

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:	11

Interviewee Surname:	Cohen
Forename:	Hannelore
Interviewee Sex:	Female
Interviewee DOB:	26 November 1924
Interviewee POB:	Cologne, Germany

Date of Interview:	23 March 2003
Location of Interview:	Salford, Manchester
Name of Interviewer:	Rosalyn Livshin
Total Duration (HH:MM):	2 hours

**REFUGEE VOICES:
THE AJR AUDIO-VISUAL TESTIMONY ARCHIVE**

INTERVIEW: 11

NAME: HANNELORE COHEN

DATE: SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2003

LOCATION: SALFORD, MANCHESTER

INTERVIEWER: ROSALYN LIVSHIN

Tape 1: 0 minute 20 seconds

RL: I am interviewing Hannelore Cohen and the date is Sunday 23rd March 2003,. The interview is being conducted in Salford, Manchester and I am Rosalyn Livshin. If you can you tell me first your name?

HC: Hannelore Cohen

RL: And what was your name at birth?

HC: Horn H-O-R-N

RL: Do you have any other names?

HC: No

RL: Any nicknames?

HC: No

RL: Your Hebrew name?

HC: Channah I think, Tzivia, No Channah, sorry.....

RL: And when were you born?

HC: 26th November 1924

RL: How old are you now?

HC: 78

RL: Where were you born?

HC: In Cologne, Germany.

Tape 1: 1 minutes 21 seconds

RL: If you tell me first your parents' names?

HC: My father was Hermann Horn, my mother was Anna Horn (née Levy).

RL: And your father, where and when was your father born?

HC: He was born on the 28th September 1890 and my mother on the 9th October 1896.

RL: Where?

HC: In Cologne.

RL: Both of them?

HC: Both of them, yes.

RL: In Cologne. Now thinking first of your father and his family, what can you tell me about his parents, your grandparents?

HC: From what I know they had already died when I was born. They were butchers in Cologne and they had two sons, and I never met them.

RL: So your father had a brother?

HC: Yes

RL: Just the two of them. What kind of religious upbringing did your father have?

HC: Quite orthodox. He was brought up quite orthodox, yes.

RL: What did he do after he left school?

HC: He worked for a textile firm. He would have liked to have been a solicitor and studied, but he had to go to work because they couldn't afford to have kept him at school.

RL: Did he continue to work with the textile firm after marriage?

HC: Yes. He taught himself a lot. He was a very clever man. You could ask him anything under the sun.

RL: What kind of schooling had he had?

HC: I suppose just the ordinary elementary school whatever they had in those days, I don't know.

RL: Did the textile firm have a name?

Tape 1: 3 minutes 14 seconds

HC: Yes it was called Jonas & Company, I think.

RL: And what was his role within it?

HC: Managing Director. They moved afterwards from Cologne when I was 3 years old. The firm moved to Chemnitz.

RL: What did your father do when the firm moved?

HC: He moved with them. So when I was 3 we left Cologne and I remember going in a plane from Cologne to Chemnitz and this plane had, you sat opposite one another, you know a tiny plane and I remember distinctly when we lived in a small place outside Chemnitz and then went to Holland when I was 5 for 6 months because his business took him over there then we came back to Chemnitz?

RL: We will discuss that in more detail later but just giving me the overall picture. So that was your father so you did not know your father's parents?

HC: No

RL: What about your mother and her parents?

HC: My mother's mother was alive. I went to visit her once only in Cologne when I was 8 or 9 and she was a very regal lady with a lorgnette that is all I remember.

RL: Do you know what your mother's father did for a living?

HC: I think he was a traveller but I can't, I don't know what he did.

RL: Where were they from?

HC: Also they were all born in Cologne; they go back to the 16th century I think.

RL: What kind of religious upbringing did your mother have?

HC: I don't think she was brought up very religious. No. She said knew more about the Catholic religion, because they always had Catholic maids who took her into the - when they went to church, they took her with. That is all I know.

RL: So your grandmother, did she actually live in Cologne?

HC: In Cologne yes.

RL: But you only met her once?

HC: Yes, yes because you know things were getting difficult already by that time and I went once on holiday, yes. She was too old to, she was not fit enough to travel, I don't think.

Tape 1: 5 minutes 31 seconds

RL: How many were in your mother's family? How many siblings?

HC: My mother had 1 sister who had died and she had four older brothers. Much older brothers.

RL: Where did they live?

HC: They all lived in Cologne or round about but her oldest brother left for America in, I think she was only a year old and he married Metro Louis B Mayer's sister in America, Metro Goldwin Mayer but he died afterwards. The other brothers were all supposed to go to America they had visas, when war broke but they didn't get there. They all went to Theresienstadt or different. My mother met her mother in Theresienstadt. She was 87.

RL: So how did your parents meet?

HC: That I don't know.

RL: Do you know anything about them?

HC: They were a very happy couple, that's all I know.

RL: When did they marry?

HC: 1922.

RL: How many children did they have?

HC: Two, my brother, myself and my brother.

RL: Were you the oldest?

HC: Yes

RL: And your brother's name?

HC: David Horn, Kurt David Horn it was really, K-U-R-T but he is Dovid now.

RL: What happened with your father during the First World War?

HC: He was injured in the First World War. He always wore a calliper on his leg.

RL: Did he tell you anything about it or what happened to him during the war?

HC: Not really. He was a sergeant, something but he didn't talk much about it. No.

RL: What is your earliest memory?

Tape 1: 7 minutes 38 seconds

HC: My earliest memory. Flying in the little aeroplane. I always remember that, yes and also when we lived in this little village outside Chemnitz, we had a stupid maid who chased me around the room, I was always frightened of feathers, she told me it was bad men in the pillows and she chased me around, I have never touched a feather since.

RL: Where is Chemnitz

HC: Chemnitz is between Leipzig and Dresden? It became East Germany afterwards.

RL: Do you remember the place?

HC: Yes I do. I went there in 2000 and I saw the name. We went into the mountains of Czechoslovakia, this was near the border with Czechoslovakia and Germany and we saw the name of this little place we had lived there when I was 3.

RL: What memories do you have of the place?

HC: That was all.

RL: That was it and you say from there.

HC: We lived in Chemnitz for a while and then went to Holland for 6 months, that's all.

RL: Do you have any memories of Holland?

HC: Yes, I was about 5 and the shops were open until ten o'clock and it was such a novelty. My parents took me out with them in the evening and I remember everybody having an egg for lunch there every day. Then we went back to Chemnitz and I started school. We lived right opposite the school there.

RL: How big a place was Chemnitz?

HC: Quite a, you know, like Manchester, an industrial town, well known for hosiery.

RL: Was there a Jewish community there?

HC: Yes my father was very active in the Kulturbund as they called it, the cultural association and he did a lot of -, he gave a lot of lectures to the Zionist group there.

RL: And the school that you attended there, was that a state school?

HC: Yes a state school. We lived right opposite. We had Hebrew lessons as well. What do you call it; the religious school was a little bit down the street. It wasn't that there was no Jewish school, we just had lessons.

Tape 1: 9 minutes 54 seconds

RL: How did you get on with the non-Jewish pupils at school?

HC: All right, at first, I mean there were some people a couple of doors away, he was a Gauleiter afterwards, his children used to go skiing with me but then of course they weren't allowed to speak to us and in our apartment there was a couple next door who was the manager of the Deutsche Bank and he also, they were very nice, but afterwards, they weren't allowed to speak to us.

RL: When did that change occur?

HC: Oh it must be 1937/1938.

RL: How were they about it did they just, how did the change occur?

HC: It must be in the beginning of 1938, I can't just put my finger on an exact date but it was strange because every Christmas they used to send us a plate of Christmas goodies and they had a daughter who was backwards. She used to use our swing, we had a swing in the hall but all that stopped. But my mother had a lady who used to help her and she came and she came right till the 9th November and she came and she came to say the synagogues are burning, all the shops are being looted, so my mother said, "you had better go home. It is not safe for you to be here." But she was very loyal.

RL: The neighbours and these people who had been friendly, did they cut you dead if they saw you?

HC: Yes, yes, yes.

RL: Was there ever any feeling of, you know, regret that they had to do that or they did not show any?

HC: They didn't show, I don't think they dared show.

RL: Whereabouts were you living in this town?

HC: Whereabouts. In a good residential area but in this town, I saw the buildings afterwards in 2000. They had factories along the river and the factory owners lived next to them, they had big houses built there, you know. You don't want me to talk about when I went back there do you?

RL: Well you can do if it makes more sense now.

HC: When I went, I knew the building, I was told the building wasn't standing any more but we took a bus and I remember the road we took to school. We got this bus and on this bus we started talking to a lady. She said "oh yes that factory was such

and such place” and the house we lived in was next door to it and so I found the place. I was absolutely amazed, and I went and there was some offices there and I said “did this building used to belong to Gebrüder Franks?” and so they said “yes” and she
Tape 1: 12 minutes 52 seconds

said, it belonged to some Jewish people. I said that’s right. I knew the name of the street, the number of the street and I was quite pleased with myself to have found it. There was a park at the end of the street where my mother was forced to do forced labour. I did not go into the park. This was after I had already left. So I did find landmarks. I mean I saw the road I crossed to go to school; you know it was very strange. The school wasn’t there any more but I found the street. I found the café my father used to take me to on a Sunday morning. It was still standing.

RL: Had the house gone?

HC: Yes, the house had gone, yes.

RL: Was it a detached home, was it?

HC: No they were apartments. They were big; the person who owned the factory also lived there. It was very strange.

RL: Can you describe your apartment?

HC: Front Door, very long corridor, we had a swing, and a huge dining room, father’s study, and 3 bedrooms, a bathroom and kitchen.

RL: What floor was it on?

HC: First

RL: How big was the block?

HC: There were only 3 floors. We all lived in big apartments. Very few people lived in villas.

RL: How many apartments were in the building?

HC: 2 on each floor, only 6.

RL: Were there other Jewish families?

HC: There was one below us once. I think she was megayered. That’s the only one. That was the only Jewish people but there were a lot of Jewish friends in the area, you know because it is very difficult to explain. The German Jews lived on one side of the town and the more orthodox East Europeans lived on the other side. I never met these girls until we were thrown out of school and went into a class together and made lots of friends. It was just one of those things.

RL: What shul did you attend?

HC: The synagogue. A temple, they called it.

Tape 1: 15 minutes 21 seconds

RL: Did it have a name?

HC: No, I've got in on there. It was just called The Temple. I might have it on the papers I went there for the consecration of the new one.

RL: And the Rabbi?

HC: His name was Dr. Fuchs.

RL: So how often did the family attend?

HC: Not terribly often. We always went to the High Festivals. My mother used to sing in the choir, so it was a more sort of Liberal Synagogue really. My father's background, his father went to a stiebel, you know so it was completely different.

RL: So what kind of religious upbringing did you have?

HC: Just the normal, we knew we were Jewish and that's about it. We kept Pesach and kept the holidays but it wasn't a very strict orthodox background which I hadn't, did not know until I came here.

RL: What about a Saturday, a Shabbos? Was anything different done?

HC: We might have gone to the Synagogue and we always had Hebrew lessons. I went to the Talmud Torah in the end and I learned from the Chumash and learned Hebrew, I learned Ivrit properly. The director was a friend of my father's. I did learn.

RL: Did you have Hebrew lessons in school?

HC: No, no, next door the place was just nearby.

RL: When would you go to that?

HC: In the afternoons, because we did not have school every afternoon and on a Sunday morning we used to go.

RL: Who was, do you remember any of the teachers?

HC: Yes, I saw his name in the papers they gave me. His name was Dr. Sonnenfeld. A nice old man.

RL: You say you learned Ivrit as well so there was a Zionist slant to it?

HC: Yes, my father was a very strong Zionist.

RL: Did you belong to any Youth Groups?

HC: Yes, I did, it was like the equivalent of the Girl Guides. We had plays and
Tape 1: 17 minutes 46 seconds

things. It was quite nice.

RL: What was, did that have a name?

HC: The name was IPD so whatever it was, it must have been Israelite Pathfinders that's right. It was something like that it meant.

RL: Was there anything else you belonged to as a youngster?

HC: No things were difficult; you know when I was growing up.

RL: And your father, what did he belong to?

HC: He belonged to the local Zionist Group and the Association of Retired Old Soldiers or something and he was founder member of his B'nai B'rith Lodge in Chemnitz. He was very involved in communal life.

RL: Can you tell me a bit about what he did?

HC: No I don't know. I have got this book of Chemnitz but he is only mentioned in 1932 when he was the secretary of the Association of Old Soldiers.

RL: What about your mother?

HC: She was involved in a ladies organisations but I cannot tell you the names now, I don't know. She played bridge, bridge afternoons. I used to come home from school and eat the sandwiches over.

RL: What else did your parents do in their leisure time? Did they go out?

HC: Yes, they went to the theatre and they had friends round, they played bridge and my father played Skat as well I forget that one, skittles or whatever they call it. Sorry it's called, I forget the name now, I can't think sorry. But he definitely played cards and Kegel, it was called I think in German. I don't know, it must be like bowling, something like that, I'm sorry, I hope you don't.....

RL: What about yourself, what did you play at as a child? What did children do?

HC: We belonged to a Jewish organisation afterwards and they took us to a beautiful park for the day and we played tennis there and could go swimming. That was in the latter years when things were already difficult. Then we weren't allowed to go to the swimming baths anymore, we were not allowed to go to the pictures. My mother took me to the cinema quite often. My father took me to see Aida with Gigli. That was the first thing he took me to see and while we still could, we went out.

RL: What about holidays?

HC: We didn't have many holidays. I went to Berlin once for a holiday, for a **Tape 1: 20 minutes 50 seconds**

couple of weeks the year before the Olympic games where they already had the notices up, you know, Juden verboten, and you couldn't go into some of these places. I went to Cologne when I was about 9. That was before then and I went to visit my uncle and his family, it was very nice and my grandma.

RL: You mentioned before about skiing. When did you used to go skiing?

HC: When I was at school and I also went in to the, what do they call these mountains now? Riesengebirge, I think they're called, in between Germany and, Sudetenland, you have heard of the Sudetenland and I went skiing there but I also went skiing in Chemnitz I loved going skiing from school because I liked being dressed up in the ski suit. I am not a very sporty type of person.

RL: You were at a state school. When did you have to leave that school?

HC: When I was 13 because I went to the state school and then I passed my exams to go the grammar school but of course we weren't allowed to go, so this state school, perhaps now you might call it a comprehensive school and we learned the language there as well. We learned English but one day we had a lesson and the teacher mentioned Martin Luther, this is when it started and he said, he pulled these children to his breast and the whole class giggled and he picked on the two Jewish girls and we had to go to the headmaster and he said "if you ever giggle at anything again (I did not even giggle) but then you will be thrown out of school, I'll send for your father" and that was when it started. We also had a teacher who was a terrible anti-Semite. She used to go, she'd been to Nuremberg and she'd seen the Führer. He was wonderful and he was absolutely full of it, and things became unpleasant and then after that in November we were thrown out of school. There was no school.

RL: So you were at school until the 9th November?

HC: The 8th November

RL: and you hadn't have to leave it earlier?

HC: No not until then. Then they started a school, Jewish classes. There were three ages in one you know, I was in the same class as my brother because they hadn't got enough children, and a very nice gentleman became the headmaster but after a few weeks he couldn't stand the strain and he committed suicide. So there was no school. Then I came here in the January anyway.

RL: What was his name?

HC: Ehrlich I think was his name, I think it was Ehrlich, Ehrlich or something. He was also a friend of my father's.

RL: That was just a small Jewish school? Whereabouts was that?

Tape 1: 24 mm 0 second

HC: It was in the centre of the town and we had to go to be there at 7 o'clock in the morning so that we shouldn't meet the other children and we should have no contact with the Aryan children. It was hard going because we had to go on 2 buses to get there and then they made this other class nearer to home but as I say it didn't last long.

RL: Was your father interested in politics. Was he involved?

HC: Not in politics, more the Zionism. Because one day, I opened the door and 2 Gestapo men were stood there and I thought they had come to take him away because that was the time that everybody was being sent away but no they had just come to see his notes for his lecture the next day, so that was that.

RL: What year would that have been?

HC: That was 1938

RL: How aware were you of what was going on in the 30's?

HC: I was aware because we suddenly weren't allowed to go out. Well in 1933 I had my first experience of Nazis. Would you like me to tell you?

RL: Yes.

HC: I went to this school and my uncle and aunt lived around the corner and I liked their maid so I decided instead of going home I went to there. It was April 1933 and as I got towards the gates, they always lived in a big apartment house. I saw a car come up with brownshirts in it and they ran in. So of course I ran home and that was when you realised something was wrong and they had come to take my uncle away but he had already left, so they took his cars and sent them to some rubbish heap but they had come for him because he had lived in England during the First World War and he always had business with England so they thought he, you know, they'd come for him but thank G-d he had escaped and it was through him living in Manchester that I came over here.

RL: Which uncle was that?

HC: He wasn't really my uncle he was just my parents' best friend and we always called him uncle. He was wonderful and it was through him, he went to somebody called Mr. Apfelbaum here and he said that the Needoffs would take a child so that was how I came to come here.

RL: What was the friend's name?

HC: Otto Hertz

RL: And he left already in 1933?

Tape 1: 26 minutes 34 seconds

HC: In '33 yes. He had the most wonderful maid? She packed everything up for him, even the china and everything and it all got here in the end. But they had to start from scratch again. They weren't in the position that they had been in when they started here. They were a wonderful couple.

RL: What was his business?

HC: He had a dress factory. Bauman Hertz it was called. They were really my family. I mean I had no other relatives here. I became, he always treated me like a daughter.

RL: You said that was your first encounter with the Nazis, can you take me through other encounters or developments as they went on through the 30's?

HC: No. I am trying to think. I don't know. I am sure there must have been more. Sometimes you saw a skirmish in the street, but you ran home, because you were frightened to watch it. You have heard of people being sent to prison. And yes I do remember something. I knew a friend of my father's was sent to prison for no reason and I had a maid took me for a walk and I went past the prison, she always took me to stupid places and I thought this poor man is singing you know but I knew there were so many some who were sent away and never came back. Some came back some didn't. This was early on. If you had any connection with any other country or whatever their political belief, I don't know I was too young to understand really.

RL: You say your father was involved with Zionism. Did any people that you knew go to Palestine as it was?

HC: Oh yes, yes, we had some friends. I had a holiday with them. They called them Hachsharah Farms. They were preparing for Israel. I spent two weeks on this Hachsharah Farm. It was lovely. I saw animals being born, you know, things I had never seen before. It must have been about '36 or so. They were going to Israel. They were training people to go.

RL: So where was the farm that you stayed on?

HC: I can't remember that. Somewhere in Saxony but I can't remember where I am afraid, no.

RL: So I suppose that takes us up really to Kristallnacht doesn't it? Can you give me your memories of that period?

HC: Yes, well I know is that my mother's help came that morning and she said the synagogue is burning, all the shops are being looted and that's all I knew. Then of course my parents wrote to my uncle in Manchester and he got things moving and he got a place for me and my brother as well. The people my brother was going to, found

they were having a baby so in the end they didn't want him. He came after me, am I rushing things? So my uncle said "let him come just the same. We'll put him a camp

Tape 1: 29 minutes 48 seconds

in London, so long as he is out of the country." Anyway I was very upset when I heard he wasn't coming, so I cried and Mr. Needoff couldn't bear to see me cry so he said "let him come and be with us." He was a very good man, so he was here until war broke out. He was evacuated to Blackpool with the Jews school there.

RL: Were your parents trying to find a way of leaving?

HC: Oh yes they were supposed to go to America, my mother had a cousin in America and her husband had vouched for my mother's brothers and my mother and father and us as well to come to America and all, a lot of people, her sister had already sent a lift, everything was sent in a lift with all the goods in it. My cousin's husband who was vouching for them all, had a secretary. He was in a car crash with a secretary and they found that he had been carrying on so he stopped, reneged on the visas. Anyway, war broke out by then. America came into the war by then and they couldn't go to America but the lifts got there and after the war this cousin contacted my mother and she asked her what I wanted, you know the silver, linen and things that had been sent away, I don't know whether I should have told you.. So nobody got to America... My parents had planned that if we are here then eventually we'll be able to go and get us to come over there.

RL: So in the meantime they had made arrangements for you to come to Manchester. How did you feel about that?

HC: Well I have given a talk on this. I said, as a child it was an adventure. You did not realise the seriousness of it. You never thought you would never see your parents again, you know and it's sad. My father said to me "you are going to go to a completely different way of life; you're going to live behind a shop. You just have to, you know, get used to it." It was different, they were very kind lovely people and I came.

RL: First of all what did you bring with you. What were you able to bring?

HC: A suitcase with as many clothes as you could. I know my mother went and bought me lovely clothes to last, you know for however long. I came to Manchester. You don't want me to tell you about the journey do you?

RL: I do. I want all the details from the very beginning.

HC: Do you want me to tell you from when I came?

RL: I want the journey and I want let's just start with. Did someone have to watch the packing of the case?

HC: No, no, no

RL: --- or were you able to take whatever you wanted, so there was no supervision of that?

HC: No, no, no

Tape 1: 33 minutes 2 seconds

RL: What about getting the documents for travelling? Do you remember anything about that?

HC: My father must have done all that.

RL: And the day of leaving, if you can describe that day?

HC: Well my father couldn't walk very well so he didn't take me to the station. My mother took me to the station; I think she took me to Berlin. I had to meet a train there and it was very sad. I never thought I would never see my father again. It was sad and then we met all the other children going, you know and I had a little money bag with my, you know, Kinderausweis It was like an Identity card thing, and some money and somebody had given me a new ring as a going away present. I was only frightened they would take it off me. But you didn't know what to expect. It was Friday the journey was Friday because you didn't know when they were going to come on and inspect you or something else.

RL: How many children were going?

HC: I don't know, I think about 30. I'm not quite sure, sorry.

RL: Was there anybody supervising the children?

HC: Yes there must have been somebody with us, yes.

RL: --- and where did you travel?

HC: We travelled to the Hook of Holland. When we got to Holland, lovely ladies met us and they gave us sweets and cakes and things to eat and then we had to go on the boat. That took an awful long time because we sailed during the night but in the morning we had to wait to be admitted, you know and we sat there all morning and then they took us to London by train and there again, we were met with lovely ladies from some committees and they took us to a place in Whitechapel, a horrible place really but it was adequate, where we slept the night and they gave us herring and the next morning they took us on a quick tour of London and then we all went to our respective places and I came to Manchester.

RL: Did you travel on your own?

HC: Yes. There was one girl I think she was going to Leeds or Liverpool on the same train, anyway and that was all and then I came to Manchester.

RL: Was there someone there to meet you?

HC: Yes my uncle met me and I didn't recognise him because he was wearing a bowler hat and I thought "who is this man", anyway. Then he took me to the Needoffs and it was all very traumatic and everybody came to have a look at me, all the relatives you know, at this little girl who had just come. Then that evening we

Tape 1: 35 minutes 50 seconds

went to the cinema but they said "we are going to the pictures." Well the pictures to me were pictures on the wall. So I got my little dictionary out for pictures on the wall and we went to the pictures. They were very good people. Everybody wanted to see me.

RL: How was your English?

HC: Well I say this in my talk. When I was thrown out of school, I had English lessons three times a week by a lady whose husband was the English master in the Gymnasium. I knew all my vocabulary but I could not converse. It didn't take that long. I couldn't, I didn't speak Yiddish, I could perhaps understand a bit but people couldn't understand I had never heard Yiddish before so I didn't know Yiddish. Surely you must know Yiddish? I know some of the words are like German but it took a long time to understand. Then I went to the Jews school for six months and I soon learned to speak. I didn't learn anything because what they were learning, I had already learned, you know but I learned to speak.

RL: What was your first impression of England on arrival?

HC: Strange, after all. It was all an adventure really.

RL: We will just stop here because the tape is about to end.

TAPE 2

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 37 minutes 28 seconds

RL: You have arrived in England and you say it was strange. If you could maybe take me through the first couple of weeks if you can remember, day by day, the first couple of weeks.

HC: I arrived on the Friday. On the Monday Mrs. Needoff took me to school. She said "you are going to go to Derby Street School." That was very strange. I met a lot of children who had come the same way as I had and we became friends and I used to call for one every morning and I soon got to know things. I was nearly getting back on a tram going in the wrong direction. The teacher then a Miss Gold said "no, no you mustn't go this way, you must go" and the headmaster of the boys' school was very nice and I was quite happy there. When I came home in the afternoon I used to help in the bakers shop. I used to serve in the shop.

RL: Just describe where you were living?

HC: I lived in the Bakers Shop in Waterloo Road. The Needoff's had a bakery and the bakehouse at the back of the shop and the living accommodation was there as

well. They were very well known, very good charitable people that helped a lot of people.

RL: What family did they have?

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 38 minutes 58 seconds

HC: They had a daughter and a son and then their family. I speak to the daughter every week and the daughter in law. We are still very good friends.

RL: So how old was the daughter and son when you arrived?

HC: I am trying to think. She is 87 now. So in 1939, she was 24.

RL: So they were grown up.

HC: Yes and the son was 17 when I arrived, yes.

RL: How did they receive you?

HC: They made me very welcome. I always call her my adopted sister. They were very good to me.

RL: So in the afternoons you would ---?

HC: I served in the shop and everybody knew me, you know. People even now know me "Oh I know you from Needoffs." A gentleman spoke to me in the club the other day, he says "I know you". I says "do you". "I remember you from Needoffs." "I've changed a bit since then", "no I still remember you"

RL: Who did you make friends with?

HC: Another girl who came a few months after me, and the people she came to live with were also friends of the Needoffs so they introduced me to her right away and we are still good friends now. I brought her into B'nai B'rith at the time and we see one another. I think she also had her name down to be interviewed.

RL: What's her name?

HC: Erica Schotland. I have kept; I have got a lot of old friends.

RL: What was the date you came over?

HC: 19th January 1939

RL: Were you still in contact with your parents?

HC: Yes at that time you could still write. Until war broke out you could still write. My grandmother sent me a bar of chocolate and Mrs. Needoff was quite surprised that she had written it all herself because she did not realise that a lady of 80 years odd could write.

RL: Did you find anything strange about the life here and what did you find strange?

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 41 minutes 26 seconds

HC: People spoke a lot of Yiddish and some couldn't read and some couldn't write. It was all strange to me because I had never come across this before. I am not saying it in a derogatory way it is just that it was just a different way of life. What else did I find different? The whole way of life was completely different.

RL: In what way?

HC: The food, you know and the school was completely different.

RL: Can you describe how?

HC: It is difficult. I enjoyed it. It was just different. Not as strict perhaps. I am sorry I am not helping you.

RL: So if you take me through 1939. Did you have to register with the police or anything like that?

HC: If you were an enemy alien yes. I remember the Needoffs's daughter and the son-in-law taking me to Blackpool once, we didn't realise that when you got to the outskirts of Blackpool you had to show your identity, whatever, you know. I did not have anything with me but we got through. You could not go into places like Blackpool.

RL: Did you remember registering or going to the police station?

HC: I don't remember but I think I must have done.

RL: How aware were you in '39 of the immanency of war. I mean were you aware of what was going on? Were you concerned?

HC: Yes, of course I was because my parents were, I still never dreamed I would never see them again, I didn't see my mother afterwards but I never thought. You don't realise the enormity of what was happening.

RL: Do you remember the outbreak of war?

HC: Yes I do. Sunday morning, and I always remember I was going to, my uncle and auntie lived in Whalley Range and I was going there for the day. I went every Sunday and I said to them once "can I be your daily Sunday guest?" in my innocence. Anyway so I was still going there and I was only frightened that an air raid siren sounded and I would have to, and I hope I get back to Waterloo Road and I did, things became more difficult. I worked in the shop until I was called up to do war work when I was 17.

RL: Had you finished school by then?

HC: Yes I left school in July. I only went from the January to the July.

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 44 minutes 20 seconds

RL: And then from July onwards?

HC: I was in the shop full time.

RL: In the shop. That became a full time job.

HC: Yes oh yes.

RL: Were you paid for your work or was it just?

HC: Oh yes. They looked after me like, as if I was their daughter. They clothed me and fed me. Yes I got spending money as well and I saved some, you know.

RL: How long did you work in the shop?

HC: Until I was 17 and then I was called up. They weren't happy about it and I wasn't happy about it. I could either go on the buses or work at Dunlop's or work in a small munitions factory that made parts for field telephones. There used to be a jeweller called Herbert Wolf in Market Street and they had a small munitions factory in Charles Street, so I decided to go there and I worked shifts. I left at four o'clock in the morning to get there for six o'clock. But do you know you weren't afraid to walk about then. You had a torch and did, you got the tram and then I used to come back at 2 o'clock – I finished at 2 then I went to the shop and then the next week I'd work from 2 until 10 and I used to go in the shop in the morning and help in the shop and that was it. It was a full life and it was hard work. I was hopeless on the machine and I broke every machine they put me on. This is funny so they made me an inspector, which was very, very boring. You would sit there with a micrometer all day long measuring screws. They came in one day before they made me an inspector and the boss, the manager and foreman all went on the same machine that I went on and it broke so they made me an inspector? But it got less pay and I had to work all day long, you know, not shifts and I used to get £4.10s when I was working on the shifts and only got £3 when you worked on the days as an inspector? It was terribly boring. The conversation. We used to wait for the tea break and we used to go out your work twice a day and that was your highlight of the day. Then I don't know, I was released after some time, I don't know, I can't remember why but then I went back in the shop. I did this for about a year or so.

RL: How did you get on with the other workers?

HC: They were married women. They used to talk about their husbands' coming home on leave and one girl, a Jewish girl who joined us, also did not last very long either so it was strange and I can't say I enjoyed it. No.

RL: You say that after that you went back to work in the shop and what happened after that?

HC: I had lots of friends. I belonged to Torah V'Avodah and I used to go to the Oneg Shabbats at Crumpsall Shul.

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 47 minutes 37 seconds

RL: When did that start or when did you join it?

HC: Must be when I was 16 or 17. Yes, it was very nice.

RL: Who was in charge of it or who led it?

HC: What's his name, Yetta, Ephraim's older brother? He is a rabbi. I forget his first name now, he was in charge of it and Moishe Pfeffer and Leo Grosskopf. We all used to go to the same thing.

RL: What did they used to do?

HC: They used to have; I can't even remember what they did. We used to meet there on a Saturday afternoon and have a sing song, and talk about different things. Some things I cannot remember properly.

RL: So you were working in the shop throughout the rest of the War?

HC: Yes, yes

RL: You weren't called in for any other...

HC: No no

RL: Do you remember any air raids?

HC: Oh yes. I slept through them all. The Jewish hospital was hit so badly, I never heard a thing. We never went in the shelter. We did not believe in going to the shelter. I used to meet some friends and we used to walk on Cheetham Hill Road near the library there, what was the library and when the sirens went, we went into the shelter of the library.

RL: At home in Waterloo Road?

HC: No. When I went to Whalley Range, my uncle had moved to Didsbury by then because we were bombed out and they had a big table which was made like a shelter. You know you could go underneath the table with a big cloth over it otherwise I never went in the shelter.

RL: Were you not scared?

HC: No, no I did what they did you know and that was it.

RL: Did you actually hear the raids or you just slept through them?

HC: I slept through them; I slept through these most terrible raids, yes. Part of the family were awake because they were in the bake house. They were baking at night.

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 50 minutes 11 seconds

RL: You mention belonging to Torah V'Avodah. Did you belong to any other groups?

HC: I used to go to the Water Park Country Club.

RL: What was that?

HC: The Water Park was a very nice Jewish organisation. They had a building at the top of Stanley Road and the country club was in Didsbury equivalent name and they got hold of it and I went there.

RL: What did they do?

HC: They had dances, we used to go to Cheetham Assembly Rooms, they had dances every Saturday night or Sunday whatever, Sunday night. I cannot remember.

RL: So what did you do at the Waterpark what was that?

HC: They danced and they, I think that was all they did, met people. I can't remember everything, sorry.

RL: That's fine, you are doing very well. How did you feel you were received by the young people in Manchester?

HC: They were very nice yes they were very nice.

RL: Did you ever feel any prejudice?

HC: I don't think so really, no. I did not mix with people who came not so much from the same background more the English girls by that time, you know.

RL: How accepted did you feel?

HC: I did, I felt accepted. The Needoffs and their friends just accepted me as I was. If they went to a wedding, I went to the wedding. I was always part of the family.

RL: What about the non-Jewish English people, how did you feel?

HC: I did not come across that many. I lived in a very Jewish environment except when I went to work.

RL: Did you encounter any prejudice from the wider population?

HC: No, no, no.

RL: How aware were you of what was happening to your parents during the war?

HC: I was, my parents wrote in 1942 I had the last Red Cross letter to say that they had been sent away. They went from one place to another. They had to give up their
Tape 2, time from start of interview: 52 minutes 37 seconds

home and they were sent to some like a centralised place in the middle of town where people had to live together. I did not know this until I went to Chemnitz and I saw all the different addresses they had been sent to, and that was the last address I had, and then of course they went to Theresienstadt. We must have had a kind of Red Cross thing from Theresienstadt to say they had got there. That is all.

RL: That's all that you knew at that point?

HC: Yes.

RL: And then once the war had ended, take me through this?

HC: One day I came to the Needoffs and they said "oh we've had a card to say that somebody's mother is in St.Gallen in Switzerland." So Mrs. Needoff had an aunt in Poland so she immediately thought it was hers, so they must have meant my aunt and then I looked at the postcard, I thought I had this card but I haven't and where the stamp was it said Horn c/o Needoff and they did not see this and they thought it was for them. It was from somebody had written to say that my mother was in St.Gallen. She had been released from Theresienstadt, which was a miracle. So I immediately sent a prepaid telegram to verify that it was my mother and then she wrote to us and it seems when the Germans realised they had lost the war. Oh no I must take you back, sorry; my father had died in December 1944. My mother managed to nurse him right to the very end. He died of Tuberculosis, malnutrition whatever and they came to her and said "would you like to go to Switzerland". So she thought she was not sure but "I've nothing to lose, I might see my children again. She expected to be sent to Auschwitz or somewhere because once my father had died that's what they did. So they dressed them properly and sent them to Switzerland. An American Jewish organisation had paid Himmler for 160, I'm not sure if it was 160 or 120 people to be released and my mother was fortunate to be one of those and they were came to St. Gallen. I passed St.Gallen last year on holiday and I was really upset. I couldn't go into St.Gallen because of the name to think that my mother was there. Anyway they took them to St Gallen and and later on to Montreuse and afterwards, they commandeered a hotel in Engelberg and she was there for 18 months until she was allowed to come here and they recovered there. She wouldn't send a photograph until she was, looked more human again and it was a miracle. She was dying to come here and be with us but she couldn't.

RL: When did you receive that note?

HC: That was January 1945.

RL: Did any other members of the family survive?

HC: No, no, no. We wrote frequently and she recuperated and in this hotel she had to see to all the linens, you know to keep all the linens sewn and all that but they you know became normal again and led a normal life again. And then, I am jumping now, when I was getting married she made us up a dress to come to my wedding but they
Tape 2, time from start of interview: 56 mm 36 seconds

wouldn't let her come until I was a British subject. My uncle would have had a home for her but it wasn't good enough so she came 5 weeks after I was married.

RL: So how had you met your husband and who was he?

HC: My husband was a prisoner with the Japs and he had just been released and I met him at a bus stop. He was with his sister who knew me and she introduced me to him and we got on the bus together and then we started going out together and six weeks later, we got engaged. It was my 21st birthday. He didn't know what to buy me so he bought me an engagement ring and that was it.

RL: So you had known him for six weeks?

HC: Yes. My grandchildren you're terrible, you know, but there you are.

RL: Where was he born? What was his background?

HC: His parents were Romanian Jews. His mother was still alive. His father died three months before he was born. He was caught up in a baking machine and he died so my husband was called after his father.

RL: Where was your husband born?

HC: Here.

RL: In Manchester. So they had come to Manchester?

HC: Yes his mother was a clever woman. She came, in the early 1900's and she went to night school, she could read and write. In fact I have got a book which she got a prize for reading English. She was left with 6 children. She started a business. She had a hard life. He also would have liked to go for further education but he had to go to work, you know.

RL: What business did she have?

HC: A drapery business, a credit drapery she opened in the front room of her house.

RL: What was your husband's name?

HC: Cohen.

RL: And first name?

HC: Joe Cohen

RL: Joe Cohen. Where did he come in the family, you said there were six?

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 58 minutes 41 seconds

HC: He was the youngest.

RL: He was the youngest, ah yes, because his father had just died.

HC: His mother took very ill when they heard that he had been taken prisoner, before they knew that he had been taken prisoner, you know, she had a heart attack and she gave up the business. He was 6 stone when he came back.

RL: When did he get back to Manchester?

HC: In '45 yes in September 1945. He said Yiddish helped him because he met people in Saigon. They went into a club, a Jewish club and the Jewish people immediately took them on. They spoke French and he spoke English, so the Yiddish helped him there.

RL: And where did you marry?

HC: The Central Shul.

RL: Why that particular shul?

HC: Because the Needoff's belonged to it and his mother belonged to it as well, I think. She might have done, I am not 100% sure. But that was the shul I used to go to every Saturday, so I got married there.

RL: Who was the Rabbi at the time?

HC: Price, the Chazan was Price and Rev. Segal was the Rabbi there and I knew them as I say.

RL: Who were the unterfurers for the wedding?

HC: The Needoff's daughter and son in law. I did not have anybody there really. I mean they had all their friends and their family you know. My uncle and aunt and their friends were there and their family came. It was very nice. But I felt, my brother came, that's right but I felt alone really because my mother wasn't here you know and I had no close relatives there.

RL: So tell me what happened with your brother?

HC: He stayed with the Needoff's and then he was evacuated to Blackpool. While he was at Blackpool, he became very orthodox. The Halperns made him, the mohels they were there. They, he always had it in him this frum streak because when he was 11 he stopped eating meat, you know or whatever. He obviously takes after his

grandparents somewhere. So he became very frum. He went to Manchester Yeshiva, then he went to Gateshead but then he went to Staines. I don't know if it was Gold Block or Tomor but the Rosh Yeshiva at Gateshead ate what he did not think was right so he went to the Staines Yeshiva after that and then he was here when my

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 1 minute 35 seconds

mother came. Then he said he was going to a youth conference in Czechoslovakia, but he went in a displaced persons camp to go to Israel and he went to Israel.

RL: So on purpose he put himself in a displaced persons camp.

HC: I know he wanted to go to Israel. In Israel he ran an orphanage in Petah Tikvah. He married a girl of Polish origin and she taught and you know they ran this orphanage and then he ran a girls school and then they went to B'nai Brak. There he became assistant to the Mayor of B'nai Brak. He always met all the foreign visitors and he is retired now. He is still in B'nai Brak. He is a Gerer Chossid.

RL: A Gerer Chossid, why did he adopt that?

HC: I've no idea, don't ask, I haven't got a clue. I did not know there were so many sects until we went to see him.

RL: What family does he have?

HC: He has four children but quite a lot of grandchildren and great grandchildren. We don't count them, that's all I know. We went to a wedding there which was quite an eye opener. In fact, I took ill the day of the wedding and they dosed me with loads of antibiotics and I managed to go and I wanted to go home. We were supposed to stay in B'nai Brak but because I was ill, I could not, so I said to one of the waiters will you get me the man without the beard? Because he was the only one without a beard in the room. You know they had different rooms. He enjoyed it. He thought it was a lovely wedding. It was just different.

RL: So coming back to you, what date did you marry?

HC: 16th June 1946.

RL: And where did you go to live?

HC: Great Cheetham Street, we managed to rent a shop. We could not afford anything and the shop became empty. It was an electrical shop but there was nothing much in it so we just had the premises for a while and later on we made it into a shop and many years later we made it into a sweet shop.

RL: What did your husband do at that point?

HC: He was a joiner. He worked for himself as a joiner.

RL: What were you doing?

HC: First I had a child and then I didn't do anything and then I opened the sweet shop with my mother. We started from nothing. It was OK. It worked out alright. We worked very hard. We were open seven days a week till 9 o'clock at night.

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 4 minutes 28 seconds

RL: When did you meet your mother?

HC: 5 weeks after we were married she came and we went to meet her in Croydon. I met my brother there because he was living in London at the time. He suddenly disappeared and we did not know why he had disappeared. He had gone into a phone box to daven but we didn't realise. I wasn't used to it. My mother came and she was very happy. My husband and my mother, they came from a completely different cultural backgrounds but they got on absolutely wonderful. He always said she was a very special lady. When she was dying she only wanted him to be with her. He was wonderful with her. They had a very good relationship.

RL: And she lived in your home?

HC: Yes. We got on very well.

RL: So you say you had a baby straight away after marriage?

HC: No, 15 months later.

RL: What were you doing up until that point in time?

HC: Nothing, nothing really, no, I didn't work.

RL: You didn't continue to work in the bakery?

HC: No, no I used to help occasionally if somebody was away. But I didn't because somebody else had come in the meantime and they took them in.

RL: So your husband was working as a joiner?

HC: Yes

RL: And you kept home with your mother?

HC: Yes

RL: How many children did you have?

HC: 2,

RL: And they are?

HC: Their names you mean, Susan and Barry.

RL: In that order?

HC: Yes, yes.

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 6 minutes 5 seconds

RL: When were they born?

HC: Susan was born in '47 and Barry was born in '52.

RL: How long did you live in Great Cheetham Street? How many years were you there?

HC: 27 years so the shop became empty and somebody rented the -, as an optician shop, a friend of ours started optics and then he bought bigger premises and my mother and I decided to start a sweet shop and we did.

RL: What made you choose sweets?

HC: It was very strange. We were walking along pushing one of the children, we had a mint. We wrote to this firm and said could they put us in touch with a wholesaler and they did and they said "we will give you £70 of sweets." I thought, how am I going to sell £70 worth of sweets. It was a lot of money. I didn't know where to start. My husband did the shop up and over the years we had cigarettes and did frozen food and all sorts of things. It was very hard work for not a lot of return because cigarettes turn over, but you don't make any money. Anyway that was that.

RL: Did your mother help you?

HC: Yes and when my mother died I had to get somebody to help me because I couldn't do it all by myself.

RL: When did your mother die?

HC: In 1960. She had 14 years with us.

RL: What school did you send your children to?

HC: Grecian Street originally and then when my son was 8 we thought we'd better get him into King David, so he went to King David. He did very well he got a foundation to MGS, so he did alright, yes.

RL: What other school did your daughter go to?

HC: She went to Broughton High.

RL: What did they go on to do?

HC: My daughter became a legal secretary, she was really going to study but I was ill a lot so she went to secretarial college and worked and went to work and my son became a pharmacist.

RL: Where do they live?

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 8 minutes 8 seconds

HC: She lives in Butt Hill and my son lives in South Wales but he is moving to Cornwall soon. So he is a senior inspector for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society now so his area has changed so they are trying to sell the house and move to Devon/Cornwall somewhere in that area.

RL: Did they belong to any clubs or groups, the children when they were younger?

HC: Oh yes. He was busy with the scouts and what else did he do, Jackson's Row youth club at one time, not because we, it's just the kids belonged to that. What else did he do? He belonged to different things from University because he went to Manchester. I can't remember it all. My daughter belonged to, what was it called in those days, B'nai Akiva, that's right and later on she joined the cancer committee, they raised a lot of money. She was about 16. They raised quite a lot of money. What else did she belong to? She had lots of friends.

RL: Who did they marry?

HC: Barry married a girl called Vivien Freedman, but they are divorced now. Susan married Brian Lynn. She was also married to somebody else before but she has one daughter of the first marriage, and two from the second.

RL: And your son?

HC: He has got one daughter from his first marriage. He has just remarried 2 weeks ago.

RL: Who has he married?

HC: A Belgian girl.

RL: How aware were the children of your background?

HC: Oh yes, yes, well my mother was with us so they were aware of my background yes. My son has encouraged me to do something all the time. He said "will you please tell your story."

RL: Do you think your experiences affected the way you brought up your children in any way?

HC: I don't think so, but they are interested in what happened and my son went to Thailand and he stood at the Burma railway and he thought, "My father actually worked here", you know. They do feel they know what their parents have gone

through. My daughter went to; she went to visit the hotel at Engelburg where my mother lived in. Not that it made any difference but she felt she wanted to see it.

RL: How do you feel towards Germany?

HC: Well when I was invited, do you want me to tell you this now? In '94.

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 11 minutes 17 seconds

RL: Yes

HL: Do you want a drink. In '94 we went to Cologne, I wrote 16 years before that for an invitation but never got one. Anyway Cologne is very wealthy city so they can afford to give you a really very nice time. So my husband and I went to Cologne. I have got it all written down and you see I had no bad feelings about Cologne because I was 3 when I left there so to me it wasn't traumatic but the couple we went with from Manchester, they felt, she felt much deeper. She went to the synagogue there and she used to be there with her mother. Anyhow they took us and they gave us a most wonderful holiday. And took us to a little village. The Burgermaster's chauffeur took us to a little village where my Great grandparents are buried in 1904 and the graves were still well looked after and tended. Unfortunately my husband did something to his camera so we could not take photographs. But I have some photographs of them, you know the Americans took when they came here and I also went to the little house I went to stay with in this little village, my aunts lived there and we were looking for the cemetery, that's right and a lady said to me "where do you come from?" and I told her I said "I had relatives living here" and she said "oh I used to deal with them. They had a tiny little bakers shop in the front of the little cottage." I will have to show you the photograph. I used to climb in from the window. I thought it was a novelty. And this lady said "Oh yes Bertha and Lena but then the war struck us but they were sent away with the Jew Max." So there were obviously 3 Jewish people in this little village. She was so pleased to see me. "Would you like to have dinner with us?" I aid "thank you very much" but actually I was amazed to meet people who actually knew these old ladies who ran this business in this little village. They were my father's aunts. I am digressing now aren't I?

RL: You were saying about your visit.

HC Oh yes that's right. They took us to the synagogue and I met some people who knew my uncles and aunts there. And they said "your uncle lived opposite the synagogue here." It was quite a moving experience and then the last day, we met up with some people from the Jewish and Christian brotherhood and we found a couple who could speak English and my husband could have some conversation and we drove through a street, I said "oh that's where my uncle lived I was here when I was 9 years old." We got out and took a photograph and it was quite strange to think. So we knocked on the place next door which was a grocery shop and I said, "Wasn't this a post office years ago?" and he said "Yes". I said "do you ever remember so and so living here" and he said "yes but they were sent away weren't they." I said "yes" and I was amazed because I didn't think I would meet anybody who knew my relatives.

RL: Did you go back to Chemnitz?

HC: Yes 3 years ago.

RL: Well we will continue with that on the next film.

RL: You were telling me about Cologne and you say that three years ago you went on a visit to Chemnitz. Can you tell me about that?

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 15 minutes 12 seconds

HC: About Chemnitz? I had an invitation to go to Chemnitz and I really, I wasn't particular to go back but I thought why not? So I went. I thought I might meet somebody I knew but I didn't meet anyone I knew and the visit to Chemnitz was completely different to Cologne because Chemnitz was in the East and they had only just got round to doing things again and they made us welcome. I stayed in the best hotel. I remember the name of the hotel. It had more memories. As I said before, I remember the school and the house and all that and they gave us quite a nice programme. They took us to the opera house, they took us into the mountains and the main reason for going was the consecration of the synagogue. So I was one of 2 people who were actually there when the old synagogue burnt down so I stood there and it was snowing and there were tears streaming down my face and it was a most traumatic experience when we saw them consecrating this stone. People came from every walk of life, you know a lot of non Jewish people came and in Chemnitz there is hardly any original Jews living there. There are 300 Russians there now and it was a most moving experience I can describe. I have also taken photographs of the actual site of the old synagogue where there is a plaque and then the new one was consecrated only a few months ago but they didn't invite me again. I don't think I would have gone because to put a plaque there for the parents, there is no point. Who is going to see it. We'd rather do it here and do some good with it because the Russian Jews didn't know my parents and there is just no, I find there is no point in it. It was an interesting visit. I am glad I went but it didn't do very much for me really. The Cologne visit was far more interesting.

RL: How did you feel towards the Germans?

HC: Well, how can I put it? They did a lot of harm to my family and myself but here but for the grace of G-d go I, what can I say? It is a different generation now. I was with somebody in Chemnitz and every time we had a meal or something we managed to say, well you know such and such a thing happened. Well this man said, well I wasn't there then. You can't, you can't pile the guilt on to people who weren't even alive at that time. That's how I feel about it.

RL: How do you feel towards Israel and what contact have you had with Israel?

HC: I have a brother and relatives there. I have visited relatives from Cologne there actually. Their father came also in 1933 and somebody started a German kibbutz and they made furniture and they called for me and went to this kibbutz and they are still in touch with me now. I feel quite close to them, you know. They heard I was ill the other day and they phoned up. I knew them when I was a little girl only and my brother I keep in touch with them. Although we have completely different ways of life but we are still close.

RL: When did you first go to Israel? When was your first visit there?

HC: My first visit was in '92 and I hadn't seen my brother. I went with a group and it was very good, very interesting and I had not seen my brother for 32 years and we were in the, what's it called, the Renaissance, what's it called in Jerusalem it is the Renaissance and we were with a group of people and Lily and Ralph Degroot were

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 19 minutes 33 seconds

with us and I said my brother is coming and she said "that's my brother", she thought it was somebody in drag, she could not believe I had a brother like this. And he came and he stood like this and he never hugged me or shook hands or anything. His wife did but it was strange and they said to me afterwards, did the family feeling come back. It took some time but afterwards it was all right but my husband committed the ultimate sin when we were leaving, he kissed his sister-in-law! I thought the floor would open. She enjoyed it. But it was very strange, very, very strange after all these years we could not shake hands. They don't and that's it.

RL: Did the family feeling?

HC: It came back afterwards. Yes we talked about old times. He was a lovely little boy, you know but there you are.

RL: It is a long time not to see him?

HC: 32 years is a long time. He came when my mother was dying. We did not ask him to come we just told him she was very, very ill, she was dying, so he decided to come. We had to tell my mother he was here on some fund raising mission. We did not want her to realise how ill she was and he came. We had a shop then. He walked in and the bell went, there was a bell in the mat so he had to go round the back on the Saturday. Anyway I took my son to the Machsikei Hadas shul and he said "I didn't like it mum I would rather go to my shul." It's a completely different way of life but they are happy, that is all. I speak to him every week, because you know we are worried about them of course. I said to him "it will be very funny this week". He said he tried the gas mask yesterday and I said "what about the beard?" He said "oh we've got special ones for the beard."

RL: Do you belong to any groups?

HC: Oh lots. Yes.

RL: Can you tell me about these?

HC: I belonged to the Phoenix, which used to belong to B'nai B'rith, but we opted out of that ten years ago, twelve years ago, I'm not sure and I was on the council for years. I have always been an active member. So that was the Phoenix group and we do, we have a general meeting once a month. We have little groups. We have drama, music, speakers, study group and art appreciation and we sort of have a meeting every week and sometimes there are 2 in a week as well. I belong to the speakers group since its inception and we each year we perform for the rest of our group. There are a hundred people and each year it has to get better. I am enjoying this year so I am

looking forward to another performance. Last year I was Coco Cohen, and I was a fashion adviser. It is all fun and it's very good. It helps you to speak and it teaches you.

RL: Where do you meet?

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 22 minutes 48 seconds

HC: At the Nicky Alliance and we do smaller groups. We used to have it in people's houses but we are getting so big that we now have most of them at the Nicky Alliance.

RL: Why did you break away from B'nai B'rith?

HC: Because B'nai B'rith wanted so much money in America and they found, they didn't want it anymore. We were a very successful group and we closed the waiting list. You know people want to join our group. There are a lot of very intelligent ladies you know in it and we have speakers and it is very. I try to go to them all as long as I am well, I get picked up, I go to them all. They are a very warm group of people. If you are not well, you know, they all phone, they all come and see you. It's a lovely society to belong to and I have belonged to it now for over 30 years so it is a long time and I have made a lot of friends.

RL: What other groups?

HC: What other groups? I used to belong to the Jubilee club, it used to be at the cultural centre but now it has moved to Heaton Park shul and it is not so easy to get to. For 3 months I have not been able to go out last year, so I have lost touch. I belong to a JNF Wednesday club, which is very nice too. That is about it I think. It keeps me busy. We have days out. We go on holidays together.

RL: What was the first group that you joined?

HC: B'nai B'rith.

RL: B'nai B'rith, yes. What about the AJR?

HC: They came to me really. Yes this was after my husband died. Yes I sort of became a member after that.

RL: When was that?

HC: 6 years ago. 1997.

RL: 1997. The last time we talked about where you were living you were at Great Cheetham Street in the sweet shop. You have to take me forward from that.

HC: We sold that fortunately, it was very difficult to sell because the area was going down and we bought a shop in Whitefield, a hardware shop and we thought that it would be right for both of us to work together but the accounts were not what they

were supposed to be and I had to do it by myself. So I sold paraffin and things and did my back in. So my husband still had to work hard and then I decided I would like to move if we could possibly sell it and some fellow came, we were very lucky. We left the living accommodation we put in central heating, we did all sorts and he bought the shop and I bought a cottage in Whitefield, it was very nice and we lived there. We had 6 years in the shop and then 6 years in the cottage. Then I got ill and I **Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 25 minutes 49 seconds** thought I would try and get a flat. So we sold the cottage and we came here and have been here 18 years. I joined B'nai B'rith when I was in Whitefield because it was the Whitefield Ladies Lodge at that time.

RL: Whilst you were living in Great Cheetham Street, did you belong to anything at that time?

HC: No – I worked 7 days a week, yes. No I didn't. My husband did. He belonged to Order of Sons of Jacob. He was President. He was always active in that. They had installations and ladies came to these things.

RL: What was that?

HC: It was the Grand Order of Sons of Jacob. It was a lodge. In those days they had a lot of lodges. They did good work as well. If any of the brothers were in any kind of bother they would help. They were a good organisation.

RL: Did you belong to any groups for Israel?

HC: I am trying to think. No. I was also treasurer of the shul. We belonged to the North Manchester synagogue. We used to organise fund raising things as well. I forgot about that. I was quite active then.

RL: North Manchester, whereabouts was that?

HC: On Leicester Road. That is the Leicester Road Shul.

RL: The same as the Central?

HC: That's right. Then the Central, we left the Central because some friends asked us to join the North Manchester. It was just starting again – it was the Brodde Shul before that so we joined it and afterwards the Central joined the shul anyway so it did not matter. I'm still with them...

RL: When you lived in Whitefield, where did you....?

HC: Well we went, we came down here but in the end my husband joined the Bury shul. I only went once but I did not like it. Just to make it easier but then we came back up here so we went back to the old shul. We always stayed members, we never left them

RL: So you said you say you are active on their fund raising?

HC: Yes. My son used to duchen there you know. He used to go every week. Yes.

RL: In terms of identity what do you consider yourself?

HC: What kind of a Jew?

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 28 minutes 33 seconds

RL: In terms of nationality first of all.

HC: Oh British and strangely enough today I mix with more people who came from the same background as I did than I did years ago. I don't know whether, it has just happened. I cannot explain it to you. They are also as English as I am but they come from the same background. I do not know if it is through the JNF or I do not know but it's just how it's happened.

RL: So you became British when you married?

HC: Yes, yes

RL: Do you feel you have got any kind of continental identity?

HC: A little. A little. A friend of mine who also came before me, we both compare, we both think the same way at times, you know, certain I don't know, standards.

RL: Can explain what you mean?

HC: It is difficult. It is very difficult. There is something left in you, the way you were brought up. I think that is bred into you. You just can't help it, it's breeding, that is all I can say.

RL: And how does it differ to the English?

HC: It would be wrong to say that but sometimes you have different principles. I don't know

RL: Can you give an example.

HC: No! It wouldn't do. No I was telling this girl, this lady who arrived before you came, I said "I don't know what to do I have got everything ready." She said "That is just how I would do it; I try and have everything done." That is just how you are, it is hard to say

RL: Do you feel different in any way to the English in any way?

HC: No, no. People always tell me I have no accent, I don't know what you are going to tell me, but yesterday I was in someone's house and there were two ladies there. And one has known me for years; our kids were at school together. And I said I was being interviewed today and of course they wanted to know what for. "I can never believe it, never believe it". So that was my compliment yesterday.

RL: So how would you describe yourself Jewish wise?

HC: What is the word, middle of the road, you know, English Jew that is all you know. I try and do all the right things but I am not orthodox like my brother and that is it.

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 31 minutes 22 seconds

RL: Where do you feel, do you feel you belong here?

HC: Oh yes definitely, oh yes.

RL: Who do you feel most comfortable with?

HC: Do you mean outside the family?

RL: Yes.

HC: A very good friend of mine who passed away a year ago, I was very close to her and I was most comfortable with. I do miss her, but I do have lots of other friends. I don't think I have that friendship with anyone else. This was a friend my husband took me to the second day we went out together. He introduced the couple to one another and we were friends ever since. We were very close and she was like a sister to me.

RL: What was her background?

HC: English, yes, yes. The two men were always the closest friends. In fact her husband is in Heathlands now. I try and see him whenever I can but they were friends when they were 13. They were always my closest friends. We used to go away together. The kids used to go away together you know.

RL: Were you in touch with any refugee organisation from when you arrived in England? Did you have any contact or support from any refugee committee or body?

HC: No, no

RL: You never had any contact?

HC: No only until AJR came on the scene. I think when my mother came, the Jewish Refugee committee must have arranged her flight or something. But I can't remember, there was something but that was the only time I dealt with anybody.

RL: Do you get any money from Germany? Any restitution?

HC: I get so little but because I did not pay stamps, it is a long story, but a gentleman here who I am friendly with who gets it for everybody but he could not get it for me. We went to Chemnitz, and we tried but it's just, I get £20 a month for having a child after 1947, that's what it is. I don't get anything from them otherwise.

RL: Did you mother get anything?

HC: Yes she got reparation yes. She was in a concentration camp and her husband was in a concentration camp. She got reparation.

RL: Did she speak about her time in Theresienstadt?

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 34 minutes 7 seconds

HC: Not much, no, no, very, very little. My mother and my husband never talked about their experiences. Some people talk about it all the time. He might if he met an ex soldier or something but not, he never dwelt on it otherwise.

RL: Did he suffer as a result?

HC: Oh yes, yes. In fact we went on holiday once to Jersey and we met, he remembered a man who was a prisoner with him and we looked him up. Poor old man, he was in a wheelchair and he was getting 100% pension and he said to him "you must go you must have yourself checked up because a lot of people get ill later on in their life from their experiences." Anyhow finally he got a small war pension but he died a couple of years later. Of course that stops.

RL: What after effects did he suffer?

HC: His hearing because he was sort of shell shocked or something. His hearing was very bad. By that time he was already a sick man. We went to the school of tropical diseases in Liverpool. They interviewed him there. It took ages; it took years before they gave him anything. It was too late.

RL: What about your mother did she suffer health wise as a result of...?

HC: Yes she had a heart condition and she got cancer, although that wasn't through that, but she got cancer and had a mastectomy and 2 years later she died. She got secondaries. It was very sad, she was only 63. She was enjoying life with us.

RL: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about that you feel we have not covered?

HC: About my children? Oh yes, the American cousins who found us, in 1988, we suddenly had a letter from an American cousin, who we did not know but it seems my father's father had a sister who went to America early in the 20th Century and she had 6 children. This is like her great grandchildren, this man wanted to find the family tree and they were very upset that they didn't know of us during the war and they couldn't help or anything and they came over one night and another cousin was giving a lecture in Germany. Everyone is a professor. I am not being funny, but they are. So he came and he spent a night with my children here and they talked until four o'clock in the morning and they became so friendly. My son-in-law and this cousin before they were the relatives so they invited us the following year for five weeks holiday all taken care of. A few of the cousins got together and sent us the tickets and we went to this cousin's son's barmitzvah. It was over the top, how they do in Florida and we had

a week with them in Florida and then they sent us to Orlando for a week and then we went to Indianapolis for 9 days and stayed with relatives. This man was a professor at the University of Indianapolis. Stone deaf but he lectures all over the world. Then we went to Michigan where another cousin was a professor at this Michigan State University. He took us all round the University. It was a wonderful holiday. Then we went to New York to meet a cousin from Cologne who I remember as a little girl, the only cousin I had and then we spent 3 nights in New York. They put us with some

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 38 minutes 28 seconds

relative but he was very old so we did our own thing and found our way round New York for three days which was wonderful and then we went to Vermont again another professor of the local university and they gave us the most wonderful time and we became very close. They came here twice. They took us all over. We were five and a half weeks there. Different climate. We went there with four suitcases and came back with five because they all sent so many things for the grandchildren. It was a most fantastic holiday you could imagine.

RL: So this was your relatives?

HC: All my relatives.

RL: What was the relationship?

RL: Well this man Wayne who lives in Florida, his Great Grandmother and my father were first cousins. I cannot tell you how wonderful they have been. They support us if ever anybody is ill. They found I have a granddaughter who has a problem she was born with. And once she was ill. So this cousin spoke to another cousin who was a professor at another medical school who found a specialist in Sheffield who brought his knowledge to America and he treated her. It was just fantastic. They have been like this all the time. Now I have a granddaughter at Rochester Music Academy and she has just been to Florida for a few days to be with them. They are absolutely fantastic the whole lot of them. They all want to, you know. It is an extended family now. They speak to us and the children have been there again. It is just wonderful.

RL: Tell me about your grandchildren, what they are doing?

HC: Well my oldest granddaughter is married she is a teacher, she teaches in Bury, and she has a little girl almost 3 and my second granddaughter went to Bury Grammar, first of all went to Manchester High and secondly went to Bury and she got a scholarship to Glasgow Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. She had 2 years there and they offered her an exchangeship at Rochester College of Music, it is the Eastman College, you know George Eastman, he is Kodak Colour, so she got this scholarship there and it is just wonderful. So they took her last August and the family went with her to settle her in and came back early because I was ill. Not that I wanted them to come back early but they did and she loves it there and is doing very well. She is coming back in August. She has to give a public recital in Glasgow to thank them all for what she has done and she has had the voice coach from the Metropolitan Opera giving her a Masterclass. She has got a lovely voice. And you know we are worried about her there now of course as you are. The youngest one is at Leeds University.

She is doing Child Health and she is in her second year. They all went to King David's originally here and she is very happy there. My son has got a daughter and she went to school in Hitchin but she works in London. She has various jobs there. I met her last week, 2 weeks ago, I haven't seen her for 6 years and she is also 21. A nice girl. That's it, The great grand joy of my life, she was too busy to phone yesterday, she's got no time, she was too busy to come to the phone.

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 42 minutes 43 seconds

RL: If you had not been forced to emigrate, how do you think your life would have progressed?

HC: That is the only thing I ever regret is that I never had the education I would have had but here for the grace of G-d go I. But I decided about 10 years ago. A friend and I decided to take an English O level course at Bury College and I passed so I was quite pleased. And for my oral I told my story so they were nearly in tears, so it got me through.

RL: What do you think you might have liked to have done?

HC: I was supposed to go into a Bank. It was all planned out for me, but it did not work out. I missed out on learning all the classical; the cultural part of my life but there is nothing I can do about it now. When I came here, just before I came here my father said "now you have read Schiller and you've read Goethe now you can read Shakespeare." But then I came here so, I know I read after but I missed out on lots of things but there is nothing I can do about it. That's life. My father was a very clever man I could ask him anything I wanted to and he had answers.

RL: Is there anything else you would like to add?

HC: I don't know, really I can't think now. I am sure I've missed things out.

RL: Well thank you very much

HC: Thank you. Is that the end?

(Photos)

Here is my grandmother Paula Levy. The picture was taken in Cologne in 1930. She later died in Theresienstadt aged 89.

These are my parents Hermann and Anna Horn. It was taken in Chemnitz in 1938.

This is me aged 5 when I started school in Chemnitz and the Cone I am carrying was called Zuckertutte it was filled with sweets and other things used for school, pencil cases etc. about 1936.

This is me Hannelore Horn and David Horn taken in the garden in Chemnitz in 1936.

This is my brother David Horn at his Barmitzvah in June 1940 in Manchester.

This is my mother Anna Horn with Mrs. Needoff who I lived with in Manchester in 1946.

This is one of my mother's early postcards sent from Switzerland after her release from Theresienstadt,

RL; Do you know the date?

Tape 2, time from start of interview: 1 hour 46 minutes 36 seconds

HC: 22/8/1945.

This is me Hannelore Cohen in 1941 in Manchester.

This is my husband Joe Cohen and I, Hannelore Cohen taken in 1946 on our honeymoon.

This is Mrs. Needoff, Joe Cohen, Hannelore Cohen and Anna Horn my mother in Manchester in 1946.

This is my daughter Susan Lynn, my granddaughter Abbie Lynn, me Hannelore Cohen with Victoria Lynn to the left and Kerry Freedman.

This is my daughter Susan Lynn and son Barry Cohen with Abbie Lynn and Victoria Lynn, Kerry Lynn and Jenny Cohen. My granddaughters. Taken in 1985.

This is my husband Joe Cohen at his 80th birthday taken in July 1995 with my son Barry Cohen and myself Hannelore Cohen.

This is my granddaughter Kerry Freedman with her daughter Charlie Jo Freedman taken in 2001 in Manchester.