was in a - a cinema? There with all the refugees who were...?

No, he wasn't, but... when Connie and I went to the cinema one Saturday evening as we always did ...we found it was full of refugees! French refugees - sleeping there.

Oh!

They- they'd come on- you see?

Oh - yes.

They'd come on- had fled when Paris fell, and the cinema became a hostel for them.

Because Falmouth was still a- very much a working port.

Falmouth had big docks- big, big docks. It was the second or third biggest to Sydney, I think, at the time. It's nothing now is it? -So as far as I know. But... I don't know what happened to it, but it was certainly an important docks then.

[00:47:47]

And what did your father do after he'd arrived, and you'd- you and your sister had provided him with his clothing and so on?

Well, he was in the Pioneer Corps. And then he got invalided out of the Army. He... Some futile thing they made up I think; he didn't want to stay in the Army. And he set up his own business again. He must have been very clever. But... he soon set up his own business. And then he moved to London and opened his own firm. Did I tell you that? I told somebody that recently.

Not me. What- what sort of line of business was he in?

Oh... It's something I'm quite ashamed of – textiles, I think. My friends' father- fathers were lawyers and doctors, and that was all he did. So, I can't expect anything from myself, can I, with that sort of background? [both laugh]

My father dealt in, in- in smoke- what is called 'Smoker's Requisites' - not the actual cigarettes. I think textiles is pretty good.

I think textiles is the worst any man could do.

Oh, well...

What did he do?... To deal with cigarettes, did you say?

Not cigarettes. Things like pipes and cigarette holders...

Oh, that sounds much more up-market to me.

We'll have to- I think- I think textiles is pretty good.

Awful!

Anyway. So, your father set himself up in London. And so, he lived in London?

Well first he stayed in Falmouth.

Oh yes...

And became a fire watcher in the Green Bank Hotel. And of course, he wasn't going to stick at that for long. And then he- he started going around with samples that he got from somewhere...to businesses, too. And then he set up his own business in London and got very successful. I think I told you that. Did I tell you that?

Not on this interview.

No, no. But I have told you that - yes.

Do you remember the name of his firm?

Yes. Play Fair.

Aha, and- so this was a textile firm. So, clothing...

I wonder does it still exists! Does it still exist? Do you know?

I don't know.

No... Yes - yeah. I think- he branched out in clothes I think - ladies' clothes. Something like that. Yes? And he did very well during the war.

That must have been difficult; people didn't have a lot of money in the war.

No, but it was easier to go rich during the war, wasn't it? And set up in business.

I don't know.

I don't know.

Well... But this- this left you and your sister in- in Falmouth, pretty much to your own devices, well other than you were looked after by the Misses Davis.

Yeah. Oh yes! We were absolutely on our own. We had no home or anything.

And- But St. Joseph's was a-

It was a haven.

Yes.

Yes.

Like a sort of substitute home.

Yes - yes. I was very happy there, yes.

[00:50:24]

Good. So, tell me a bit about your- you know, the sort of everyday life in, in, in Falmouth.

Well, let's start with school. How- How did you get on when you went to the county school? It was a girls' school presumably.

Well, I was never particularly academic, as far- that was... I suppose, you know- I was- could do languages but nothing else. And we only did French. No, I was very happy there. I had a best friend. And...

Who was that?

Pamela Bath. And I also kept up with for a long time. And I got a bicycle. That was my great joy. The one thing my father did, he did buy me a bicycle. And... Just set out, got around- then you could get around, once you were on two wheels.

Did you enjoy being in- in Cornwall?

Very much. Yes, I loved it.

Did you get sort of round with your bicycle?

Everywhere.

Cause it's very scenic around there.

Everywhere. Everywhere. I loved it. But of course, there was a black... cloud hanging over me all the time with my mother.

Yes. And did you have any contact with your mother by letter or ... ?

Red Cross for a time, I think, yes. But that petered out, didn't it?

Do you have any of the Red Cross messages still?

No.

Do you remember what the- what they said, or what you replied?

No.... I don't off the top of my hand. No.

The Red Cross messages...

They had to be twenty-five words or something...

Twenty-five words. Yes. And- yes, and that must have been quite difficult to accommodate that, with being a sort of English schoolgirl with your...

Yes, it was very- it was very difficult; you had a foot in two camps and- was very difficult and- divided loyalties really. You deny your past... at our peril, really, but I did deny it. But I, you know, I was just accepted. And... I never had any problems. In fact, I was accepted- I had

more friends in my English school which I found- much more acceptable, really, than my- then that school in Vienna.

Really?

Everybody was much more hostile, I thought. Teachers and- teachers were so much nicer in England.

[00:52:44]

And- I mean you- they must have known that you were a foreigner, because at that stage you probably still had a foreign accent.

Yes. Yes.

You haven't now, but...

I do now still, don't I?

I don't think so, but anyway... we'll leave that to people listening. But it didn't- it didn't affect your relations with the other girls? I mean, they didn't pick on you?

Not at all.

I mean because lots of them would not have probably understood the difference between someone who came from Germany or Austria, and was Jewish, and someone who wasn't. They didn't...

I don't think they knew what Jewish was in Cornwall... [Anthony laughs] I don't think it meant anything to them at all.

But- but they didn't- they didn't see you as belonging to the enemy camp?

Well, you know that was a moot point sometimes, when people heard that... you come from Germany, or Austria. And they did associate it with Nazis, and that did crop up sometimes... that did crop up.

How did you cope with that?

I can't honestly remember; it blew over, I think. Somebody perhaps explained it to them.

Yes. And what did you get up to at school? Were you good at...?

No, I wasn't academic at all. I was good at art... And languages.

Yes, there are drawings...

And English. I was always good at English.

I'm sure you were. There are drawings in your diaries...

The drawings – oh, yes. Yes. I... supposedly could draw. But I didn't- couldn't really.

And all this time you were writing your diaries?

Yes.

Almost daily...

It was like eating and drinking! I couldn't understand how everybody- anybody could live without writing things down.

Yes... Did you have any teachers that you remember with particular fondness?

In England?

Mnn- at the- the county school.

Well, I remember them all, but I don't know about fondness. I suppose I liked... I remember them all. Yes.

And did you join in the sort of usual sort of sports and things?

Well, I wasn't at all sporty. Although I am now, but I wasn't then. Strange- that's very strange. And no- no, art club I belonged to, and... yes.

And what about your... out-of-school time? What did you and, say, your friend Pam were you- or your friend Connie and you? What sort of things did you get up to?

Just went out cycling. Went to the pictures- the flicks!

Ah, yes...

The flicks!

The flicks. Yes. What did- what sort of films did you enjoy?

[00:55:15]

Films?

Yes...

Whatever. Current films of the day. Tyrone Power, Errol Flynn was my idol. Errol Flynn. Have you heard of him?

Of course. Yes...yes.

Errol Flynn, Tyrone Power... Clark Gable.

Were you interested in, in, in these sort of film stars? The British ones?

Yes! Because I had no inhibitions about going around, knocking on people's doors and getting autographs, actually.

Oh, yes? Who did you get autographs from?

I got Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh. Actually, there was a program about that. I think they're worth something now, you know, autographs. There was somebody in that Antiques Roadshow who sold an autograph of somebody famous for about a thousand pounds! And I've got Laurence Olivier...

And Vivien Leigh.

And Vivien Leigh.

That must be unusual.

And - and Anna Neagle. And writers too: Howard Spring. Have you heard of Howard Spring?

I have - just about.

And Daphne Du Maurier, of course. Oh yeah- I just went and knocked on the door, "Could I have your autograph?" I don't know if anybody would be allowed to do that now, even. Anyway, Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh. I've got a picture of it in there, in the hall...

Oh!

... of them. They were lovely – absolutely lovely.

Were they in- in the area?

They were staying in The Ferry Boat Inn.

In- is that Falmouth?

It's in- no. It's... by the river - the estuary. I can't remember the name of the place. It's about ten miles- we cycled there. Because Lawrence Olivier asked us how we got there from Falmouth, and we said we cycled. He said, "Gosh... if you fall down, I'm not going to come and pick you up..." or something like that. He- they were really friendly. And they asked us to come and row in their rowing boat with them. We were completely rooted to the ground; we couldn't move. So, they were lovely! It was really... an amazing experience meeting Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh.

Because he was a heartthrob in the- at that stage, I mean... "Wuthering Heights".

Oh... absolutely. And they were a loving couple then. Which of course they didn't end up as, as you know.

She was supposed to be extraordinarily beautiful.

Beauty- she was, like a china doll. Beautiful woman. Beautiful. But she was very ill, wasn't she, actually?

So, I've heard... yes...

She had TB or something, but we didn't know that. They were very nice to us.

And... Daphne Du Maurier and Howard Spring, they...?

Oh! ...Absolutely. Yes - yes.

What did Howard Spring write? I can't remember.

"My Son, my Son"

Oh, yes...

I haven't got any books of his. I don't know if you can- I don't think he's known any more, is he? But of course, Daphne Du Maurier is.

Oh yes.

Because of the- "*Rebecca*". That's what made her.

Yes... And "The Birds".

And "*The Birds*". Not many people know that about "*The Birds*" I think. But that's a full novel, yes...

And did you- Did you have any celebrities who were- were less keen to - to give autographs?

[00:57:49]

Yes. Yes. Anton Walbrook. [Adolf Anton Wohlbrück was an Austrian actor who settled in the UK under Anton Walbrook]

Oh! He was a refugee!

Anton Walbrook. [both laugh at the irony] The only one... the only one. He- we went, again where they all stayed during the war, in The Ferry Boat Inn. Outside - not in Falmouth - but about ten miles- As I say, it's just by the estuary. We've been there, back- since back lots of times, but I can't remember what the name of the place is. Not Flushing. No...

Is it Fowey?... Fowey?

Not Fowey. No, it wasn't Fowey. Anyway, wherever it was The Ferry Boat Inn. And we went up to him...

It's not St. Mawes? [it was Helford Passage]

...very optimistically, because everybody had been so nice. And he was in the hotel lounge... and we said, "Please, could we have your autograph?" And he looked, and he looked at us, and then he looked at the people sitting in the lounge and he said, "See what I have to put up with?"

Ooh...

A nasty man. He was a very nasty man.

Oh... I'm sorry hear that, because he was- he was probably the most famous- one of the most famous refugee actors in England.

Well, I can't think of any other- well, Richard Tauber, of course, but...

Ah, well, we'll come on to him. [both laugh] He's a singer, rather than an actor.

He was a singer, yes. But he was a nasty man. And later on, we saw him arm-in-arm with a – a naval lieutenant. And one of the maids told us at the hotel- she said to us later, "Of course..." – 'gay' wasn't known then – "he's a homosexual."

Yes...

I don't think that's commonly known about him, do you?

No... no.

There was somebody writing the other day about... I said, "Oh, it's...". Was it- it wasn't in "*The AJR Journal*", was it? Somebody doing research on him? And I wrote to them; and I got a letter back... thanking me for the information... doing research on- on him.

Yes, he's... pretty well known. From, you know "Colonel Blimp"- I suppose you saw those films.

Oh, Colonel- was he Colonel Blimp? No, he wasn't Colonel Blimp.

No, he wasn't. But he was the German officer.

Ah, That's right. Yes, yes. It was somebody called Livesey who was Colonel- Roger Livesey.

Roger Livesey.

Yes. But I have to say, he was a nasty man.

Oh, dear.

Well... [both laugh]

So, on the surface, you seem to have had a sort of, you know, typical sort of – if I could put it like that - wartime English schoolgirl's ...youth.

Yes.

From when you arrived in summer 1939...

Yes.

...to- so about five years you were in...

I left in '44 I think, yes, that's right. Yes.

And you look back on that as a happy time?

A very happy time. Yes.

Well, that's good to hear. But were you affected directly by the war? Did it come to Falmouth a bit?

[01:00:27]

Well, only when one or two bombs dropped that- quite near me once or twice. Yes.

What happened?

Well, we- Connie and I were walking past the chapel and the bomb dropped... literally- literally a few minutes - seconds - we would- I wouldn't be here. Amazing. You don't hear the sound, actually.

You must have heard the bomb...

It's strange. I don't know. We knew it was a bomb, and saw these people rushing. And when we got back to St. Joseph's, and we told them what had happened, and were expecting a lot of sympathy. And all they said was, "What were you up...? You know- you see what happens to you when you disobey, because you weren't supposed to be walking in town." And that was the only sympathy we got. [both laugh]

Was- that was because of- I imagine that was because of young men, rather than bombs. Or was it because there was a sort of curfew?

They just didn't want us walking around in the evening in that- you know, you girls and lots of sailors around in town and they- I don't know what we *were* supposed to be doing in the evenings. But... But that's what we did. But we didn't go 'Gassard-ing'.

What's that?

You don't know that word, do you?

No.

Let's call it that. Well, we- we always walked around the town in the evenings and we knocked on people's doors and said, "Does Mrs. Gassard live here?"

Oh, really?

It was a made-up name, of course. And everybody said, "Oh - no." And they were all very nice, and somebody asked us in for a chocolate biscuit, which was very rare. We just made it up because we wanted to- we picked houses we liked, and then- and especially if the front doors were red or something and said, "Does a Mrs. Gassard live here?" "Oh, no my dear. No, my dear. Oh..." We made up a long story about Mrs. Gassard and her husband was in the war and this, that and the other. And many of them asked us in for a chocolate biscuit. And that's how we spent our evenings. I don't know how I came to tell you that.

[laughing] I've never heard- never heard of anything like that before.

I don't know how we came- what did you ask me, that made me tell you that?

Just, what you- what you got up to and...

Oh, yes, well that's what...

Or, how you spent your evenings.

That's what we did in the evenings, yes.

Did you- did you- presumably there was very- you had no Jewish dimension to your life at all?

Not at all.

But were there other refugees in the area at all?

[01:02:42]

Yes. There was a very unpleasant German girl called Ilse Rosendorf, but she left. She didn't- they didn't like Falmouth. They were- had big ideas and they wanted to go to London. And then there were these two Müller boys.

Oh, yes!

George and Tommy. And, but they...

They were the sons of the people that you stayed with.

Yes. But they- they didn't stay at all. I don't know – they must have- despite the war, they went back to London! They went to London, I think. I don't think they- I don't remember them after the first year or so anyway.

And did you go up to London to see your father occasionally?

Yes. Once he came and we did occasionally, yes.

Do you remember London at all during war? What it was like?

Well, I remember people sleeping on the- in the underground...

Oh, yes.

...distinctly! I do remember that. And my father thought it was awful- an awful thing to do, to go to sleep- and that was only the common people who did that. But I don't know why the common people were less safe from bombs than the other ones, but...

Where did your father live in London? Do you remember?

Maida Vale.

Oh right. Yes. Oh, well, quite nice.

Nice area. Elgin Avenue.

Oh, yes. Well yes...

Because that was after he married- well, then he married, and- and he went- at first, he was a lodger with this couple. Her sister. The two sisters. She was married, and he married the other- Betty, then. The...

What was her name?

Betty...

And her...?

Betty... Marsden – Marlow – Betty Marsden- I think.

So, she was English?

Yes.

Not Jewish?

No.

Ah, and that was his... Well, that must have been after...

Well, he had to advertise in a Vienna- in a newspaper in Vienna.

After the war...

To find out that my mother didn't... yes. He was very happy then, for the rest of his life. So that for somebody happy in the family anyway.

So, you said, 'the rest of his life'. How long was that? How long- when did he actually die?

He died 72... at 72. Because he- when he was sixty, he'd had a car accident. He was very fit always; I never remember him being ill. And I'm sure if he hadn't- it damaged his heart. He had a very nasty- he wasn't the driver himself. He had a chauffeur, but they had a head-on collision.

Oh...

Well, it sounds grand, but that's what they called him. And he- in Wolverhampton when he was on business. And he was a head-on collision from which he made wonderful recovery, but not- apparently not a complete recovery.

I see.

Steering wheel went into his chest.

Oh...

So... He died at 72.

Yes. And going back to- to, to just finish up your- your five years in Falmouth. What sort of exams did you do at- at school?

[01:05:26]

Well, the standard leaving certificate I think - the School Certificate. Yes.

School Certificate...

Yes.

When you were-

I was a year older than I should have been.

Yes, so you were about...

Seventeen.

Seventeen.

Yes.

And did you pass?

Oh, yes.

Yes?

Oh, yes.

Oh, so probably you were quite a good...

No, I wasn't academic at all.

No?

Not at all.

Was it- it must have been a school with a fair academic standard. I mean grammar schools...

Well, you had to take an entrance exam. Yes.

And did some of the girls go on to university?

Yes - Exeter University.

But you didn't, so...

No.

What- where did you- where did you go? What was- I mean what did your father want you to do?

He wanted me to leave Falmouth, because he thought it was philistine. [Anthony laughs]

And did- what about your older sister? I didn't ask about...

Well, she was- she took up nursing. She wanted to do war work, and she couldn't join the forces, because of not being English. So, she was a nurse in London.

In London?

Yes.

During the Blitz?

During the Blitz. Yes.

At which hospital? Do you remember?

Paddington.

St. Mary's?

Paddington - St. Mary's in Paddington, yes. Children's hospital, I think she did. She wasn't happy there...no.

Oh... Why, was- were they...

Well, the bed pans and they were just hideous, wasn't it, in the first year.

Yes. I see. Cause nursing didn't- it didn't really fulfil her.

Not at all. No. She was quite academic. She then went to Birkbeck College later and...

To read...?

English.

English! Ah...

Like all foreigners. They always read English, don't they? [Anthony laughs]

And children of refugees all read German, like me.

Oh! [Inga laughs] The other way around. Yes. And French you did as well, didn't you?

I did, yes.

Can I just ask you something I've written down, which I haven't asked you? I know you're interviewing me, but can I ask you? Did you ever know Professor Praver in Oxford?

Yes, I did. I did.

I thought you might have done.

Yes. Yes, he- I...

Is he still alive?

No, he died.

His sister's a novelist, as you know.

Yes - yes. Did you know- you knew Siegbert Praver? Did you meet him?

I've read her.

But he...

I never met them. No, no, no.

Why do you ask? I mean, I'm just asking...

Because I know- I've read her books, and I know that he was a professor in Oxford...

He was. Yes. When I was a doctoral student, I used to attend his...

Really?

...seminars for graduate...

Was he good?

Oh, wonderful. Yes – yes, wonderful...

[01:07:52]

But why the Indian name?

She married- she married an Indian man called Jhabvala.

That's right. That's right. Was that his name? What was his...?

No, no, no - Praver was their- was their- was their name.

Yes, I see. Yes, she had another name, didn't she?

Ruth Praver Jhabvala.

That's right Jhabvala, yes. I have read her. I have read her, yes.

Yes. "Heat and Dust", and...

That's right. That's the one I read, yes. Yes.

Well, anyway. ...So, your father wanted you to get out of Falmouth, and this is...

Yes. And not to London, because of the Blitz.

So, it's still- this is...

So, he chose Oxford because I had a sort of uncle there.

Oh, who was he?

Doctor Bruno Fürst. An Art Historian. He wasn't really an uncle; he was a cousin of my father's.

Right.

But it was some kind of link.

Yes... And he'd been at- an art historian at the university in Vienna?

Yes.

I see. So, quite distinguished.

But he never did anything in Oxford. I don't know what he- he had a wealthy wife, I think. He had a wealthy non-Jewish wife. So, he- he was a lexicon. Have you ever heard of it? My sister helped him with it- with it, and I think he got the letter... 'D' or something. I don't think it ever saw the light of day.

[laughing] Right, yes...

All the time we were there, she helped him write this lexicon.

He chose Oxford because of its academic...

I think so, yes.

...connections. Yes...

Yes.

Yeah. So, this uncle was living in Oxford with his wealthy wife. What was her name- her first name?

Erna.

Aha. So, Bruno and Erna Fürst?

That's right. That's right, yes.

And they found you somewhere to live? Looked after you?

They did. Yes, they did.

Where was- where was- where did you stay?

...In Oxford. With a couple called - that I've recently taken up with, again, well, with the son anyway – Beschorner ...in St. John's Road. Do you know...?

I don't know where that is.

Fairly central, I think.

Oh well, is it near St. John's College? Is it...?

No – no, not really. No.

No. I don't think I do know...

Near St. Giles, I think - yes.

Oh, yeah- Oh yes! Yes.

Because you were at Oxford, weren't you?

Yes, I was.

Yes. Of course, you were... You were at Lincoln, were you?

No. No, I wasn't. I was at Christ Church.

I thought you were at Lincoln College.

I was at Christ Church. That was a bit later.

Did you ever know Doctor Marcus Jacobus?

No, I didn't... No, I didn't... Probably he was gone by the time I got there. That was a bit- a bit later... then- you were in Oxford from...

[01:10:15]

Of course. Pardon me. That's right. Yes.

I mean '44 to...

I get my years all mixed up but, yes. There are so many to look back on, I'm losing count!

[both laugh]

Now we got as far as your being in Oxford and living with the family, the Beschorners.

Yes. Yes.

And you said to me over lunch you didn't particularly get on with Doctor Beschorner.

No.

What about his wife?

His wife was very nice young English woman; we were great friends for a long time... for a very long time. Yes.

What was her name? Her first name?

Joan. She was a London girl, and... I think under the pressure of living with him, she finally had a nervous breakdown.

Oh...So you lodged with them?

Yes.

And were you the only lodger?

No. Had two other girls there. ...Yes, there were two other girls there.

Refugees or English?

No – English girls.

Oh, right. So, you started mixing- well, he was a refugee but the girls, the other lodgers were English.

Oh, yes.

You mixed with English...

Well, I'd done that anyway, for... previously.

Of course.

Yes.

Yes. And how did you find Oxford when you got there in autumn 1944?

Well... Well, there was this 'Town and Gown' thing; you always felt a bit out of it, you know, if you weren't... I don't think my father realized that.

Yes. What did you actually come to Oxford to do?

I... I wanted to become a librarian, and that's what I did. I started off in the public library - yes.

Didn't you do a course?

Oh, I did. Oh yes. Before that he wanted me to do a secretarial course, that's right, and my sister too, which is what every young lady – middle-class young lady – did in those days.

So which college did you go to? Do you know?

In Oxford?

Yes.

Oh.... She was called Miss Hall. I can't remember. No.

But judging by the fact that you - you skipped- skipped over that, it didn't last very long.

No, we didn't like it. We didn't like it and she was dreadful- dreadful woman. No.

Where was it in- was it in North Oxford, or...?

I honestly don't remember where it was. I only remember the woman herself - Miss Hall.

Was she called Miss Hall? No, I don't remember where it was in Oxford, but- No.

So, you left there, and...and, and went to become a librarian. So, where did you start out?

[01:13:17]

I just went to the public library and said, “Can I see the manager?” I didn't even know he’s called ‘the librarian’. And the man in the...

Is this the City Library?

Yes, it was the City Library in Blue Boar Street, but I think it's moved now. The public library- the public library. And- “Yes” he said – they were desperate for staff in those days in every area. “Have you got a- can you stay now?” I said, “I haven't even got a pencil on me.” So, I went the next day. It's very different from trying to get jobs now, isn't it?

Yes!

Very different.

Yes, and what did- what did you do at the public library?

I just became a junior- A ‘Junior Ass’ as we called it. A Junior Assistant...

Oh! [laughs]

...abbreviated to ‘Junior Ass’.

Oh, great... Yes. What- what were your duties there?

Buffering.

What's that? [Inga laughs]

That was what I spent most of my day. You went to the basement and you were supplied- you had a supply of sand paper, and held the book up this way, and you [buffered] the edges until they were white. And that's how I got all my reading done, because I couldn't stand that. I just read while I did it. And the basement was full of books.

Of course, ...

I would never have come across- and I read, and read and buffered. But occasionally I was- in the part upstairs, and... put a few books in order and actually there was enough- I mean it's so much different now. We weren't even allowed talk to borrowers - as a junior. It was awful, really. It just put me off completely. I just...

Did you stay there for...?

Oh, about a year- about a year.

Did you make any friends there, or...?

Oh yes. Oh yes. Made friends wherever I go. You are young- You do when you're young, yeah?

Yes.

She didn't like it either. We both left.

Who- who was that?

She was called Sandy.

Oh, yes?

Sandy, I think – Sandy. Margaret Sanders, yes. She lived in Witney.

Oh! Yes.

Do you know Witney?

Well, everyone knows it now because it's David Cameron's constituency. But I mean, it's... it's...

It's what?

It's David Cameron's constituency.

Oh, I didn't- is it? Oh, I didn't realize that.

Yes, it is. It's a well-to-do part of the world.

Oh, I see.

Was she another sort of middle-class English girl?

Sorry, who?

This- this Margaret Sanders.

Well, she was an ordinary English girl. Yes. I don't know how middle class she was. I don't think all that middle class but anyway.

Did you meet any, anybody of note while you were at the Oxford – the City Library?

Not as many as at Rosenthal's. No, I don't remember that many.

I seem to remember- I just remembered from your diaries, that you- you knew Elizabeth Jennings.

[01:15:47]

Oh, yes! Elizabeth Jennings the poet. Yes.

Yes. Well, that's...

That's right, but she- I'd just left, and she came just after me. But I did know her from going in. Yes-is she still alive? I wonder what happened to her.

I don't think she is.

Was she a good poet, do you think?

Oh yes - yes. I mean...

I don't think that I ever understood her poetry, but it's a long time since I read it. Yes, she worked there; that's quite true. Yes.

And... after the- the City Library, where did you go?

I worked for... Wolsey Hall library.

Wolsey- what...?

It was a correspondence college. And my sister worked there. I was the librarian there, but it was a- a big fish in a little sea. And... They just- catered for mostly for Nigerians, I think. Correspondence College it was. I don't think they exist anymore either.

No... probably not. But after that...

Well, then I went to Blackwell's. I always worked with books since I couldn't- since, since I couldn't write them, I worked with them.

Well, you can, because you published three volumes. Anyway...

Well, not properly. But anyway.

[Audio break?]

That was Parker's.

Was that Parker's? Well, it was- it once belonged to Blackwell's. It was Parker's, yes.

Yes, because Parker's is one of the best...

Is Parker's well-known?

Oh, well, I mean, when I was a student there it was...

Was it really?

Oh yes. I mean it was...

But it belonged- it was part of Blackwell's, wasn't it?

Yeah.

Do you know Mr. Brown? No.

No, no. No.

What year were you there?

I arrived in '62. So... quite a bit later.

Yes.

But in which department did you work?

Foreign Department.

Yes. And... Were there other refugees there?

Yes. There were actually *only* refugees in the foreign department, I believe, yes. [Anthony laughs]

Yes. Because none of the English could speak any foreign languages.

I suppose so. Yes. Yes.

So, who were they?

Well, there was that Mr. Brown from Vienna. And there was Mr. Calé... C A L E with an *accent aigu*.

'Brown' presumably wasn't his original name.

Well, B R A U N.

Ah! I see.

He just spelt- he just changed the spelling. He was my sort of, immediate boss. And there was a girl there called- very good about... employing refugees. The mother worked upstairs in the office, and she worked in the foreign department. And she was called something Adler, but she had a habit of going around the back where the parcels were unwrapped, and singing on top of her voice. But of course, she couldn't do that, because the customers could- where we just laughed. And one day the boss came in from the- the part who owned the shop: "What's

this? What's this? Who is singing?" And we said, "Oh, that's our Nightingale." And he went in, and the singing stopped just as if he'd strangled her. It just stopped, dead. And she never sang again. Very sad story, isn't it? She was called Adler. She was...mother- was a Viennese refugee, I think. And she left soon after. She didn't- she didn't get on at all there.

[01:18:50]

But did you like it there?

Yes! I did. I thought it was a bit...Yes, I did. I did. It was a bookshop and I was among books and... And, although there were- there were phone calls occasionally like... to the French department. "Yes. What would you like?" "Oh, have you got some French polish?" [both laugh] ...Quite ignorant customers, but most of them were not. Most of them were... obviously not like that.

Certainly, when I was there it had been a very, very well-known academic bookshop.

Very well- and I come across names: Seton-Watson?

Oh, yes...

And Deakin?

Yes.

They- they all came in.

Yes.

And I think I mentioned some others. Arthur Rosenthal, even more famous people came.

Oh yes. Well let's- let's get on to that. I mean how- how long did you stay at... Parker's.

About two years, I think at, at Parker's bookshop. Yes.

And then you- then you went...?

Well then, I got another job, because I walked out in a huff. And, even forwent- for- forwent my week's wages, and didn't have a job. And it was the happiest time of my youth. I had a week without a job. But it wasn't hard to get jobs then and- And then I knew this Mrs. Veverka.

Yes, now who- tell us...

It means 'squirrel' apparently, in Czech. She was called 'Mrs Squirrel'

'Mrs Squirrel' – right. Yes...

Right? Mrs. Veverka.

So ... How did you know her?

Through the refugee community there. She was a- she kept a typing agency and I occasionally did some typing for her.

To sort of supplement your... wages?

My- yes. And she recommended me. She said, "I've got this job. I - I know a Doctor Ettinghausen who wants somebody." Well, that was the making of me. That was just made for me. Made for me.

That's Maurice Ettinghausen...

Maurice Ettinghausen! Did you know him?

No, but I know who he was, that is...

Do you?

Oh, yes.

A Sanskrit scholar he was, actually.

And he- he was he was the close associate of the - the owner...

He was actually quite religious, now you mention it. Yes. Yes, as English Jews always were. But it was alien to me. It was alien- amazing to me, when on a Friday in the winter, I was still at my work in the office, he said, "Come on, come on. Stop it. Cover your typewriter; the Sabbath has begun." "Sabbath has begun?"

Gosh! You weren't very Jewish, were you?

Not at all. Not at all. No.

What about the, the actual owner? I mean, Ettinghausen...

Albi Rosenthal?

Yes.

[01:21:12]

Well of course, they're quite a well-known family, weren't they, in their day?

Oh, yes. I mean, antiquarian books...I mean...

Antiquarian books? In Oxford?

Yes...

They had a firm in London I think too, didn't they?

Yes...and- I mean they were internationally known.

But not anymore, are they?

No, but-

I've got his book here!

Oh right!

It is called...

Not now...

It is called... I'm trying to see... It's got a Latin name...

I'll have a look at it afterwards.

What's it called? Is that it? 'Orbiter...' something or other...? That red one...

It's Orbiter dicta...

Yes. That's it. That's his biography. I think that's the one. Yes.

"Orbiter..." - Yes. I can't read the title from here. ... Yes, but I mean he- he was a refugee though, wasn't he?

He was a very, very intelligent and cultured man. A wonderful musician. Played the first violin in the orchestra.

Oh!

Wonderfully talented man. Yes.

Just before we get on that, you mentioned doing – typing for Mrs. Veverka. Did you- did you have- did she have interesting clients or distinguished clients that brought...?

Yeah. Oh, of course she had... What's his name? I met... Isaiah Berlin.

Oh!

I've got this book... and I think his autograph as well.

You met- you encountered him through that typing?

Oh yeah. I've worked for him! I worked for Isaiah Berlin.

Did you?

Yes, I was- I was his secretary in the- in the vacation or something. I went to his rooms in All Souls.

Good heavens!

And... Private secretary and he... I usually did interest in things like answering- he got a lot of invitations that he wouldn't accept, and it- a lot of them said, "With Lady" "Cross out 'with Lady'"! But he did it get married in the end. He married an American heiress didn't he, up at Headington? Yes, he was a... very interesting man, Isaiah Berlin.

So ... did you get to know him at all?

[01:23:04]

Well... not really. I went to his rooms at All Souls. And- and one day I heard the phone ring. And... He said- he didn't go to answer it... in the next room. I said, "Did, did you not hear the phone?" He said, "No. I only- I only answer one call a day, and I've had it today." Or something- something like that.

Gosh!

He was a very entertaining man. Very interesting man.

So, you did, sort of, correspondence for him?

Yes - private and business. I've still got some notepaper from All Souls. Yes... Is he still known? No...

Isaiah Berlin? Oh yes...

Isaiah Berlin. I heard him talk on the radio...years ago. But he's been dead for some time, but-

Oh yes...

Have you got his book? Have you seen his book?

I've- I've read various of- some of his...and there's a big edition of his letters that has come out...

Oh, yes?

...in three volumes.

Oh, yes?

I looked in it to see if your name appears, but I'm sorry to say it doesn't.

Oh! I wouldn't have thought he would remember me. No.

Well in letters I thought it might, because you might have typed some of them. But it- it...

A secretary was nothing.

Well...

Not in my calibre anyway.

Well, anyway. That's just by the by. While you were- I mean you mention in your diary, I think, because my eyebrows rose considerably when I saw it, that you were- you were in Mrs. Veverka's office when Karl Popper turned up and...

Popper – yes. Popper.

So, you really moved amongst...

It's amazing, isn't it?

The cream of...

Didn't do me much good, did it?

Well... You could say, when I mean, I spent six years at Oxford, and I hardly ever met anybody of that standing.

Well, you were only a young student, weren't you?

You were- you were a young girl. I was- well, I was...

But you're more cocooned in those years at university, aren't you?

You are, and your status is much lower, but your diary's absolutely studded with- with well-known names. I mean you- what is not so well known that you mentioned this... Marcus Jacobus, for example...

Yes.

...at my old college, at Christ Church.

But did you have- did you know about him?

No, I- No, I didn't. What- what was his subject?

Psychiatry, I think. He was a psychiatrist.

Oh, right...

He was not a nice man at all. He was married to a very nice woman, a very upper-crust English woman who tolerated everything. Everything he threw at her, but- had two children. One called Anthony, I remember. And a girl, called Mary. But I met them through friends. Yes, he was certainly at Christ Church – Tom Tower.

Yes- yes, yes.

In fact, he took me some...evenings at Christ Church sometimes. I remember.

Very nice. And did you meet other- any other refugee- any of the refugees you'd like to mention, and you know, see- if you feel like a bit of name dropping...

I haven't gotten any left to drop, I don't think. Who would...

[01:26:04]

There was- I remember from your diary that one refugee actually became quite well-known who was very smitten with you.

Not Richard Tauber?

Ah! Not Richard Tauber. We'll come on to Richard Tauber. But... he was... This was not- this was longer-lasting. A mathematician at Magdalen...

Not Victor- Victor Guggenheim?

Yes, Victor Guggenheim.

Well, I don't think he was well-known at all, was he?

Well, he- he- he features- There's a big article - article on him in Wikipedia.

Oh, really?

Yes, he became an eminent mathematician.

He went to America?

Yes.

Oh, he was such a... disturbed young man.

Oh!

Did he ever get married?

I don't know. I just...

He was such a reedy, disturbed young man. Yes. Oh, dear. He had beautiful rooms in... Magdalen, I think.

Yes.

Yes. He was very- he was a very- I feel somehow, I don't know he made anything of his life, but he was very disturbed. And had a terrible inferiority complex.

From being Jewish or...?

No, girls didn't like him. You know. That didn't come into our lives at all really, I don't think. That- that features more among English people, I think this, and- no, he had a problem with women, I think.

Oh...

He was a very reedy but a very, very bright – brilliant. Victor Guggenheim. Yes. But he did go to America. I'm sure he made it there; there's room for every kind of person there isn't there?

Well... not at the level he made it at. He seems to have been a very, very eminent mathematician indeed.

Really?

... mathematician indeed, yes.

Oh, well. I missed out on something then, didn't I?

By the sound of it, probably not but I can't judge. No, and... Well, I noticed – you know – I noticed an awful lot of well-known names. There was obviously a sort of... circle of refugee academics in Oxford after the war.

Yes... Yes. There was also that composer, wasn't there, who was a friend of my uncle's – Egon Wellesz.

Wellesz, yes.

Wellesz, yes.

He was very well-known.

But I didn't know him well.

He was at Lincoln.

Was he at Lincoln?

Yes, he was at Lincoln.

He was actually- he hasn't really survived. I never hear his music on, and I listen to all kinds of music. I don't hear his name at all.

[01:28:17]

He's remembered more for his musicological work...

I see... Yes...

...where he's very well remembered actually, in the- amongst academics. I was going to mention him.

Yes...

And someone else you met, if you don't mind my prompting you, was much younger, was Peter Zadek.

Did you know Peter Zadek?

No... But you did.

Was he famous for something?

Yes - I mean he became one of the most famous theatre directors in Germany.

Oh, that's right. Yes, I do remember that.

You knew – you...

Yes, I did, I only knew him- he was never a friend of mine. I knew him through a- through a family. Peter Zadek, yes - outstanding. Yes.

You say- I can't remember, but met him socially, I think.

I did- we went- I did meet him through this family. He was a friend of the other Peter, but he never entered my social life. I didn't know him.

Did you- you met him. What sort of impression did he make?

Just- we went on the river once I think.

What, punting?

Yes. But that's all I remember. Yes. No, he was completely outside my sphere. Don't think he would bother to look at people like me... [laughs]

Oh...

He needed academic- academics, I think.

But... With your social life in Oxford, I mean, you were living- you didn't stay that long with the Beschorners.

No. Because they split up.

Oh right. And where did you go after that?

I then went to... the person that you knew. Or did I go someone else first? Where did I go after the Beschorners? I think it was straight to Mrs. Lubetkin in Lonsdale Road.

Mrs. Lubetkin, yes. That's what...

I think so. Yes.

And she was... she had- she was- had an academic reputation herself, I believe.

Yes... she translated Dante or something in her youth, so, yes she was a- yes.

And I know that one of her daughters...

Her daughter, Lotte, yes.

Yes.

Yes.

Was at Somerville.

Was she a classics scholar or something?

Sort of... philosophy. Medieval... philosopher.

Oh, yes. Yes. She had three daughters, I think.

Yes.

Ruth Miller.

Yes. Lotte Labowski.

And Lotte, and I don't know who the other one was.

No, I don't either. But didn't Mrs. Labowski had French friends amongst refugee ladies? I mean...

She lived a few doors from the Guttmanns of course, yes.

Yes. Tell us, say, who the Guttmanns were.

The Paralympics man- he started it didn't he?

Yes.

And he had a daughter called Eva.

Yes.

Same name as your wife's. And we cycled together. She was younger than me. We used to - every morning - except for that the dreadful winter 1947. We met at Waterloo then; we gave up cycling. She cycled to the high school and would cycle to work.

[01:30:59]

Yes. She's still alive – Eva Loeffler.

She is. She was on the radio the other day.

Because of the Paralympic Games.

That's right. I heard had talk and didn't recognize her voice at all. Yes. Do you know anything about her now?

Not much more than that.

No. They had a son as well I think, didn't they?

Yes, but I don't know-

No.

I don't know anything about him. And... then there was this Mrs. Cosman, I seem to remember...

Mrs. Cosman, yes, who used to do those wonderful drawings in the Radio Times.

That's her daughter.

That's the daughter...

Yes, Milein Cosman.

Yes, Milein Cosman. Is she still alive?

Yes, but... I understand- yes, she is still alive.

Would she be older than me?

Yes, I think so.

Would she?

Yes...

And there was a famous person lived opposite me as well.

Who's that?

This famous zoologist. ...I know my husband knew him. Does it begin with a 'Z'? He lived in Lonsdale Road. He was a famous zoologist, but I've forgotten his name, I'm sorry. My memory is not what it was.

I was struck by the fact that you- in your diary you sort of mention that Mrs. von Hofmannsthal dropped in.

Well, that's what I was coming to. Gerti von Hofmannsthal... Of course. Well, the- Mr Rosenthal's niece, Fiammetta – which means 'little flame' in Italian, doesn't it?

Oh yes.

... Who lived in Florence but came over. She led a lovely life; they were very well-to-do. She wrote her diary in four languages which always impressed me so much. Because when I stayed with her in Florence I sneaked and looked at it. But I only looked at the languages and-

What was her family name?

Olschki.

Olschki.

The Olschkis. Famous bookshop in Florence.

Yes, antiquarian bookshop.

Antiquarian bookshop. And they were cousins of the Rosenthals.

Oh, I see, yes.

And I met Fiammetta just through working there, and she invited me over to Florence to stay with her after some- a year or two. Highly strung woman. I don't know what happened to her. Do you know what happened to the Olschkis?

No.

She- she lived in- she married an Italian, Mario, who was half Italian. No, the Wittkowers...

He was the son of, of, Wittkower – Rudolf Wittkower, the art historian. Who was presumably your uncle's...

That's right. That's right, the art historian. But he called himself 'Witt'.

Yes. Your uncle would have known him.

Sorry?

Your uncle, Bruno Fürst...

Yes, yes, yes. They were friends- that's right, yes.

Oh, right.

And this- yeah, we stayed friends for quite a long time, actually.

We got onto them through Mrs. von Hofmannsthal...

Well, Bruno Fürst was a friend of Mrs. von Hofmannsthal.

Oh! And she is the - the widow of Hugo von Hofmannsthal.

She is the widow of Hugo von Hofmannsthal, and Fiammetta lodged with her. So that's how I met the Hofmannsthals. And she was a wonderful cook, which impressed me much more than the fact that he was Hugo von Hofmannsthal, [Anthony laughs] because I did not read German literature at the time. And- and that she was a wonderful cook. She- nobody could scramble an egg like her, even.

[01:33:48]

Gosh. [both laugh] That's- that's one for the- for future scholars of, of omelettes.

Exactly. Yes.

Any other academics or distinguished notables that come to mind?

Prompt me.

No, no. I can't think of any more. And anyway...

Not that I knew as well as that, Gerti von Hofmannsthal, and...

It's still pretty- it's an impressive list.

...I didn't really know. Well, it was my uncle Bruno knew, knew more. Well, there was this Otto... Otto...

Pächt...

Pächt - Otto Pächt, yes.

The art historian.

Is he well- known?

Oh yes.

Really?

And all the people connected with the Warburg Institute.

Oh, I see.

They are well- known.

Well, they were great friends. Yes.

One person I haven't – you've mentioned, but I haven't allowed you to talk about, is Richard Tauber. Which you wrote to the AJR about, so I...I...

Well only because somebody else wrote first. I wouldn't have- somebody wrote. I don't know how it started. How did it start? Somebody must have mentioned him.

Yes. And you wrote in... Tell us the anecdote anyway for the- for the...

That's how we came to correspond, actually, through that. Didn't we?

I think, yes- yes, that's right. But what- what happened? You were- you were autograph hunting...

Well, I was an autograph hunter, and I've still got them all. And I told you, they're probably worth quite a lot of money. And I've got really famous people's autographs, as I told you.

Yes.

I must have them looked at- somebody look at them, one day. Anyway, Richard Tauber, my idol, he came to Oxford to the New Theatre. And I went to the stage door, which is not allowed anymore - is it? - to get an autograph. I wouldn't have thought anybody does that. It wouldn't be allowed.

Probably not. I don't know.

I just knocked on the door. "Just a minute" like all the other people, and he came. And... Oh. I went- yes, I went, that's right, and I asked for his autograph. And I happened to say, "I'm from Vienna too." And then he- and he was a terrible womaniser, as you know.

I... [laughs]

And my father stayed in the same hotel as him in Paris once, and he said they had the same barber. And the barber said he when he goes to shave him in the morning, he has a woman either side of him.

Oh, my good gracious!

That's what the barber told my father. Anyway. He- I went innocently, in all my innocence to get his autograph. And I said I was from Vienna too, and he raised his eyes and he said, "Well, come and see me sometime." And I thought it was brilliant! Lovely! You know, how innocent can you be at seventeen? At least I was. So, you know, that was it. But... well, nothing really happened but he could have- he could have been- if I'd reported it, even then, I don't know, I mean, what could have happened to him, but...

He sort of made- made advances...

[01:36:29]

Oh, very much so! Yes! And until somebody knocked on the door and said, “Your train is leaving.” He was going back to London. So, but anyway I thought it was all grist for the mill [Anthony laughs] Good material for my diary.

Well, yes.

Make it well worth reading it if nothing else in there that was worth reading.

Yes, well- it's- but we'll put that down as sort of a minus for well-known people that you met in Oxford. Apart from working at, well, at the various bookshops, you- actually you rose through- through Parker's, which already is a very good bookshop.

Yes.

And then to Albi Rosenthal...

Yes, well, that was unique that job. I mean that made me. That made me as a person really, that job.

You were a secretary or...

That's all. Private secretary to a Sanskrit scholar. Yes.

Yes. To Ettinghausen.

To Ettinghausen, yes.

In what sense would you say it made you?

It opened my eyes to things, and there was that woman there that I was so besotted with.

Yes.

She opened my eyes to- really- the- what was she? The sister-in-law of Humphrey Spender. That's right, yes.

Stephen Spender.

That's right, Humphrey- well, Humphrey was the other brother. The sister-in-law of Stephen, that's right. No, she was married to- there were three brothers weren't there?

I don't know which one she was married to.

I think she was married to Humphrey. I've still got that card from her with her address on it.

What was her first name?

Erika.

Yes.

She claimed she was Danish, but she didn't- 'cause she was really German.

Oh, right!

Which people didn't want to admit to really then- non-Jewish German. She didn't- and she loved Jews, and she pretended to be one. And only time I've ever come across that.

Mnn...

But she didn't really admit to be. She said she was Danish, but I think she had some Danish connection.

[01:37:28]

And you and she became close friends?

Very good friends. Yes. But she was- she had two distinct sides to her. I mean there was the vulgar side. But she was very intelligent, really. Very intelligent.

And she at- she worked at- at Rosenthals?

Yes. She was Rosenthal's private secretary, I think.

Oh, I see.

But she was- he'd worked before that in London for another famous bookseller. What was the name? If you said it, I would know it. She worked for a famous bookseller in London and then she came to Oxford by special invitation.

Refugee or – or...?

Probably. Yes, yes, a foreign name. Oh.... a foreign bookseller in London. An antiquarian bookseller that often dealt with them.

I don't know who it might be.

Probably long gone. And she lived there. She lived in the flat above.

Oh, right. Yes. So, she was separated from... the Spender brother?

Well, I don't know where her husband was. There was no mention of him ever.

Oh, right.

I don't know where he was. She only talked about the famous brother-in-law.

Yes

Yes, she was divorced, but she had a son... by him. Who was at boarding school, I think, yes.

And in your social life, did you also encounter university students?

Oh yes. A lot – yes. Yes.

I imagine they- they tried to encounter you, probably.

What?

They probably encountered you, I mean they probably were- I mean, when I was there it was much the same. I mean the men students...

Because there were more men, you mean?

Very many more. Yes.

Yes. But I always felt inferior, because I didn't-

You did?

Oh, yes, because I wasn't a, a student myself. And I felt very much an outsider.

Was because being a student, rather than being...?

Of course, of course. That was much inferior, what I did... much inferior.

But, well-

But I wasn't university material, so I don't know why I was so conceited.

Well, reading your diaries, I mean, they were pleased enough to meet you. And from seeing your photographs of yourself in your diaries, I can see why.

Are there many?

There are some. I mean, and, well- I mean, did you- did you sort of enjoy yourself socially in your Oxford days?

[01:40:46]

I did but I felt often it wasn't really, you know, it wasn't leading to anything really. I was just wasting my time, really.

Yes. And also, I mean there's the whole question of- which I haven't gone into yet. How did you learn about what had happened to your mother? I mean this is something you would have had to...

The Red Cross in the end, I think, but many, many years later.

Yes. But I mean, at the end of the war, did you-

We tried to find her. We could not find her. We went to St James's- St James's Palace you had to go to, in London. I don't know what that is now. Even what it was then. Why would we...?

I think the- one of the tracing services of the Red Cross was there.

Probably, yes.

Cause my parents got those letters too.

Did they?

Yes.

Did they trace their...?

In the end yes, because there were records but... I mean... So, I mean- when the war ended, did you expect...

Of course.

... to find your mother?

Of course, we did. It was like looking for a needle in a haystack.

Yes...

We just got to find- that she was sent to Minsk.

Ah...

And we did- when we went to Vienna, with my husband, some years ago, a lot- much later, somebody- the caretaker where we lived in the Wipplingerstraße, he showed us where they were made to line up. [Anthony expresses disgust] ...It just seemed so- it makes me so angry now!

Yes.

It doesn't make me want to cry. It just makes me so angry! That this was allowed to happen.

Yes...yes. People who'd done absolutely nothing, of course.

Nothing!

So, she was just- she was deported to Minsk.

With some others, yes, and we don't know. We have no idea what happened. Never been able to- could I still find out? I – I also wrote that place beginning with 'A'.

Oh, Bad Arolsen.

That's right. They couldn't help me either.

Oh!

Oh, we tried our level best. We tried so hard to find her. It was impossible.

Yes, and- that must obviously have cast a very dark shadow over your life, in the post-war years.

Forever.

Yes.

Forever. It makes me wish really what Heine [Heinrich Heine, 1797- 1856, was a German Jewish poet, writer and literary critic whose early lyric poetry, which was set to music by composers such as Robert Schumann and Franz Schubert] said: "Better never to have been born." You know when Heine said, "Sleeping is good, dying is better. Better never to have been born." And I wholly agree with that.

Oh...

You read that? That Heine said that?

I have, yes...

That's what I think.

I think I have, anyway...

You don't agree?

I don't agree, no.

Nobody agrees. No- I know the daughter of my friend is totally disabled. 'Crippled' is what it used to be called; can't move, anything. And I said this to her. She said, "Not me." She would rather be in the state she's in than not have been born. I cannot understand that. I'm not as bad as that – 'badly off as that', I should say. But I still think with a thing like that in your past. No, nothing is worth that. Nothing.

Yes.

Life would have to be an awful lot better than it is, to make it worthwhile when such a thing- tragedies happen. ...Dreadful.

Yes...

Sometimes you still- I still feel I want to have my revenge on whoever is... You know, I'm quite revengeful, really. But what's the use of it?

[01:44:04]

And who would you...?

Who would- exactly!

It's all so anonymous...

For a long time I didn't want to speak to any Germans or anything, but it's actually Austrians isn't it? Really?

Yes. Yes, probably- well, certainly in Vienna, yes.

Yes.

I mean of course the orders came from Berlin, but...

Yes.

... the people that carried it out...

Well, he was an Austrian, wasn't he, Hitler?

Actually, yes. Yes, that's right. And Adolf Eichmann too...

Yes. Well, he met a sticky end, didn't he?

Yes. Oh, dear...

Well, I wish one could undo the past, but one cannot.

And what about your father, did- did he... ever speak about your mother, or...?

Well, he half-heartedly tried to find her. Well, I told you it wasn't a good marriage and he had somebody else, but-

Yes. I see.

Well of course any human being would, you know, when...

Of course.

It wasn't known what had happened to people- it wasn't known... what awful things were happening to them of course. I must...hand that to him. He wasn't aware of that.

No, no – no...

But I tried to, somehow, to put myself in the place of what it would have been like to be in her place. And it's impossible! You can't imagine what it must have been like, can you?

No... no. Well...

Maybe everybody gets what they deserve in their lives. That she'd done something that she deserved to...

That I doubt.

That I've often wondered, if everybody deserves what- get what they deserve. [Anthony is silent] ... No, you're not...

I'm sure she didn't deserve that. But anyway...

I'm sure she didn't. I'm sure she didn't.

Yes...

No, I don't know what it must have felt like, to be hauled out of your house and... lined up and... I don't know. My father always said she wouldn't have survived the journey, even. That's how he... consoled us. He said she wouldn't ever have got there. She wouldn't have survived the journey.

Yes. ...And this would have had a sort of effect on you also in your feelings about yourself as whether you were British or not. I mean around this time wouldn't, didn't you begin to think that you must have a passport and a nationality? Because you, you would have had no nat- You would have been stateless, presumably?

I was never stateless.

Oh, you weren't stateless?

No - no.

Or, you had...

Because I was under twenty-one, and my father got his, his British passport, and I automatically, being under twenty-one, became naturalised under his- the same pass-

Oh- when was that?

That must have been when I was about eighteen, I suppose.

So about- soon after the war.

Yes.

I see. Yes – yeah, and- oh yes, and your sister of course- she was older so she-

She had to get her own. Yes.

Yes.

Yes.

But how did you feel about becoming - becoming British?

Oh, it was- of course! That was everybody's aim! I mean, the British were always looked up to even in Vienna when I went to- the British, you know... Idolized. Couldn't put a foot wrong. Oh, yes.

[01:46:19]

How did you feel when you got the- the old passport?

I can't exactly remember, but I'm sure I was very proud. It was a good passport in those days. Not like the flimsy thing it is now. [Anthony laughs] It was a hard cover thing, wasn't it? Navy blue.

I remember. Yes... yes. And you went back to Austria, didn't you?

Oh, for holidays. Yes.

You went back with your sister?

Oh yes, in 1950 for the first time. Yes.

What was that like?

Oh, it was pretty awful, actually; in many ways, it was.

Where did you go?

We stayed in Telfs, Austria.

Where is that, for the- I know where it is, but for the people listening to the interview?

In the Tyrol.

The Tyrol.

It was a little village then, but I think it's- I believe it's quite a big town now. And, I don't know, somebody recommended it. Hotel Hohe Munde it was called, in 1950. And we did go back and... Yes, it was- it was quite upsetting.

Why? Ah- yes.

Oh... You know.

It wasn't Vienna, of course.

No, we couldn't go to Vienna then. You needed a special- it was partly Russian?

Yes, it was within- it was an enclave within the Russian Zone after the...

That's right, and you needed a special visa. And anyway, we didn't want- we couldn't have gone, and we didn't want to... not then.

[01:48:17]

What was it like going back to Austria?

Well... You were torn in all directions, really. And you know, you- we'd not been used to speaking German, and people said, "How do you speak such good German?" And then we had to own up to everything, and it was...

Own up?

Well, yeah, because we didn't own up, did we? We just went as two English girls. But of course, we spoke good German and- it was a giveaway. It was alright. We made friends with a Nazi boy. An- ex-Nazi boy, in the swimming baths. It was a nice holiday. I mean, we liked seeing- we'd never seen that part of Austria before, I don't think. We'd never been to the Tyrol.

It's very beautiful.

Beautiful! Beautiful! Yes.

But you found it difficult to be amongst Austrians, because of what they might have been.

Well of course! And what they were still thinking. And my sister, who is sort of- was much more politically aware than I ever was, she said, “Oh, he's a Nazi” and, “He was a Nazi.” And- and I thought, “Oh, very nice young man. He kissed my hand.” “Oh, he was a Nazi” “He looks like a Nazi.” Or something, you know. [both laugh]

I am not quite sure what a Nazi looks like, but...

No.

Yes. Because in some ways Austria must have been quite familiar to you, you know, apart from the language. And you know, going back they didn't it feel in a way, like coming back to what you...?

No, because we'd never actually been there. We'd never been in the Tyrol really. And, where were we? We went to Innsbruck for one day. I didn't- no, I just couldn't- no and I didn't want to identify really with the... We kept on... You know...

Yes.

Posturing all the time. We kept it up as well as we could. Whether anybody saw through us or not, I don't know. Somebody – as I said - somebody in a shop said, “You speak very good German.” But we had to speak German in little places. They didn't- wouldn't have understood English.

Yeah... When did you first go back to Vienna?

To Vienna.? Oh, I know. When Julian was five.

That's your son.

Yes. So that would have been in 1961. I think that was first time we went back to Vienna.

What was that like. How did you feel?

[01:50:27]

Well, again, I just wiped it - I mean, husband and son didn't know anything about it. I just wiped the slate clean. I pretended I was as new to it as they were. I didn't- we went back- I

don't know if that was the occasion we went to the- back to my flat in the Wipplingerstraße. Or maybe that was the second time. We just rang the bell. And somebody at that- it was a long way back, and the woman just opened the door just a little tiny bit. They were very suspicious of everybody, weren't they? And I said, "I used to live here." But she never offered to let me in or show me around. Not at all... Not at all. I think it's probably completely different now, but they were very hostile then. Very hostile. I just wanted to see where we'd lived, and so on- it's not a good idea to go back to- they keep saying that, telling people: "Don't go back to where you where you- where you have had happy memories." And, "Don't go back." But of course, you feel... And I wanted to show it to them anyway.

Is that why you- you went with your husband and son?

I think so. You do feel drawn, don't you?

Of course, ...

To imprinting- it's imprinting, isn't it?

Yes ...yes. I've jumped ahead a bit.

And I and rambled on, as per usual...

No, no. Not at all. I wanted to ask you about going back to, to... to Austria. And- well I was going to ask, when you you'd been working for several years at Rosenthal's - Oh, one thing I was going to ask you. You know Albi Rosenthal's son, who's become...

Julian Rosenthal. But he called himself Jim Rosenthal. He was a sports commentator.

Yes, I've seen him often on the television.

On the telly, but you've never met him, have you?

No, and I had no idea that he- that Jim Rosenthal was the son of- of this famous antiquarian bookseller.

Did you not? Did you not?

I'd not the least idea. I thought he was an English Jew. You know, I'd had no idea. And you knew him as a little boy?

As a little boy, yes. A lovely little boy. My son Julian is called after him.

Oh, is he?

Because his real name was Julian. I thought, "One day I want a little boy." But he never let me have his- grow his hair long, like Julian Rosenthal. As a little boy he had long hair. Yes, I don't know what happened to this...

[audio break]

[01:52:27]

Right. Recommencing.

Of course, one thing I should ask you about your Oxford years, is how you came to meet your future husband?

Oh. That was because my sister worked for Doctor [Joseph] Weiner. That may mean something to you?

No.

In the department of... human anatomy at the university, she was a secretary at the Oxford- at the university.

Was he a refugee?

No, he was an English Jew, I think. And he was quite an- I'll tell you what he was an ex- he was an anatomist, I suppose, but where he made his name - but that's forgotten now - he- he discovered- he exposed the Piltdown... thing.

Oh! Piltdown Man as a forgery. The forgery, yes...

That's right, he was a forgery. Now he was part, or he was instrumental in exposing him.

Ah...!

I know this because my sister worked for him. And...

I see. She worked as his, sort of, secretary...

As a secretary, yes. And in that same department, my husband was a lecturer.

And what was your husband's name, for the tape, please?

Stan – Stanislaus.

Stanislaus.

Yes... yes.

And his- his...?

Well, it was quite a difficult Polish name. Tkaczyk.

Right. So that's T K A C Z Y K?

[01:53:46]

Brilliant.

I've read this in your diaries. But that's for...

You remembered, yes...

...whoever has to transcribe the interview. Tkaczyk. And he changed his name to Joseph?

Yes, because his father's name- his first- father's first name was Joseph. So that's all he did. We didn't even realize it was a Jewish name then, or I wouldn't have wanted it.

Ah!

But he changed it because his father's first name was Josef, which is an international first name isn't it?

Oh absolutely!

Spelled with an 'f', I think, but anyway.

And so – whereas you spell yours with a 'ph.'

Yes, the English version.

How had he come to England? Your husband?

...He probably knows this better than me. I'm terrible at that. He was- he was- he was taken out literally from his bed, in the night, by the Russians, because he was an intellectual.

Oh, so he was in the- the Russian occupied part of Poland?

He was in Lvov. That was his university. That was his university.

So, he was...

So, he must have been taken from there. And he was in prison. He was sent to a Russian prison. I think he was in Siberia.

Yes.

I've got it all written down, but I find that very difficult to get my head around really, all this – his history. The Russians...

Then he- he was- was he amongst those that were liberated when Germany.... lost the... war?

Yes, he was liberated. Who was he was liberated by?

Well, the Russians.

The Russians, wasn't it? Yes, that's right.

So- did he join the Free Polish Army?

He did and went to Egypt.

Aha- he fought with the British.

Yes.

I see...

And then on to Scotland, I think. They all went to Scotland.

Ah yes, with General Anders – General Anders.

That was General Anders. Yes. But he always- he's one of the few Poles who... was able to resume his career again. He... He got invited by Professor Behrer in Oxford, I think. I don't know if you ever knew him?

Professor...?

Behrer. I assume of Russian descent...

No, I don't know...

Well-known micros- microscopist, he was. And I don't know how, but he invited him to Oxford. I don't know how he heard of him, my husband. And so then he came to Oxford from- from Scotland. I don't- he was doing some menial job. He never- he had- it was very difficult to resume your academic career... But he did, through the help of Doctor Behrer who was then Doctor. Well, he became a professor then.

[01:55:09]

And you met him through your sister?

Yes.

At a...

At a party, at a fraternity party. Yes. And I remember it to this day.

Tell us.

Well, everybody smoked then, which seems dreadful now, including me. I don't know if you ever smoked? I bet you didn't. No?

I'm asthmatic.

You're too young. Well, everybody seemed to smoke then, and... He was- it was at sherry party, at some- at the German woman actually. And... He just helped me to stub the cig- I don't know. Anyway, I met him then and...

Helped you to stub the cigarette out?

Yes, and he sort of helped me and I- yes, I, into my thumb. Yes.

So, you met. And... when did you actually get married?

Oh, not for a long time.

Oh, right!

Not for ages, because he couldn't get married- he wasn't free to get married. So, we just lived together for a long time.

You'd better explain that for the- why he wasn't free.

Well, it's all right now. But we kept it secret for a long time. Well, he had a wife in Poland...

But of course, ...

She wouldn't- she wouldn't come out. She could- she couldn't for a long time, and then she wouldn't. Again- again, a case of an old mother that she wouldn't leave.

Ah, yes. So, he- was he able to divorce her?

Oh yes, he got a divorce. But it was very difficult in those days to get a divorce. Nothing in my life was straightforward. Everything was complicated.

So, but I mean he wouldn't have seen his then wife for... over ten years.

They'd only been married a few months.

And then he was whipped off by the Russians.

He was taken, yes, and they didn't take the women for some reason, only the men.

Gosh...

And he was taken away, so...

He hadn't seen her for probably nearer fifteen than ten years.

And they'd only been married a few months. She was a mathematician, and then when it- when he did ask her to come, she wouldn't any more. She didn't know any English and... And that's- if you're separated long enough from somebody, it's difficult to come- get together again then anyway, isn't it?

Yes, and she must have survived the war as best she could in- in Poland.

Yes -oh yes! Yes.

Yes. And so, you lived together. You must have lived somewhere in Oxford, presumably.

That's right. In Oxford, yes.

Where did you live? Where did you...

[01:57:21]

Well, the first house was pretty awful, because we couldn't- the mortgage was so- we could hardly afford the mortgage. Thirty -pound deposit, and the mortgage was something like two hundred and fifty pounds. Not the mortgage, the deposit, I meant. And the mortgage- the mortgage was very low too. And we lived in Bedford Street which I- in east Oxford.

That's...Iffley?

Iffley way, yes. But the only thing was that the - it doesn't anymore now - but the road went into lovely open meadow, which is what we liked. A cul-de-sac and an open meadow, full of fritillaries.

Oh...!

And that's- if you know what they are.

And that's what attracted him anyway; he was quite a botanist. But this awful house and we had lodgers. And then we built our own house.

Oh!

Yes. I mean- don't mean with our own hands, but we had it built. Architect designed and built.

Where was that?

In Summertown. Water Eaton Road.

Oh yes...

The garden went down to the river, and he built a boat, and it was paradise for five years. And then he got the job in Sheffield, and I said, "You can go. I'm not going to Sheffield. I'm staying here."

He got a job in...?

He got the job in- yes, my husband got the job here in Sheffield? Having built this lovely house, and the garden down to the river and built the boat to go with it. And after five- I think it was five years or seven years, he had to move to Sheffield.

And that would have been what, about nineteen...?

Sixty-three, I think. Yes.

Oh. One thing I do remember from your diaries about your house, is that you at one stage you had your husband borrowed a lawnmower, I think, from a Mrs. Bednarowska.

That's right.

Who is known to generations – she was still there in my time - known to generations of English students at one of the women's colleges as ... I mean, she was...

She was something to do with Graham Greene?

She was- well, she was a legendary English tutor at- I forget which of the girls- women's colleges.

Did you know her?

I didn't know her, but I knew of her.

Well, what has she got to do with Graham Greene?

I suppose Graham Green was one of the writers that she knew, because she was- I mean English literature was her field.

I see. Mm.

I mean she was a great name. She was a teaching tutor. "Mrs. Bed", she was known as.

Really?

Yes.

I don't know if I ever met her. I don't think I did.

Oh! Because I was- I was...

I may have done.

I was terrifically impressed. I thought you'd borrowed the lawnmower from her.

Well, I must have done if I borrowed it, now you mention it, yes.

I mean, it can only have been one of them.

You've obviously read the book more recently than I have. [Anthony laughs] You know what Virginia Woolf said?

What's that?

Now let me get it right. Anybody who is a really great writer, would never read- or always forget- what they've written themselves, but I'm not pretending. [both laugh]

[02:00:58]

No, I've read it carefully because it merits it. ...Apart from making interviewing you easier. Yeah. But I, of course what I've read stops in 1955, so I don't know about...

That's right. That's before Julian is born, yes.

Oh, right. So that- So when did you actually get married? What...

Oh many, many years later.

And your son was born...?

Oh, my- he was sixteen, I think, when we got married.

Oh, right. And when was he- you also- you said he was named Julian after Julian or Jim Rosenthal. When was your son born, just for the tape?

The year?

Yes.

Fifty-six. He's sixty now. He's just retired.

Right.

That's really why we didn't go on. You know, I thought no, all the things you had to go through then, if you weren't married. I mean, I couldn't go through all that again.

Oh goodness, yes.

So that was one of the reasons we...

So, he was a small boy when you moved to Sheffield- or your husband moved to Sheffield.

Well, I came- well I came with him, of course. He was seven, yes. And we had his name down for The Dragon School. And we put- we would have been- he would have gone by boat, along the river- because we didn't have a car. And we had to forgo that, including ten shillings, was it? - that you had to put down to go to The Dragon School?

I don't know.

Something like that. Anyway, you've heard of The Dragon School?

Of course. ...What was it like, moving to Sheffield?

Oh... well. Making a new start really. You know. But everybody was so friendly and nice.

Where did you live in Sheffield?

Well, we first lived in Park Lane in a flat...

I don't know where that is.

No? Well, Sheffield - it's quite a nice area.

So that- is that- Broome Hill...?

Yes, that way. But we had a dog, and a child, in an upstairs flat, so that wasn't on. So, then we got a university house in- not far from here.

Because this area is- where we are now, is quite adjacent to the university.

Yes, it is. They're all students around here. You might have noticed all the student halls around here, yes. But yes- did we? Yes, we got this- first we got this flat, and then we moved into a university house. But you could only stay there for four years- three or four years. And then we had to think of- and so we built- had this built.

Oh, you had this built?

We had it built... Yes, by an architect who- there are four other houses. This is the only bungalow, and he built one for himself. And this. And yes, architect designed. My husband

designed it with the architect, who sadly now - you know what I'm going to say - has dementia.

Oh...

Still lives here. But you never see him, because he's got dementia. Very clever man... Wonderful architect.

[02:03:27]

And your- your husband. What position did he have at the University of Sheffield?

Senior Lecturer.

In the department of human- human anatomy?

Human anatomy. Yes. Yes.

And he- he thought that was obviously a step up from the job he had at Oxford?

I'm not sure really if it was... He didn't really want the Chair anyway, but he was too old- to start with. He was- no...

I just wondered why an academic would want to leave Oxford.

No, he had to, because- I mean, he was too old to get a new- even then it was hard to find another job. Because his boss, Doctor Behrer got the Chair here in Sheffield and he took all his team with him.

Oh, I see...

He just took his technicians and all. I'm the only remaining one; the others are dead or have left. He took about three and the Meeks – I don't know whether you knew them. Some- another- Some more academic staff and his technicians. He brought them all here, because it's difficult to get another job, really.

Yes, I- Yeah. I understand.

So that's why we came. And I threatened him. I said, "I don't want to go to Sheffield. I don't want to leave the river, and the boat and... ..and The Dragon School" ... that I was hoping Julian would go to, but...

Where did he go, in Sheffield?

Well, he went to a prep school, but then he went to a comprehensive!

Mnn! Which one?

Myers Grove, which was the first purpose-built comprehensive. It had a marvellous head. It was the first purpose-built one before- before Sheffield became comprehensive, it had an excellent Head who is still remembered here. ...Bill Hill. That's right William Hill. Bill Hill. And from there- yeah, that's right. But... Yes, they're not in a nice area. But he went to a prep school, a comprehensive and then he went to Imperial College in London.

That's pretty good. What did he study there?

Well, he did zoology, but he never used it.

What does- what did he do?

Well, that's- I may have told you. 'IT' or whatever it's called - computing. It was all girls that did zoology, so he wanted- did something more masculine. I thought he would have liked all girls studying! [laughs]

Well, yes. While we're on the subject of your son family, is- has he a family of his own?

Yes, he's got a Japanese wife.

Oh!

So, we're real mongrels. And he's got two lovely daughters, who are my best friends... And they're lovely. They come to see me and one of them has got a baby now, so I'm a great-grandmother.

[02:06:0]

What are- what are their first names?

Emma, after my mother. The older one is called Emma after my mother.

Yes.

Although she called herself 'Emmi'- so does this one now. She calls herself Emmi. And Hannah, who has got a...

And what do they both do, your grand-daughters?

Well, they- actually Hannah got a degree in Japanese.

Gosh.

...But not using it. She's just teaching in a primary school. And Emma is in arts. And she's the one who's come to see you and works...

Yes.

Didn't get a job in art and design but... Well, that's what she did. She still works there. Yes she does, I'm sure she does.

Works at the...

At the University College Hospital. Yes.

Yes. For the tape, I was operated on there, and...

That's right, and you- you must have been amazed to see this...

Yes, I was utterly astonished. Ah, yes. I was feeling very sorry for myself.

Well, she was very pleased to do it, I think, yes. She rang me up the other day. Now what did she have to tell me? ...I don't know. Anyway, they often- they come - they're both married, and they come to see me, and they're very nice- very nice to me.

Excellent.

I think girls make better grandchildren than boys, so I'm told. I mean, I don't mean better. I mean they're sort of more interested in, in visiting grandparents and things like that. I don't know.

And in family history.

Yes, I suppose so, yes.

But going back to yourself, I mean when your son started going to school, did you- did you think of moving on a bit yourself? And, you know...

I know what you mean.

Yes. Go ahead...

Making use of what facilities I had.

I didn't quite mean it like that...

No... But no, I would absolutely- I have to admit it. I was perfectly happy at home doing my own thing. Absolutely. And we always- I used to have coffee mornings with friends, and we often said we have more intelligent conversations than some of the lectures people have to endure here. Because they had a very bad reputation, the lecturers here, in some of the departments. Not at all. I was perfectly happy, as long as I could have paper and pencil, I was perfectly happy.

But you did go on to study.

I did, because I felt that I had pressure put on me. I wouldn't have done- it wasn't my choice really. Because whenever I went to parties, and all the women- all the wives, the lecturers' wives, they all had their own careers.

Yes.

And all I could say was 'housewife'. Not that I now think there's anything wrong with that. I think the world would be a worse place without housewives... but- and they do a good job, on the whole. But anyway, I couldn't take it. So that's why I decided to...

What did you decide to study?

And of course, they had some special- for mature students. That's right. It was a course for mature students - at the university. Yes.

What did you study?

Well, we all had to do some awful subject called "Contemporary Studies". And that- which covered a multitude of sins. And thereafter you could do your own subject. And of course, I did German... and English.

Did you enjoy that?

I did. Because I'd never read German literature before. ...We had an excellent Welsh lecturer. Yes, I did German- very much enjoyed German. Never really come across German literature before. I knew "*Polykrates*" and the poems. I love "*Polykrates*" and I often think of "*Polykrates*". He's a great friend of mine. [both laugh]

This is Schiller...

I feel I'm treated the same way as- yes, I should- they say it's Schiller's "*Ring*" or something, don't they? [*"Der Ring des Polykrates"*]

Yes.

Well, I often feel that's just my lot as well. [laughs]

[02:08:22]

And did you have favourite authors that... that you studied?

What, in German?

Yes. That you liked particularly.

I like Böll, actually.

Oh yes.

Heinrich Böll, who was a Nobel Prize winner wasn't he?

Yes.

Yes, I very much enjoyed the German literature course. Really enjoyed it, very much.

Did you have any... lecturers that you got on with particularly well?

Yes, I got on with all of them. They were- well, we only had two. Mrs Haslam and Mr. Akson I think he was called, yes. But they were supposed to be. Yes. Yes. I think.

Did you know others of the teaching staff in German at the University?

Did I what?

Did you know others of the teaching staff in German at the University?

Well, it wasn't a big department.

No. Who was head of it?

Well at- at the City Coll- where I did my teacher training...

Oh, I see.

That was that Mr. Akson.

Right.

And then at the university, of course it was Ritchie.

I see.

Oh, but there was somebody else before... that little man who looked like... Oh... he looked anyway. He was called Professor Mainland.

Oh, yes... Professor Mainland...

Now, who did he look like? A little white-haired man. He looked like some- who did he look like? Some... We always called him that. He must belong there. Did you know him?

No, only by name.

Of him- Mainland. Yes. Very nice. A real old professor he was.

Yes. And his successor? Just for the tape...

Well, that was Ritchie, wasn't it? Was there was anybody in between?

No. This is- this is... Hamish Ritchie.

Hamish Ritchie, yes.

James- James McPherson Ritchie. Yes.

Yes. Scottish are so much better at languages than Scots are- than the English, aren't they? Especially German.

Yes – yes. Yes. He was the... the first Chair of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies.

That's right. That's how you know him isn't it? Yes.

Well, I'd known him professionally before, but not very well. And- yes. Well, he's- he was very well-known in German studies.

Is he?

Very well-known.

Was he, I mean, I should say, yes. Yes, I did go to his funeral. It was absolutely packed. It was in St. Mark's Church. And... I don't know, they weren't church-goers. I don't know why it was in the church, but it was. People were standing... outside.

[02:11:37]

He was larger than life.

Larger than life, yes. And yes, I sent him a- I sent him a joke... when he was ill. That's right. I sent him a joke... in German. Because I don't know anybody that- of my background or culture at all. He was the only one that I could tell any jokes or anything that would only work in German. About the Hungarian who doesn't speak German very well. Can I tell it you very quickly?

Please!

This Hungarian is always saying funny things, because his German is not very good. And then he one day he hears a man give a rose to his lady friend, and he says, "Die Rose, der Rose." And he thinks that's lovely. So, when he comes to his girlfriend's birthday or something, he didn't give her a rose, but he brought her a box of chocolates. Have I told you this before?

No.

He buys her a box of chocolates, and he hands it- gives it to her, he says, "*Die Schachtel, der Schachtel.*" [both laugh] And that of course means 'an old bag'[box], as you know.

Yes. Yes. Yes, of course.

And I sent him that, and it cheered him up considerably.

Good.

When he was ill...

That's a good one. That is a good one. Yes.

Yes, it's a nice one. It's a nice one. You have to tell it- if you know many people who speak German- do you? You have to tell it to them.

Oh yes. Yes, yes- 'cause there's the difference of gender, of course.

Yes absolutely. Yes.

It is a good one. Best joke I've heard...

Really?

...in one of these interviews, I think.

Oh really? Oh, I've got lots of jokes.

No, well, we won't want too many of those.

No, that's right. One will do. Yes.

And when you finished your- your studies at the college, what did you do then?

What did I do then? What a question. Oh, I got- I went to teaching of course, straight away.
Yes.

Where did you teach? And what?

I taught... German and French. I had to do some French. And I had a remedial group.

Where was this?

In a comp- it was the first purpose-built comprehensive school in Sheffield.

[02:12:38]

Oh, right. Was this the same one that your son had attended?

No.

No.

No, no, no. No. It was a different one. And I was there for a year. Because there was a dreadful girl there that I didn't get on with and... That was very- a difficult year. But then I got a lovely job in a very bad area in Sheffield. I don't know if you've heard of the Manor Estate?

Yeah, I think I have.

A very poor area, and they were the loveliest children. And of course, I only- they did stream them, and I only got the best children. It wasn't saying very much for that area.

What was the school called?

Waltheof. I don't know who Waltheof was, but he was some old Anglo-Saxon Earl or something. Anyway. There was an Earl of Waltheof. It was called after that. And - And it was in a very bad area. But I never taught full time. And it was lovely! I just did German and a bit of French. And... It was very, very- I enjoyed that. Yes, I went straight away. It was easier to get jobs then... especially teachers' jobs; they were crying out for teachers.

Yes. And how long did you work as a teacher?

Well, ten years at the school. And then I think they retired all- I had to leave because I was a part-timer, and they got rid of all part-timers. So that was all right. I had done my stint. And then I only taught adults after that, which was a... piece of cake, really.

Where- where did you teach the adults?

In various schools... for the local authority.

Oh, I see. Sort of like adult education?

Yes... yes. I did that for years until I was about seventy, or more I think Yes.

And you found that rewarding?

Yes. But not as challenging as children.

I'm sure.

I mean, they're harder work, but you get more back. And then adults come because they want to. Children don't. They'd rather be somewhere else.

Yes. What sort of adults came to your courses?

Oh...oh. There's no one answer to that. Every possible- many of them had some kind of link. There was somebody who was- had an Austrian husband and... Somebody wanted to go to...

What's that thing they have in Vienna every ten years? ...What's that thing they have in Vienna every ten years? Is it a New Year's night or some New Year's... that they have on the radio?

They do the New Year's- they do the concert.

[02:14:52]

Well probably that. Something they have – no. It's something they have every ten years. Oh, what is it? The- that religious thing they get every ten years. What's it called? And she wanted to go to that. When they celebrate Christ.

I'm not well up on that...

What is that thing?

I don't know.

Oh yes, I'm sure you would know if I said it. She wanted to go to that, anyway, so different reasons for... wanting to learn German. Or you know, just- just, you know, just interested in languages.

Yes. And when you were seventy or so did you- just decided you'd- it was time to retire?

Oh, I'd had enough by then.

Yes.

I had some private students for a long time.

And- and your husband continued? He stayed at the University of Sheffield?

Until he had to retire at sixty-five. Not like now; they stayed on till sixty-five.

Yes... yes. And did you retire at about the same time?

No... No, because I was quite a lot younger. I went on. But it was only part-time.

What did you do when, you know, once you both retired?

Oh... What didn't we do?

Ah...

There'so... I don't know. But we had so much to do.

Did you travel?

Yes, we did go for quite a lot of holidays, yeah. Oh, yes. Well, I went to Japan and Australia after he died and... and America.

Oh, when- if I may ask, when did he die?

He died in 2000, actually. ...But he was a lot older than me, so he was in his late eighties then.

Had he been ill before?

No, not at all. We played tennis a couple of days before.

Mn-hnn?

And he-he was very fit. He did have a tracheostomy, because he had... something to do with his throat once. But he was very fit. And we played tennis on the Saturday. And he had a- he was dead on Monday. He'd had a... a blocked artery in the stomach. It was a sort of abdominal angina.

An aneurysm?

Well, aneurysm is to do with- no. That's what the- no, I don't think so. It might have been it was a blocked, a blocked...

Artery?

Vein, in the- into the abdomen. Anyway, it was very quick.

Yes...

But all that lives must die. And I'm not sentimental about... him. We had many years together.

Yes. Yes. And you stayed in the house.

Yes. And his ashes are in the garden. If you have time, you can go up on the slope. It's a lovely slope there. I'll show it to you. And I've a little plaque to him there, under the apple tree, which he liked.

[02:18:23]

Yes. And your son. Where does he live?

He lives in Chippenham, near Bath and Bristol.

Oh, right.

Not a very nice place itself, but nice surroundings.

Oh, well. Yes...

And... Do you know it?

Oh yes... yes. Cause I was- lived for many years in Bristol. Lectured at the university.

Bristol is a lovely- as big cities go, I think Bristol is the best of all. My cousins lived in Bristol, as I think I told you.

Oh yes! You went to visit them...

Often. They lived in Redland, St. Oswald's Road.

Oh yes...

Were you born there, did you say?

Oh, no. No, I worked at the university. I lived the other side of Whiteladies Road from Redland, just into the Clifton area.

You were at Bristol University?

Yes. Yeah, for about fifteen years.

Well, my cousins were doctors- they were doctors there, both of them. In the... whatever the hospital is called. I don't know.

Bristol Royal Infirmary?

Yes probably. I think they're both dead. Yes.

And have you been back to Vienna more recently? ...Do you go back?

Well yeah, we all went. I went with Julian and Joshi. When did we go? We went- I was invited back to Vienna! I told you that, didn't I? Didn't I send you a postcard?

Well, for the tape, because I know, but the people are going to...

Did I, though? I- I'm- when was it? I was invited back. Something- oh, they opened that special place for the Kindertransport or something. A building in- yes, that's right. That was- was that the last time I was there? Yes, it must have been... yes. They came with me.

Do you- how do you- how do you find going back to Vienna, I mean, more recently? Do you sense any sort of change in atmosphere, and change in the people?

I might just as well be a complete stranger. I have no - no link at all with it. I mean I remember the streets and so on, but it was just like a different person.

Did lots of people attend this event of...?

...yes, but I didn't know any of them... strangely enough.

What did they- Did they greet you and welcome you? And dignitaries address you, and that sort of thing?

...I don't think I spoke to many of them really, even. But I'm trying to think what it was- where we went. And they went- we had the service in a church because there- where was it-

Oh, that was in Harwich, that's right. And there wasn't a synagogue there, so they had a service in the church and apologised for it! [both laugh]

Yes, that's more recently.

Yes, that was recently.

Because the- I think it was last year.

That's right yes.

Because the AJR organised it.

Oh, yes - yes. Were you there? No.

I wasn't actually, no, because I was- I hadn't been well. But I know the AJR organized...

Did they? Yes.

... for the Kindertransportees to...

Yes.

To go.

[02:20:24]

Well, we thought that there was, you know- we had to look around for somewhere to eat, and it wasn't all that well organized, we thought.

Oh...

We couldn't- we had to wander around and find somewhere to eat and... It was quite nice; I quite enjoyed it anyway. Yes.

I suppose going back to Harwich didn't arouse any emotions either, because you- I mean it was the first place you arrived in England.

Of course, yes. And yeah, we went to see the plaque. And no- no, I didn't know the town, of course at all - not that it's particular without knowing but...

Well. I mean, we've... We... Seem to have gone through most of your life.

Oh dear!

Unless there's- is there...?

Has it been over eighty years old then, this interview? Eighty years long? [both laugh]

It may feel like it to you. I mean I don't know if there's anything else that you would like to add, that I haven't covered.

I mustn't get up must I, because I...

Not quite yet. No. We'll do that after...

Can you pass me my bag?

I can't either.

You can't either.

But we'll do that...

All right. I've got something written down but...

Well, it doesn't... It doesn't need to- to cover absolutely everything.

No, but if I want to know it, I want to know it. And so, before you go, I'll have a look.

Yes, we can. We can...

I don't suppose it's anything important. I may have been through it.

And... Perhaps by way of conclusion, I could just ask you if there's- if there's- well I'd like to ask you two questions. First is- concerns identity. How do you see yourself in terms of your

identity? Are you British? Jewish? Viennese - or do you have any clear idea? How would you define yourself?

A European- a citizen of the world.

Oh right. [...] say, used to say in...

Yes. Citizens of Europe- a citizen of Europe. But now, none of that matters anymore. Now if you'd asked me ten years ago, I would have been... It's always been a great problem with me, really, who I am. A great problem, having spent years of trying to completely identify. And you cannot. Or I couldn't.

With the English? With the English?

Absolutely. Unless you came over at two or three years old, impossible, as you know.

Yes.

So, I had this struggle al my- now, lovely! You get old, and nothing really matters anymore. As long as you are well, and you sleep well, eat well, happy and- well, health, that's the main thing. Have a good life. Not- that doesn't matter to me anymore what I am, or what people think I am or know I am. I don't care anymore.

Yes. The other thing was whether you had any- any particular message that you'd like to- or piece of wisdom that you'd like to pass on to any grandchildren say, or family members that are going to watch this interview? Just anything you'd like to say to them?

Try and keep well, keep healthy. That's the main thing. Hold on to your health.

And I said two questions, but I'll add a third. Are you planning to... publish any more volumes of your diaries?

[02:24:24]

No.

No. I should say for the tape, there are three volumes published under the title “My Darling Diary”, and they cover Mrs. Joseph's life up to 1955. Which is just before you get married and your son- son is born.

That's right. After that it became a question of time, really. You know...

Yes...

Cause I didn't have time for the first few years and then I- the urge leaves you. But then I've left- not- I mean, I wouldn't publish it anymore, but I still write it, as you know. Yes.

Well in that case I'll say thank you very much Inga Joseph, for agreeing to do the interview. It's been most interesting.

Well, it's a pleasure. I hope I... didn't disappoint you or anything.

Certainly not. Certainly not. Thank you very much.

Thank you. ...Getting a bit hot here.

[02:25:12]

[End of interview]

[Photographs and documents]

[02:25:20]

Cameraman: Who is in this photograph please?

So, what have I got to say?

Photo 1.

That's a photograph of my mother, and my sister and me. In 1929, I think. And I would imagine it was taken on holiday... somewhere.

Photo 2.

That's a photograph of me in a park. I think it was the Votivpark, but I'm not 100 percent sure. And I suppose I was about seven years old, or something like that.

Photo 3.

It's a picture of- a picture of me. Don't think I really had such a dark face. It must be the light.

Photo 4.

My sister and me, about 19... Would it be 1928 or -nine. Sitting in our bed, in the nursery.

Photo 5.

That's a photograph of my mother, which she sent to us just after we came to England before- just before the outbreak of the war. When she would have been about 42 years old. Something like that.

[02:26:49]

Photo 6.

My father's. I have no idea when it was taken. I honestly don't know. But I think we... were given it when we came to England, probably to take with us. In case, we forgot what he looked like, I suppose.

Photo 7.

And what have I got to say? Sorry. It's my husband with- when I first met him with his famous microscope, which he... in Oxford, in the Department of Human Anatomy, which... Because his boss was a microscopist. And people came to see this microscope from... all over the place, really.

My husband's name was Stan.

Photo 8.

That's my son Julian... a few years ago. And his hobby is conchology. And I think he bought these two huge shells from- they only have them in Australia. He pays a fortune for them.

One shell can cost up to twenty thousand pounds he told me. I don't expect these are worth it.
But I think it's a- Top shell is it? I'm not sure.

Photo 9.

Those are my two granddaughters, Emma the older one, and Hannah, taken at their
graduation ceremonies.

[End of photographs and documents]

[02:28:17]