

IMPORTANT

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Interview Transcript Title Page

Collection title:	AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive
Ref. no:	93

Interviewee Surname:	Duhl
Forename:	Elise
Interviewee Sex:	Female
Interviewee DOB:	10 February 1930
Interviewee POB:	Vienna, Austria

Date of Interview:	17 March 2005
Location of Interview:	Salford, Manchester
Name of Interviewer:	Rosalyn Livshin
Total Duration (HH:MM):	1 hour and 50 minutes

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

INTERVIEW: 93

NAME: ELISE DUHL

DATE: 17 MARCH 2005

LOCATION: SALFORD

INTERVIEWER: ROSALYN LIVSHIN

TAPE 1

RL: I am interviewing Elise Duhl, and the interview is taking place in Salford, Manchester. Today's date is Thursday the 17th of March 2005 and I am Rosalyn Livshin.

So if you can tell me your name.

ED: My name is Elise Duhl.

RL: And what was your name at birth?

ED: At birth? Baroti, Baroti.

RL: Did you have any other names?

ED: No, no, except a Jewish name, Dina. Dina was my Jewish name, is my Jewish name, yes.

RL: Were you named after anybody?

ED: Yes, a grandfather called David... Dina.

RL: And when were you born?

ED: Do you want the date? The 10th of Feb 1930

RL: And where?

ED: In Vienna.

RL: And starting first with your parents, if you can tell me something about their family background, on your mother's side and your father's side.

ED: Well, my parents were business people. My mother, before she was married, was in business. You know her parents. And they had their own business, as I say, and we used to live not far away from that.

RL: What was your mother's name?

Tape 1: 1 minute 34 seconds

ED: My mother's name was Martha. Martha.

RL: And where was she born?

ED: Also in Vienna.

RL: And can you just tell me something about her parents and her family background?

ED: She had two other sisters, and as I say they had a clothing business, manufacturing business. And what else do you want to know?

RL: First of all... So her father had a clothing business, you say. Can you just tell me a little bit more about their business... where it was, what it was.

ED: Well, it was in the tenth district, you know, Bezirk, and they made a living, and I think they had a couple of employees, and my mother got married in 1927.

RL: Where did she come in the family... was she...?

ED: My mother was the youngest sister, they were three sisters altogether.

RL: And what were her sisters' names?

ED: One was Olga, and one was Isabel.

RL: And what did they do? Who did they marry? What happened to them?

ED: They also married business people. One was in knit-wear, and one was also in the same business as the parents were.

RL: And where were they living?

ED: Also all in Vienna, until 1939.

RL: So do you remember your mother's parents, your grandparents?

ED: Well, I only remember my grandma, 'cause her father died before I was born. That's how I got the name.

RL: And what do you remember about your grandmother?

ED: Big lady, very jovial. And I think she died when I was six, in 1936, I think.

RL: Did she use to live on her own?

ED: Yes, she did, yes. Because the sisters, all the daughters were married, yes.

RL: And what about on your father's side? Can you tell me about his parents?

Tape 1: 3 minutes 44 seconds

ED: My father's side was also in business, and they did chamois leathers... my grandfather, the father did chamois leathers. And there was a brother of my father, who had polio as a young boy, and of course there was no cure for that, and he was in a wheel chair, that's what I remember. And there was a sister, and another brother. They were, got to Theresienstadt, and they were finished there... my grandfather, the daughter, and the polio brother. That's what I remember.

RL: So they were all taken to Theresienstadt... and the other brother?

ED: The other brother had a very bad time getting out of Vienna, and went, walked over all the borders to Switzerland, he ended up in Switzerland. In fact, he died there. But his son, I think I've shown in photographs, is now in America. He is two years older than me and never married; he's a bachelor and lives on his own, in New York.

RL: What were your father's brother's and sister's names?

ED: My father's brother, I'll tell you, wait a minute, one was called, the one that went to Switzerland was called Sandor, S-A-N-D-O-R. The brother that had polio was called Shigo, S-H-I-G-O, and the sister that died there was Hannah.

RL: And do you remember your grandparents?

ED: Yes, I do remember them.

RL: What memories do you have of them?

ED: I know they used to always plant geraniums in the window sill, it always had geraniums out. And I used to like playing domino with them, you know.

RL: So he was taken...

ED: He was taken, the polio brother and the sister.

RL: What happened to the mother?

ED: The mother died before, the mother died before. I remember the mother dying before I came away.

RL: So what were their names, your grandparents' names?

ED: My grandparents' name was Baroti, of course, and the first name was Solomon and Jeanette.

RL: Where did they live in Vienna?

ED: Also in the second district.

RL: And did they live... were there still children... the polio son must have lived with them?

Tape 1: 6 minutes 48 seconds

ED: He was with them, but he was a grown man, you know. He lived with them. And the sister was single, they lived, the sister actually looked after the brother. And that's how they were all, the grandfather, the brother and the sister, were all taken away. But they all lived together and weren't married, either of them.

RL: And the other brother that went to Switzerland, was he married?

ED: Yes, he was married. As I say, he has a son that's in America now. He was married to my mother's sister. Two brothers and two sisters got married.

RL: Do you know how your parents met?

ED: Through this brother that was in Switzerland. He and my father were brothers, and he came to the house and he introduced my mother to my father, so it was like a double marriage, you know.

RL: Did they marry at a similar time?

ED: About two or three years in between, I think.

RL: Do you know what kind of education your father had?

ED: Just an ordinary education up to fourteen, fifteen. And he was in the war; he was in the first war, my father, in the 1918 war, my father.

RL: Did he tell you anything about that?

ED: No, I have several pictures of him, but not available at the moment.

RL: Did he tell you anything at all about his experience?

ED: He was in Russia. He was in deep... in Siberia he was, actually. For quite a couple of years, you know, before he came back out of the war. And that's the only way my mother got him out of Dachau... my father was taken to Dachau, and his brother as well. And they were there three months, until November 10, 1938, and when my father came home we hardly recognised him. He'd shrunk to a little boy. All we recognised was his voice. And my mother got him out from postcards that were written from the 1918 war, and that's how she managed to get him out of Dachau. So, that was what the war did.

RL: When did your parents marry?

ED: In 1927.

RL: So the postcards, who had they been written to?

ED: To his mother, his parents.

RL: What kind of religious upbringing did he have?

Tape 1: 9 minutes 23 seconds

ED: He also went to shul, and, you know, kept Shabbos and Yomtov.

RL: What about Jewish learning?

ED: Well, listen, they were business men, they didn't do any learning like they do nowadays.

RL: What did he do after school, after he left school?

ED: Yes, he left school and also went into the business of chamois leathers. And he was only a young boy, and they were imported from Italy, these chamois leathers, and he was a very good salesman, he was a gifted salesman, my father. And what did he do, he went miles and miles and sold the chamois leathers to the funeral directors that polish the black cars. He had a lot of initiative, you know, and then, of course, when he got married, he had his own business, as I said.

RL: What sort of business was it?

ED: The business was... a shirt manufacturing. He bought the cloth, he had it cut, cut, make and trim, and then he sold it in the shop, and also wholesale.

RL: Did it have a label, a name?

ED: No, it would just go as Josef Baroti, on the business. And I went back, I told you, and I knew exactly where it was, and I showed it to David, because the name plate had gone. But he... and then we came away, we had to come away.

RL: Where was the business?

ED: In the first district.

RL: And was it... did he have a shop of his own?

ED: Yes, at the back they cut the stuff and had it made up, and then packaged and sold. Wholesale and, as I say, wholesale and retail.

RL: How many did he have working for him?

ED: Quite a... two or three people working for him. That was quite a lot in those days.

RL: Was he involved in the community, in the Jewish community in any way, in Vienna?

ED: No, he just worked very hard, came home, kept Shabbos and you know, sent me to a school, an after-school, it was only morning school from 8 until 1, and then I had private lessons. They didn't want me in the business, in the shop, so I went to a private... I used to learn the piano, and I did my homework there. They had these private sorts of things, you know.

RL: Which shul did your family go to?

Tape 1: 12 minutes 20 seconds

ED: Do you want the name of it? Seitenstätten Shul, Vienna. I can't tell you the address. It was a very famous one.

RL: Who was the rabbi?

ED: I can't remember. I can't remember that.

RL: What memories do you have of the shul?

ED: I remember going with my father every Friday night, every Shabbos and I remember when they throw the sweets, what's that? Is it Purim? No, it's not Purim.

RL: Simchas Torah?

ED: Simchas Torah, that's right, yes, I do remember that. The beadles, you know the beadles they had, they had funny hats on like a, like a gondolier... they wore those, and black cloaks. I remember that.

RL: What's your earliest memory as a child?

ED: I really... what kind of memories do you mean?

RL: Just from you, from your very early childhood.

ED: Well I know that we used to have an au-pair in, because, as I said, they were both doing business, so they didn't have time to look after me as a baby and as a young child. And then I went to kindergarten and then I went on to proper school.

RL: What was the kindergarten that you went to? Did it have a name or anything?

ED: I can't remember that.

RL: And the school after that, did it have any kind of name?

ED: No, just an ordinary school, just an ordinary school.

RL: Where about were you living in Vienna, which district?

ED: In the first district.

RL: And can you describe your home?

ED: Yes, it was a flat, an apartment like this. And it had all parquet floors, which is fashionable now... we had then. And it was an old house, they were old houses with steps, and each one had an apartment.

RL: Which floor were you on?

ED: I think the first or the second. No lifts, nothing.

Tape 1: 14 minutes 37 seconds

RL: And how many were in the house?

ED: I can't remember that.

RL: How many rooms did the apartment have?

ED: Well, two bedrooms and a lounge and dining room, bathroom, the usual.

RL: And were there other Jewish families in that block, in that apartment block?

ED: I can't remember that either, I don't know.

RL: So when you attended school, how did you get on with the children at school?

ED: Alright. There were a few Jewish children in it, but I can't tell you the names, because I don't remember.

RL: And what about with the non-Jewish children, how did you get on with them?

ED: Alright. Until Hitler came.

RL: Did you ever come across any hostility or anti-Semitism up until Hitler coming?

ED: No, no. I just actually remember him marching in, when he did march in. It must have been '38, 1938. And I remember my parents were very worried, because they thought, you know, we've got to run, are we able to go, you know. And then we got a permit to come out.

RL: So up until that time you don't remember any hostility, you don't remember any problems.

ED: No, no.

RL: Did your parents ever talk about anything?

ED: Well they were always shushkering because they didn't want me to get upset. They were very upset, having to leave their business and their home, and their own home town, you know, where they were born. And they were very worried about it.

RL: Did you have a radio?

ED: Yes. I heard Hitler marching in on the radio. He was sitting listening to it, and so was I. Didn't know what it was all about, at eight, they tried to keep me as long as they could, you know, without worrying me.

RL: What was the first signs you saw, besides hearing on the radio, of the presence of the Germans.

ED: Well, long black boots. Show me a pair of black boots and I could scream now. Or leather black jackets, I would never wear that. And the marching... you could hear the

Tape 1: 16 minutes 58 seconds

marching, like you see on television now. It was an awful feeling, having to, knowing that we would have to leave.

RL: Had they discussed leaving before that point?

ED: No. And then, of course, as I said before, November the 10th, my father was taken from shul to a police station, and then eventually sent to Dachau.

RL: So this was... The Germans marched in, which year was that?

ED: Well, it would be '38.

RL: '38. So this was later in that year.

ED: This was actually November the 10th, '38. That was the worst date. Kristallnacht, you heard of that.

RL: Just coming back to when the Germans first came in, how did... did life change in any way once they were in Vienna?

ED: Well, of course we had to close the business, I do know that. And they used to chalk up 'Juden verboten', and nearby was a park, and on the benches where you couldn't sit, they had notices up that Juden were verboten, weren't allowed to sit there. And gradually, gradually, they got hold of you, you know.

RL: Were you still going to school at that point?

ED: I think I also didn't go to school then, because I wasn't wanted.

RL: Do you remember your last day of school, what happened?

ED: No, no, I don't. Very vague, no.

RL: So you just stayed home.

ED: I was at home, ja.

RL: Do you remember how you occupied yourself?

ED: No, I don't, but I... we were waiting to... you know, we were on shpilkes to get out, but didn't know how exactly.

RL: And were you aware of what your parents were doing to get out?

ED: Well, what they were doing was try to find somebody to send an affidavit or a permit or something, to get out of this place, but in the meantime, as I say, we didn't do anything, until my father came home from Dachau, which was January.

RL: So tell me about Kristallnacht, and what happened... what you remember happening.

Tape 1: 19 minutes 18 seconds

ED: Well, I just remember, as I said, the radio, and the marching, and the fear. Everybody was in fear, everybody was sort of creeping about, you know, not really knowing what to do... the uncertainty of it.

RL: But was your shul burned on Kristallnacht?

ED: No, it wasn't burned. But as I say, all the men were taken from that shul into the... to be captured into this police station where they, where they were then taken away, you know, on lorries.

RL: And so how was your father taken?

ED: Exactly that way. They said: don't go home, you can't go home, you're coming with us.

RL: So he was in shul?

ED: He was in shul, and so was his brother, that was my uncle, you know, same thing. And one brother didn't know where the other one was going, so ... very, very bad.

RL: So how did you find out that he had been taken?

ED: Well, because he didn't come home from shul, that's the way.

RL: And were you told where he had been taken to?

ED: No, they didn't tell you that. They let you sit and really worry about it, you know. And they would get beaten up, and all sorts of things.

RL: Did you have any communication with him, whilst he was there?

ED: No, I mean, eventually, one was to find out, I don't know how... that he was in Dachau, that he was taken away. And all you could do was to pray, that's all... that they didn't kill them.

RL: And what did your mother do during that period?

ED: She was frantic, she was frantic. Well, I don't know, I think the shop was closed by then... all we really did was want him to come back, to come home, which was a miracle, because lots of them didn't. And the only way he kept himself alive is on... they didn't give him anything to eat. The policemen had big cuffs, and he had sugar cubes, you know, and that's the only way... you know these little sugar cubes... that's the only way he could keep himself alive, but he'd shrunk into... like a young boy, a little Bar Mitzvah boy.

RL: The policemen gave him...

ED: Yes... no... he, he, he managed to give, I don't know how or what, into these big police cuffs that they had, the sugar, you know... and he was bribing him with cigarettes, I don't know where he had the sugar cubes, don't ask me, but no nourishment at all.

Tape 1: 22 minutes 5 seconds

RL: And how long did you say he was in there?

ED: He was in from the 10th of November until the end of January the next year... three months, actually.

RL: And it was because of these letters...

ED: Well, it was because of... lots of people got out, a lot of people didn't, you didn't see again. Because of these postcards he sent to his parents from the war, which were stamped, such and such a war, and his signature on it, my mother was queuing at the Gestapo, which was a big building like a town hall, and queuing for quite a few days, you know... morning, noon and night, to say that he's fought for king and country, and she wants him out. And luckily, she got him out.

RL: And you say you'd hardly recognised him...

ED: No, we didn't.

RL: How long did it take for him to recover from that ordeal?

ED: Well, it must have been three months, because we came out in the March then, the March '39.

RL: How did they go about finding a place?

ED: Well, they took a telephone book, and they went down with a pen, and this one and that one, and eventually they found somebody in Buckinghamshire here, to say they needed some man, so they would give him a visa, and they got the visa, and my mother and I came on a domestic permit. She was going to be a domestic... she didn't know from one spoon to another, she was a business woman, but it was the only way we could get out. And... what happened then? We came... we went together from here, from home to Belgium, where my, where my uncle was, his brother. They were in Belgium for a few months, and we were there for two weeks, and we had to tip-toe because we didn't have a visa. We just went there, and then we came to England, all of us together, three of us together.

RL: What kind of things did you bring with you? What kind of items?

ED: Well, the items we had... we had our furniture in a lift, the furniture from abroad, I don't know how, I don't what, but we got it in a lift. And we just came with things that were, you know, in a case, like you do when you go away.

RL: Did anybody have to supervise the packing of the case?

ED: No, but we went through Aachen, a place called Aachen, in Germany, and there we got... what's it called, when you, what do you call it here.... not stripped, but touched up, and I had a little doll, and my mother made a joke to the chap and said, look at the doll, you know, I was only a kid, and they let us through, they let us through. So we ended up in Belgium, and then from Belgium we went through Dover.

Tape 1: 25 minutes 12 seconds

RL: So who was it that was in Belgium?

ED: My father's brother was in Belgium first. And they stayed there a few months, and from Belgium they walked into Switzerland... they had a very tough time... when the Bosh was there, you know, the war had broken out by then.

RL: How did you travel? Do you remember the journey itself?

ED: Yeah, through Germany on a train, and then from whichever, which would it be, not Dover, Calais to Dover on the boat. We were all sick, and it was a horrible journey.

RL: And in the meantime, what had happened to your father?

ED: You know, my father and my mother and I, we came together. Yes, we came together.

RL: And how had he got a permit?

ED: He got a permit for a, for a furniture factory in Buckinghamshire, and we were on a domestic permit. Two separate permits.

RL: So had your mother just phoned people up from the phone book?

ED: No, they looked at the phone book, like you do and they spotted, and somebody called Abbott, it was a furniture place in Buckinghamshire, and they said, alright, we'll send him a permit, from us. People went to America that way, or anywhere.

RL: So had your parents written to the...

ED: They must have been in touch with them, yes. I don't quite remember the details, but they must have been in touch with them, obviously, that they sent him a permit.

RL: Before we come on to your arrival in England, can I just ask you a little bit more about your life in Vienna... and memories of life? I mean, if you could just describe to me... I mean, did you belong to any clubs or anything...

ED: No, I was only a child. No, not really. We did go to this private, as I said, it was an afternoon thing. They didn't want me rolling about in the streets, people didn't play in the streets in those days, and they didn't want me in the shop, it was business, so instead of rolling around with the au-pair or anything, it was a lady who told you how to... helped you with your homework, and piano lessons, or any other lessons, and I happened to learn English, funnily enough. Now my cousin learnt French, and he needed that in Flemish, you know, in Belgium. But I learnt English, so I was really, when we came over here, the

Dolmetscher for my parents, because they couldn't speak a word. I was the one that, you know, translated everything.

RL: What kind of toys and games did you have?

ED: Dominos, and cards, and those wooden sticks that you let go and then you pick them up. I can't think what they're called. I got some here, for the children, you know what I mean like

Tape 1: 28 minutes 30 seconds

long matchsticks.

RL: Pick-up sticks.

ED: That's right.

RL: What are your memories of the holidays and...

ED: Holidays, also, they sent my cousin and I, we were like brother and sister really, they sent us away to the country, also to a very frum lady that took you. I remember she had a sheitel on and I tried the sheitel on as a kid, it was like a holiday home, and they came out on Sundays to see us... my parents.

RL: So was it like a holiday camp, or was it...

ED: No, it wasn't like a camp, it was a private holiday home, I am just trying to think, what's the word for the equivalent here, it wasn't like a Butlins, it was a small place for Yiddishe frum children you know.

RL: How religious were your parents, where did they come on the religious spectrum.

ED: Religious? Traditional, traditional.

RL: Did your mother cover her hair?

ED: No, she didn't. They didn't... either they did, and they were very, very frum, or they didn't. There was no mediocre.

RL: What are your memories of, say, Shabbats and Yomtov

ED: Well, Shabbats was Shabbats, and we always kept Yomtov.

RL: What was your favourite festival; did you have a favourite Yomtov?

ED: Not that I can remember, no.

RL: Was there anything different that you did there and here?

ED: No, not really. No, Pesach was Pesach... no, not really.

RL: No different traditions, customs, or foods?

ED: No, no, not that I can remember.

RL: Did your mother do any particular Viennese...

ED: No, my mother wasn't a housewife as such; she was more of a business woman. You know, she cooked when she needed to be cooking, but it wasn't her favourite thing, she'd

Tape 1: 30 minutes 31 seconds

rather stand behind the counter and serve or, you know.

RL: So was she at the business everyday?

ED: Yes, yes.

RL: And did the au-pair live in?

ED: Ja, I think she lived in, ja.

RL: But you said there were only two bedrooms.

ED: Well, she probably lived in my room, I don't know. At one time they did that, didn't they?

RL: Was your mother involved in the Jewish community in any way?

ED: No, as I say, she was purely a mother and a business woman, you know, and a wife.

RL: What would they do if they wanted to relax or enjoy themselves?

ED: Well, Sunday was the main day, and they went out to the country, mainly. It was a lot of walking in the countryside, and to the parents, of course, to their parents.

RL: Did they ever go to the theatre or to music concerts?

ED: Not that I can remember, no.

RL: Did you ever go to anything like that, or the cinema, or...

ED: Shirley Temple was my favourite. That was all the go in those days. I used to go, I don't know who took me, I can't remember that, but I did see the Shirley Temple films.

RL: Did you use to go to any other forms of entertainment?

ED: No, listen, there wasn't very much time. I was either a baby, or I was soon eight or nine when all the trouble started, so there wasn't really much time for me to do anything, you know. I had friends, yeah.

RL: So coming on to your arrival in England and what was your first impression of England, once you got here?

ED: Well, we went to a... it was near... March... it was near Pesach time, I do remember, where they had like a soup kitchen, somewhere in London, I don't know where. And they were dishing out matzo and stuff like that, and my mother got the domestic permit for somebody in Wiltshire and of course I went with her, in... just trying to think... in Hungerford Wiltshire it was, and it was a lady, she ran a car, she was a lady that wanted a servant. But I am she did us a favour by giving us this permit. And I was just tugging along, you know. And we stayed there for a few months, and my father, as I say, went to

Tape 1: 33 minutes 29 seconds

Buckinghamshire, to this other place, and then somehow we got together, to go to Buckinghamshire with him... to him.

RL: Just tell me first all about your experiences with that family, what you remember of being there?

ED: Very little. It was a country home, and she ran a little Ford 10 car, which picked us up from the station, I do remember that. My mother had to do menial jobs, which was very menial to her, but just to be in a safe country she put up with it. Because she wasn't used to domestic things, she wasn't so domesticated. And that's all I really remember.

RL: Was this the family that had sent you the permit? What was their name?

ED: I'm just trying to think of it, and I can't think of it, just can't think of the name.

RL: Did they have children?

ED: No, she was an old lady and she wanted help, and so she...

RL: And how did you manage with food?

ED: Well, we had to put up with whatever there was, there was no choice.

RL: And what did you do during this time?

ED: This time, I think I went to school; they put me in a school, a goyshe school.

RL: Do you have any memories of that?

ED: No, very little. No, very little.

RL: And how was it that she only stayed there a couple of months?

ED: Well, because we wanted to be together. My father must have persuaded his man that gave him the permit that we should come over there. And it was a furniture shop, it was a furniture manufacturer, and they made a caravan for us, on wheels, you know, like a mobile home it was, actually, like a mobile home. And we stayed there, which was lovely, really, so we were all together then.

RL: So was it really just your father that was working at that point? Your mother didn't have to go into another job?

ED: No, no. I think she must have helped something in the factory, I can't remember that, but we were together once more.

RL: Can you describe the mobile home?

ED: It was actually like a mobile... exactly like that. It must have been a bedroom with a curtain, made into two, and a kitchen and a bathroom, something like that.

Tape 1: 36 minutes 20 seconds

RL: And where was it?

ED: In High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

RL: And was it in somebody's garden, or...

ED: No, it was in part of the, you know, where the factory was. In one of the yards it must have been. And I remember it being very cold, and I wore Wellingtons, and it was so cold that it was stuck to the floor. You know, the ice, because it was no proper flooring, it was just on wheels and a base to it, so it was very, very cold in there, in the winter. I do remember that.

RL: Did you have heating at all?

ED: There must have been some sorts of heating, but, you know, the damp Wellingtons were stuck, I remember that.

RL: And how did your father get on in this furniture factory?

ED: Well, they told him what to do and he did it, just because we wanted to be together. As I said, there was no other choice at that particular time.

RL: How was he managing with language?

ED: Well, he wasn't. You know, even the Poles come over here now and they manage, you know. They managed.

RL: And what did you do once you got to Buckinghamshire?

ED: Well, also I went to school. I've been to several schools.

RL: And do you have memories of that school?

ED: Very little, very, very little. Don't forget, I was only just nine or ten then.

RL: Anything in particular?

ED: No, no. But I'll tell you the next step was that my father went to the Isle of Man, then.

RL: So war had broken out. Do you remember the outbreak of war?

ED: I remember Churchill on here, well, not on here, saying that we're in war time now, I do remember that. So that would be September '39, that's right, September '39.

RL: Were you already in Buckinghamshire by then?

ED: Yes, and he was then taken to the Isle of Man, which was an internment camp. And my mother and I couldn't stay in Buckinghamshire, we were sent to London to a hostel. That was probably the worst time that I had, because it was a women's hostel in Belsize Park and they didn't really want me, because I was only a child. And there was no room for me, so I slept on a deckchair with no pillows and no covering. They really didn't want me, as I say, but my

Tape 1: 39 minutes 3 seconds

mother wanted to keep me. And I had cardigans rolled as a pillow, and coats or something over me to sleep, that was probably my worst time there until quite a few months, I don't know how long... we also went to the Isle of Man, where I spent two years, from 1940 to '42.

RL: So first of all, this hostel, how many women were in there?

ED: Well, maybe ten or twenty women in there, but it was only for women, not for children and not for men. And every time this person or whoever was in charge said I am going to take her away, my mother went berserk. So rather than me taken away, as I say, I got this deckchair from wherever, I don't know, and I stayed, quietly, until, as I say, we then went to the Isle of Man.

RL: What was your mother doing during the day?

ED: I can't remember what she did during the day, I can't remember that.

RL: And what did you do?

ED: I can't remember that either. I didn't go to school in London; I don't know.

RL: And you don't remember how long you were there?

ED: A few months, that's all. I can't remember how long.

RL: And then, do you remember the day that you were taken to the Isle of Man?

ED: Yes, I remember it very well. Let me just think... It was four hours travelling on the boat, from London to... Liverpool, that's right. No, from Liverpool to the Isle of Man. We got to Liverpool by train, obviously.

RL: How were you told that you would have to...

ED: Well, we wanted to join daddy, didn't we, who was there already. Who was in a man's camp in Ramsey, in Isle of Man. But when the family came, there was a family camp. (He's doing something...can you see him?). He was going to a, a family camp, so that was a hotel,

and half of it was kosher, and half of it wasn't. It was called the Bella Queeney Hotel in St. Mary's, in the Isle of Man, and we joined there.

RL: So had your mother asked to go?

ED: She must have done, or else they'd taken her. I don't know, I don't, but we obviously wanted to be together.

RL: So this was actually a hotel?

ED: It was a proper hotel, a very big hotel, yes, one of the biggest there. And it was, as I say, it was called St. Mary's, and there were facilities for school in the hotel, they made a, you know, a school for the children, and, as I say, they had these kosher sections, which we were in, and...

Tape 1: 42 minutes 10 seconds

RL: How many were in the kosher section?

ED: More or less half and half, but don't ask me how many people it held, I don't know.

RL: And what kind of food were you given?

ED: Well, obviously it was kosher cooking, and it was rationing, don't forget, that sort of food, you know.

RL: Who did the cooking?

ED: I can't remember. People that were inmates, you know, in the hotel... some volunteered for cooking, some volunteered for cleaning, or whatever.

RL: What did you... did you go to the school?

ED: Yes, I went to the school. There were several children there, and they made up a school for us, and everything was barbed wired, because you couldn't run out to the sea, in case you swam to Ireland. A few people did that, to escape. I mean, they weren't badly treated; it was just a matter of being hemmed in, with big barbed wired things, you know.

RL: What kind of freedom did you have within the camp?

ED: Well, I was happy. It was sunshine, it was beautiful weather, I was quite happy there, being there with my parents, you know, and in safety, so to speak. And we were friendly aliens, not enemy aliens. There were some, they were called enemy aliens, and some were called friendly aliens, which we were.

RL: Was there a difference in the way you were treated?

ED: No, no. They just had it stamped on the passports for some reason, I don't know why.

RL: And what did your father do during this time?

ED: I can't remember.

RL: And your mother?

ED: I don't remember. I think they took it in turns to help with the cooking or I think there were agricultural things, you know, growing things and things like that. I think that's what they did at the time.

RL: And was there anything arranged for Shabbos?

ED: Yes, there was, yes. I remember the candles, I remember that. Yes, it was quite normal there, you know.

RL: So where did you sleep?

Tape 1: 44 minutes 24 seconds

ED: There were bedrooms from the hotel.

RL: Did you have your own room?

ED: Must have done, yes.

RL: And did they have sort of like a minyan, a daily minyan?

ED: Yes, they did.

RL: Do you remember other people who were there?

ED: I used to know lots of people, yes, but most of them went to London afterwards, like we came to Manchester.

RL: Do you remember any names?

ED: No, no.

RL: Did you make friends yourself when you were there?

ED: Yes, we always made friends everywhere.

RL: And how did you occupy yourself when you weren't in school?

ED: Probably homework... I can't remember that. You know, Isle of Man is beautiful, the countryside and everything. But we couldn't go very far, as I say, it was limited.

RL: Did you have any contacts with the guards?

ED: No, no, no. There were no guards, it was just barbed wire. There were no guards as such, you know.

RL: Do you remember any happenings, any incidents, at all?

ED: I remember a few people swimming across to Ireland, to escape. You know, they wanted their freedom. But that's all I remember.

RL: Was there any kind of entertainment in the camp?

ED: I can't remember, I don't know.

RL: Did they put on a show, a Hanukkah show, or...?

ED: Well, possibly, but I really don't remember that.

RL: Any other memories at all of your time there?

ED: No.

Tape 1: 46 minutes 13 seconds

RL: Who were the teachers in the school?

ED: Well, people that were capable of teaching people, you know, within all the people that were there.

RL: And did you have any textbooks or workbooks?

ED: Yes, yes.

RL: So they had equipment.

ED: Yes, yes, they did. I remember a woodwork class, and I made some wooden buttons, I remember that, I don't know why, just wooden buttons, and then we lacquered them over... for some reason, I don't know, there was a woodwork class.

RL: Did you ever have a go at cooking?

ED: Yes, possibly cooking as well, yes.

RL: And then, your memories of leaving that camp.

ED: Yes, I can tell you them very, very vividly. We wanted... everybody wanted to get out, nobody wanted to stay there. And you had to find a job before they would release you... they'd call it release. That was 1942... and my father got a job with a bakery here in Manchester called Sief's... you won't remember that, a very old-fashioned baker. And then, of course, we had to find accommodation, and where did we go but to Fuldas. Fuldas were then not where they are now, but in George Street. They had a boarding house, but they were actually only taking boys. So... we were a family, right? So across the road in George Street, you know George Street..., there was an old lady that took us in as a family, you know, two bedrooms and a... it was a very old-fashioned house, you can see it now. And that's how we met up with the Fuldas, and we used to have our meals there.

RL: Who was the lady that took you in?

ED: Oh, I can't think of the lady that took us in... Mrs. Black, Mrs. Black, actually. And she got paid for it whatever, and Fuldas, we went in there to eat.

RL: So how did your father manage to make all these arrangements?

ED: I don't know. I don't know whether he got the job from somebody, I don't know. It was in the bakery, and it was three pound a week he got. And don't ask me how much Fuldas charged, don't ask me, but I am still very friendly with Mrs. Spielman, it's funny. We were great friends because she's older than me, and she had a sister...do you remember her sister? Mrs Shadme?

RL: I know the name.

ED: She's now gone to live in Israel, but used to live in Broom Lane. She... we all went to school together, and I was, as I say a child. That was in, in 1942, so I was twelve.

Tape 1: 49 minutes 19 seconds

RL: So were you just sleeping in Mrs. Black's...?

ED: That's right, that's right.

RL: And then having your meals...

ED: Across the road.

RL: And which school did you go to?

ED: Then, in those days, I went to Heath Street School. I don't know, it's down now, on Cheetham Hill it was, in Heath Street, it was Heath Street School.

RL: And were there other Jewish pupils?

ED: Yes, I know plenty of people from there, yes.

RL: And what are your memories of that school?

ED: Not much, really not much. It was 1942; I was only in another two years, that was 1944 then.

RL: Did you find that you could keep up with the work? Did you have problems?

ED: Well, I did have problems. In fact, I missed something out, actually. I missed a little bit out. Can I go back?

RL: Yes, of course.

ED: Well, I did tell you that we went from High Wycombe to the hostel, but that wasn't the end of it, because I was then, from the hostel where I slept on the deck chair, I went to... I was evacuated. By myself... my parents... that's right... I missed this little bit out, I don't know why. And I went to Surrey, Surbiton, to a goyshe family. Those were the only ones that would take me in. The man was a policeman, and they had another child called Jean, and the lady of the house. And they took me in, as an evacuee, and they then, because it was bombing in Surrey, took me to Cornwall. That's right. I don't know why I missed that out. They took me to Cornwall and I was there for quite a few months, and I went to a goyshe school and from there, my father requested that he wants me in the Isle of Man, where my mother then went as well to him. And I went to the Isle of Man by myself. Well, with children, with a gas mask case, you know, like they had, and a label on me. I can see it now at Exeter station... I went there, and I joined my parents in the Isle of Man... that was in between.

RL: How did you get on with that family?

ED: They were goyim and I was safe. I wanted to be with my parents, obviously, but that's where they send me from this hostel, because they threatened that I wasn't allowed to be there. That was the... and so, as I say, I went there, it was lots of tears and upset, naturally, I was on my own, and how did I get on? Well, as I say, I was safe, but I wanted to get back with my parents and luckily... the big thing was that my father was to go to Australia with

Tape 1: 52 minutes 36 seconds

the... a big ship which went down. And he said: "I am not going until my daughter is here". The big ship that went down called... the Andorra Star. Have you heard about that? It was the Andorra Star that we were going to go to Australia, because my mother had her eldest sister there. And my father refused to go on the boat until we were all together. And I wasn't there, I was in Cornwall, and that saved us, because we would have been drowned, it went down. Quite funny, really... And that's when I got to the Isle of Man and joined them to go to the family camp.

RL: So... coming back to the policeman and his family... how did they treat you?

ED: They treated me as an evacuee. Not Jewish and not goyish, just as an evacuee, which I was. I think they got paid from the government something. Something... some arrangement, I don't know. That's right, that's piecing it together now.

RL: And how did you keep going, you know, being separated from your parents?

ED: Luckily, I don't think it was all that long, but it was long enough for me, it was long enough for them. But the big thing was that we didn't get on this boat, because of me. As I say, they requested... I'm surprised they listened to them, but they did, and, as I say, from the Isle of Man we went to Manchester to Fuldas.

RL: Right. And then you went to school here? I had asked you about memories of Heath Street.

ED: Yes, I haven't got many.

RL: And problems. This is how you got on at the school...

ED: Yes. No problems really, no.

RL: Did you manage to keep up with the work?

ED: Well, I wasn't a brilliant scholar, because I swapped and changed so much. But I managed, you know, I managed.

RL: And how did you find your English?

ED: Well, my English was getting better by the day, because, as I say, I was a translator for my parents, a dolmetscher, and I picked it up pretty well, I learnt it over there, but only pidgin English, you know. But I was... yes, sort of been alright with it.

RL: And how did you get on with the other pupils in Heath Street?

ED: It was alright, they were alright, you know.

RL: The teachers?

ED: Yes.

Tape 1: 55 minutes 24 seconds

RL: But besides school, were you involved in anything else in this period?

ED: No, because things were too hard. As I say, we were still at Fuldas, we hadn't found our own home yet. So I really wasn't interested in anything, you know, like... parties or things like that, you know.

RL: What would you do after school?

ED: What would I do after school, from Heath Street? Well, as I say, we were looking for our own home, because our furniture was already in London. It was in a lift, as I told you before. And, well, we wanted to make use of it, so we had to find a big house to match the furniture, which was all big stuff, you know, big heavy stuff. And we found a place near Smedley Lane, which was an old house, and we managed to rent that.

RL: And which street was that on?

ED: It was called Hampshire Street, off Johnson Street. What happened after that? It was already 1942, ja, '42, '43, something like that. And the furniture came, and before we found this house, my mother went frantic, because she said: "What am I going to with this furniture?" And there was a garage on Moston Road, which is still there, as I say, for two and six a week, which is half a crown a week. We are going to rent this, and put all the furniture in, just to store, and we managed to do this until we found the house, and then, of course, it came out of the garage, out of the storage, and then we managed to make a home for ourselves, for the first time in a few years, quite a few years.

RL: So we just stop here...

ED: Right.

TAPE 2

RL: This is the interview with Elise Duhl and it is tape 2.

So you were just telling me that, eventually, your parents found a house to rent.

ED: Big enough for the furniture, yes. We had to make the house big so that would fit in, you know.

RL: What was the furniture?

ED: Well, of course, a dining room suite, you know, with the big old-fashioned things, and big beds, you know, that were big heavy old beds. And whatever else, you know, suites, leather suites and that sort of thing, we took with us.

RL: And wardrobes?

ED: Yes, wardrobes, of course.

RL: So have they managed to bring over all their furniture?

ED: Most of them, yes, because it is better than buying it here, so they wanted to bring their own furniture. And, as I say, it was in storage for quite few years, it came of the dock, and then it came here. It was in the dock.

RL: What did you think of this new house, this rented house?

ED: Well, as I say, it wasn't a beautiful house, it was big enough to hold that, and it was our own. It was rented, yes, eventually we bought it later on, but it was rented at the time.

RL: And was your father still working in the bakery?

ED: No, my father then went into, oh, I'll tell you in a minute... Charlotte Street... He worked for somebody called Halpern, it was in cloth, you know, that was actually his trade, he wasn't a baker, he just took that on coming out on the Isle of Man.

RL: How long did he stay in the bakery?

ED: The sooner he could get out of it, the better. Because it was a night job, it was a night job, you see, that's why... he hated it, but he made a living, and that's the way he could come from the Isle of Man, you see. It was a stepping stone...

RL: And what was he doing with Halpern in Charlotte Street?

ED: Well, he was helping with cloth, measuring and whatever, but that was more his line than the other?

RL: And was your mother doing anything at this stage?

ED: My mother was, in fact, in a khaki, an army clothing... she used to do buttons and button-holes, she worked at Greengate and Irwell, somewhere at the bottom of Deansgate,

Tape 2: 2 minutes 39 seconds

somewhere there.

RL: And did she do that coming to Manchester?

ED: Well, she did, yes, she needed a job.

RL: And this was while you were at school?

ED: I was still at school, yes.

RL: How did they, hey were they, sort of settling down here? How did they find it, did they ever discuss that?

ED: Well, it was different to what it was, but we were a family again, you know, that was the main thing, really. Still rationing, and rationing books, and coupons, dockets and things like that, you know.

RL: Did you experience any bombing?

ED: I think, wait a minute, 1942... There was a bombing, I think in town somewhere, it was shattering everywhere, I just can't remember the date, and I can't remember where, but here in Manchester, yes.

RL: Do you remember it happening?

ED: I remember... yes, I remember.

RL: Where were you at the time?

ED: Well, I was at home at the time, but it was shattering everywhere, you know, it was very bad. Because the war finished...was it '45, that's right, so it must have been '44, something like that.

RL: Were you in touch with other refugees?

ED: Were we in touch with other refugees? I'm just trying to think... We got to know a lot of people later on, but I don't exactly know when or who.

RL: Were there other refugees from Vienna that you met?

ED: No, no really, but there was club that opened near where I, where we got this big house. It was called the Springfield Club. And all the boys, we used to call them the '45 boys that had, that came over much later than us, 1945. I think they're called the '45 group now, but they were all young boys then, and I was a young girl, 14, 15, and it was called Laski House, maybe you've heard of it, in Smedley Lane, very near to where we got this house. And I joined that, and we played ping-pong, you know, got together quite a lot. I know all, most of

the boys. They came over with nothing, absolutely nothing, they had nothing and they didn't even have parents like I did. They came on their own, 1945.

Tape 2: 5 minutes 7 seconds

RL: So this was after the war had finished?

ED: Yes, yes.

RL: Did you do anything before the war finished? Did you go to anything?

ED: No, not that I know of.

RL: So if you wanted to go around and do something, what would you do?

ED: Well, it was black out for a long time, so I didn't do anything. And... what did I do? Nothing very much, I was a very shy girl, really. I was a home, you know, homely, never wanted to go out or anything, at that time.

RL: What would you do at home in the evenings?

ED: Well, we were one of the first to have a television. Because my mum took buttoning home, and I used to thread all the needles for her, with cotton, and wax them, for these battle jackets that she did... she stitched by hand. And before they got a machine in to do it, there was a button machine afterwards, then she was redundant, but I used to thread a hundred needles each night for her, so that all she had to do was pick up the needles, stitch on the buttons, and just stick it in a cardboard, you know, a hundred needles every night, and it was bee's wax to make them strong, you know, the cotton, and then wind them around the finger... she had needles ready, just to put the buttons on. You know, it was easier for her.

RL: So was this while the war was still on?

ED: Well, yes, it was doing war work... I was looking for that word before... She was doing war work, khaki battle dresses, you know the jackets and, as I say, stitching the buttons on that.

RL: So she'd have to bring the work home with her?

ED: Yes, she brought the work home with her, I made the needles, so she took it with her the next day.

RL: So do you remember the day war ended?

ED: Yes, because I was in Albert Square with all the other youngsters. I was fifteen then, 1945, and we were all thrilled to bits that the war ended, because it was such a... you know, air raids, and shelters, and all sorts of things. And all my upheaval, you know, that I had, we had flags and all sorts, I remember shouting and kvitching at Albert Square, such a delight to have peace again, you know.

RL: You mentioned air raids and air shelters. Where would you go to shelter?

ED: Well, where would we go to shelter? In London, when I was in with the hostel, it was underground, you know the air raid shelters and the... they used to have a shelter called... Anderson, Anderson shelters, underneath the ground, you know, in a cellar, or in a back

Tape 2: 8 minutes 3 seconds

garden or somewhere like that. And also in High Wycombe, where I was, they had air raids there. And Surrey... that's why they moved to Cornwall, this goyshe couple. I do remember that.

RL: What kind of shelters did they have?

ED: Also, as I say, underground, underground.

RL: And in Manchester?

ED: In Manchester, I don't think, I don't remember that.

RL: When did you leave school?

ED: When I was fifteen. I stayed on an extra year because I missed such a lot. But it didn't do any good for me. 1945, I left school.

RL: And what did you do on leaving?

ED: Well, on leaving I got a job to be a milliner. I went to a very big place, a very big shop like Kendals, it was called J. Jones in Oldham Street. And I served my apprenticeship there for four years, and became a milliner.

RL: What made you choose that?

ED: Well, it was either a dressmaker or a milliner. A milliner was easier than a dressmaker, because you got the mother and the father, long dress, it's too long, it's too short... So a hat was easier, and somebody advised me to do that, which I enjoyed doing. And in fact, you couldn't get materials; you had to do it out of really nothing, because it was just after the war, 1945.

RL: So what did you use?

ED: Well, we used... there were lots of brides then, you know, G.I. brides, Americans, boys came over and the G.I. brides we used to call them... you know, tulle, and netting, you know, that sort of thing, and wires and feathers, that sort of thing.

RL: And as you say, from that point you started to go to the Springfields Club, by then that was set up. Did other girls use to go to that club?

ED: I can't remember. I remember the boys; I don't remember the girls, actually. More boys came over than girls, actually, funnily enough.

RL: Did you have any girl friends?

ED: Yes, I did. I had a girl friend, of somebody from Bury, called Kaplan, Shirley Kaplan she was... a good friend of mine. Yes, I had a few friends.

Tape 2: 10 minutes 25 seconds

RL: Was she English-born?

ED: Yes, she was English, yes. In fact, I got the friendship through an advert, wanting friend. She put an advert in the paper and I replied or she replied, I don't know who put the advert in, and we were friends for many years.

RL: Really? You don't remember who put the advert in?

ED: No, I can't remember whether it was she or I. But whoever answered, we just clicked, she was a very nice girl. She's still alive to this day, actually.

RL: Anybody else that you became friendly with?

ED: Later on in life, do you mean?

RL: Well, as a teenager.

ED: As a teenager? No, I can't think back... I was friendly with the Spielman, you know, Rosie Spielman and her sister.

RL: And what would you do for entertainment?

ED: Well, lots of pictures back then, you know, lots of films. They were very popular, because television hadn't come out yet. That came out later on, I think '47, something like that. I was one of the first to buy my mother, as I say, a set with my earnings because I thought, "Oh, she's got something to look at instead of just stitching these buttons on", and it was only a small set, but it was a set, and in fact so much so, that the Queen's wedding was recorded on that. So that's how I remember the first time we had that.

RL: How aware had your family been during the war of what was going on in Europe?

ED: How aware do you say? Well, of course they worried about the people they left behind. My father's brother, as I said, was in Switzerland, walked over from Belgium, over the mountains into Switzerland through Holland, and his father we never heard anything of, or the sister, or the brother, until later on when they said they were... died in Theresienstadt. And that's all the family that was left. And my mother's eldest sister immigrated to Australia; hence, we wanted to go on that time. And they were quite wealthy, and they took a round trip of Tahiti, they went to Tahiti and they ended up in Australia anyway, my mother's eldest sister. She died there and I think I've still got a cousin there, I'm not sure, in Sydney.

RL: So when did they discover what had happened to your father's family?

ED: Well, after the war when they released all these, all this news, you know.

RL: Do you remember finding that out?

ED: No, I don't remember, I don't remember. I don't know if it was a telegram, I don't know how they found out.

Tape 2: 13 minutes 42 seconds

RL: So you were working. Did your parents, were they involved in anything in the Manchester community in any way?

ED: No. Not that I know.

RL: Did they belong to anything?

ED: No, no.

RL: Which shul did they go to?

ED: We went, when we lived in Smedley Lane, to... it was called Central Shul, it was in Heywood Street. Which is North Manchester now, I think it is called North Manchester now, but it was then in Heywood Street, we went to that shul.

RL: Did you have any Hebrew education?

ED: Very little, very little.

RL: Where did you have it, the little you had?

ED: Well, my father brought somebody to the house, and I just learnt a little bit, I didn't have very much of that.

RL: So you're training to be a milliner, and, you know, we've talked about your spare time. How did you meet your husband?

ED: Oh, that was a shidduch, my father, he got a shadchan, I was twenty-three in 1953, when I first met him, and he brought him along, and that's how I met him.

RL: Who was the shadchan?

ED: I'd say his name was Federman, from somewhere down, no, what's the street, just a minute... Tenerife Street, somewhere down there. And he was a very well-known chap, with a bowl hat and a rolled-up umbrella, like they used to have. He was called Federman, yes.

RL: So you met through that?

ED: Through that, yes.

RL: And how long did you go out with your husband?

ED: Oh, very short time. I met him two days after my birthday in 1953, and we got married in the August. We got engaged on Pesach, got married in the August, early August.

RL: And can you tell me about your husband? What was his name and where was he from?

ED: He was from here, he was born here. And his mother was Romanian, and his father was

Tape 2: 16 minutes 12 seconds

from Sephad, born in Sephad, and came over here because there was no work over there. And he had a big raincoat factory.

RL: What was the name?

ED: The name was Moscovitz.

RL: And his parents' names?

ED: Moscovitz.

RL: First names.

ED: Oh, sorry. Wait a minute... his name was Kalman, wait a minute. My father-in-law was called Joe Moscovitz, and his father was called Kalman, that's how David got his name, David Kalman is David, and he was a Cheder teacher at the bottom of Waterloo Road. Everybody knew Kalman Moscovitz, I don't know if you've heard or you haven't heard of him. But he was a very... in fact, David has got a very nice big photograph of him.

RL: And how many siblings did your husband have?

ED: No siblings.

RL: He was an only child as well?

ED: Yes.

RL: And what did he do for a living?

ED: He was in the raincoat trade, big raincoat factory.

RL: Was he in his father's business?

ED: Yes.

RL: And where did you get married?

ED: We got married in Higher Crumpsall Shul.

RL: How come that shul?

ED: Because they belonged to that. We belonged to Central Shul, but he belonged to Crumpsall Shul.

RL: And where did you go after the wedding?

ED: Where did we go? Where did we live? We lived just off Crumpsall Lane in Hermitage Road.

Tape 2: 18 minutes 13 seconds

RL: And did you rent that, or buy that?

ED: No, we bought that.

RL: And what was it that you bought?

ED: A semi.

RL: And how long were you there?

ED: We were there for twenty-three years.

RL: And which shul?

ED: We belonged to Crumpsall Shul.

RL: Did you work at all after marriage?

ED: No, I just had the babies. I helped sometime after the children were grown-up, but not before.

RL: And what children did you have and when?

ED: I had David in '54, September '54, and I had my daughter in '58.

RL: Did you join any clubs or any societies as a married woman?

ED: Provincial societies I think we were in. We were in a few things, but I can't remember what.

RL: When you say provincial, what does that...

ED: It was called Provincial Tontine Society, it was a very old society, I don't know if you've heard of it or not. And I think the parents were in it, and we were in it...

RL: Something like a friendly society...

ED: Yes, that's right, a friendly society. I don't know what it entailed, I can't remember that.

RL: Was your husband involved in any communal activities?

ED: No, I don't think so.

RL: Did he belong to anything at all?

ED: No, it was just business, business, business. And it was a hard business, you know.

RL: What about Zionist activities?

Tape 2: 20 minutes 5 seconds

ED: No, never bothered about that.

RL: Was your father interested in Zionism at all?

ED: No, no.

RL: So no other societies that you think you might have belonged to?

ED: No, I can't remember, no.

RL: And... from Hermitage Road, where did you go to live?

ED: From Hermitage Road... My parents had a shop and they were going to finish with that when the decimal money came in; they couldn't grasp it, you know, I think it was '71 when the decimals came in. And they moved in with us to Hermitage Road, and we moved to a bungalow on Bury Old Road, in 1975 or '76.

RL: So did your parents stay in...

ED: They stayed in the house, and we moved out.

RL: So just tell me what your parents had been doing, because your father had been working in the cloth trade. So what happened after that?

ED: Yes, well, I've skipped a bit, because when he worked in the cloth trade, he gave that up, and we went into the blouse trade, which were more to their liking because the... where they did men's shirts abroad, this was ladies' blouses and cloth and my mother was a cutter, she was an Eastman cutter, so they worked in the house making blouses and my father went out to sell them. They made a business of that.

RL: Was it just the two of them?

ED: Well, I was in it, too, because I left the milliner trade and I went to learn to do blouses and the person who employed me was somewhere in... somewhere in Piccadilly that I worked, and she said, oh, I think you're going to learn this trade and open up on your own, which is exactly what happened. My father knew where to get the cloth, my mother knew how to cut the cloth, and I learnt to machine the blouses. And we worked until I got married on that, in the house, with no overheads, you know, but we had people they... my father got the cloth, my mother cut it and we had people... we sent out work, you know, and they came back, and we used to fold them and pack them and my father used to sell them. Until he had bad health and he had a heart trouble, and then he had to take it easy. And then... I don't know what year it was, wait a minute... about '54, they said they were going to retire and they bought a shop near the bridge on Middleton Road... do you know it at all? It was called the Chocolate Box, that's what we were saying to you before, the Chocolate Box, and then they sold cigarettes and chocolate and ice-creams, where the bridge is, near the United Shul,

you know, the United Shul is there and... quite a few years until there was a big fire and we had to take them out of their beds and to put them in ours, and that's how they came to live with us, because they were frightened then. That's the in-between now.

Tape 2: 24 minutes 9 seconds

RL: So what was this fire?

ED: It was a fire, I don't know how, I don't know what.

RL: So did they live above the shop?

ED: They lived above.

RL: But they kept the business on?

ED: They kept the business on, but it went slowly, slowly, as I say, until the decimal coins came in. And then they couldn't, you know, they were getting too old, they couldn't grasp it. And they came to live with us, permanently, they didn't stay in the business in the day, they locked up and I think they sold it to somebody else. And, as I say, then we moved out to the bungalow. So that's...

RL: Right. Which schools did your children go to?

ED: My children went to King David's School until they were eleven, and David went to Ducie Street, because he wasn't an academic, he went to Ducie High, I think it was Ducie High and my daughter went to King David until she was eleven and then went to a Jewish, Radford St, what's it called? Jewish High School.

RL: Did they belong to any youth groups?

ED: They belonged to BA.

RL: And then after school? What did they do when they left school?

ED: What did they do when they left school? Wait a minute... My daughter... well, David went to learn the motor trade for four years, and then he went on his own. And Debbie went to the Jewish Telegraph on the Precinct, I don't know if you remember it or not, you know, in the little paper, which you could have Yomtov off and all the holidays and everything.

RL: And who did they marry?

ED: David married a Leeds girl, called Sarah Mann, and Debbie married a Liefman, **Gerald** Liefman, that's a local boy here.

RL: And what family did they have?

ED: David's got four children, and Debbie's got five.

RL: And where do they live?

ED: David lives in Castleton Road and Debbie is in Singleton Close.

RL: And what schools did your grandchildren go to?

Tape 2: 27 minutes 0 second

ED: Well, I'll tell you in a minute. What's it called ... Cassel Fox first, then they... is that a junior school, isn't it, Cassel Fox? Then the next one was Broughton Jewish and then the Jewish Day there, at... And my grandsons were all at Jewish Grammar, all of them, and my granddaughter now is at Jewish High, that Debbie went to, in Radford Street. And David's girl is going there in September as well.

RL: Coming back, just looking back over your time in England, how did you find, you know, life in England?

ED: Well, let's put it that way: calming. It was more calming than the one abroad. Because I was frightened, I was scared, through my parents. I didn't really understand it, but I was anxious and fidgety, you know.

RL: Was there anything that you found strange or different about life here?

ED: I tell what the first impression was: gym slips, when I was a youngster. Now we wore... oh, and shoes. I wore boots, you know, from abroad, you wear boots and I was so conscious of them in an English school that the first wages my mother made, I said, I want some shoes, because they're all laughing at me. And, of course, the gym slips. I thought that was strange, but I wanted to be exactly like anyone else, I didn't want to stand out... and the tie and the blouse and the gym slips. So from the first lot of wages that my mother got, she let me have that, because she didn't me to feel uncomfortable. That's the only strange thing I can remember.

RL: What about sort of houses, the houses...

ED: Well, the houses... well, we had, as I say, big old-fashioned houses, not like these, these are modern now, well, they were when they were built. You know, they were built with old-fashioned banisters and all that. These were all like little teeny toy houses, with the bricks outside, you know, we didn't have that.

RL: And what about, sort of, the English people?

ED: They were very nice and very polite...very calming, not like those with the long boots on. That was a difference, you know, we were frightened. I was frightened as a child abroad.

RL: Was there ever a time that you were frightened here?

ED: No, I don't think so, no.

RL: Not even with the air raids?

ED: With the air raids, because you thought you were going to be, you know, dead in five minutes. Air raids yes, but nothing else.

RL: Did you ever come across any hostility?

ED: No, never. I was always quite liked and sort of mingled with the people, and I didn't

Tape 2: 30 minutes 19 seconds

have an accent, so they didn't really know, you know what I mean? A Jewish girl, alright, you know.

RL: How would you say you were accepted by the Jewish community, did you have any difficulties?

ED: No, not at all, none at all. I just never liked to be called a refugee girl, I never liked that. There was a committee here, a refugee committee in town, and I was only a youngster and my mother went in for something with me, and everybody was short of money, everybody was short of food, and they were doing a custard in a pan, and this person said to me: "Would this little girl like to lick out the pan?" I felt awful, I felt absolutely awful for saying that. She meant well, she meant do I want the remains of the custard and I said no, I don't want that, you know, she made me feel... I can't quite say the word... very uncomfortable about it. But that was a refugee herself, it wasn't an English person.

RL: How do you feel that your parents... were they accepted here?

ED: Yes, they had an accent. In the shop, in the last shop they had here they were very popular, they were very well-liked, and everybody liked them. As I say, they didn't speak English well, you know, like broken biscuits, but everybody liked them, yes.

RL: Did they make English friends, Jewish friends?

ED: In the shop, there were customers, of course. I don't know... they were quite popular, yes. They had a few personal friends, as I say, and then they found out, this one came from Vienna, this one came from... you know, they did find this out, and they mingled with them.

RL: How would you describe yourself, first of all, in terms of nationality, how would you describe yourself?

ED: English. British. I love being British, I love my passport, I love everything.

RL: When did you become British?

ED: Well, my... I got naturalised when I was eighteen. That was the age when you could become naturalised. My parents became naturalised, but you couldn't until you reached the age of eighteen, so I was naturalised with them. I got my passport and everything.

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

ED: No, no, I feel British. I am always grateful for them accepting us here, I am. If I saw the Queen, to speak to her, I would thank her, really. I often thought of writing a letter

because, you know, I watched her grow up. And I feel very English and very accepted here, I don't feel out of place at all, perhaps because I was a child, I don't know.

RL: Is there any vestige of a continental identity at all?

Tape 2: 33 minutes 32 seconds

ED: How do you mean, of me? I think my children like saying my mother comes from Vienna, I think they like saying that, and I say it, sometimes, I think, they don't want to work here... how can I say? They are only looking for tea breaks so they don't want to work and I always say, well, they wouldn't do that abroad, which they wouldn't, and I always say, well, I come from Vienna. You know, continental, which you're quite prepared to work, or miss a cup of tea, you know what I mean? But that's about all.

RL: What about cooking... food... do you have any recipes that you make that are from your past?

ED: Yes, I do have one or two things, I make... what's it called... pancakes, you know, what's it called, wait a minute, I make that quite a lot... with the cream cheese in, you know what I mean? Blintzes, stuff like that.

RL: And you mentioned going back to Vienna, what made you want to go back?

ED: I tell you why I wanted to go back, because I've told this story, well, a little bit of what I've told you, to my children, and they listened, but do they care or don't they care, and I said, one day I'd love to go back and really show them, but my daughter couldn't make it, I think she was having a baby at the time, but David, I went back with David for a few days, and I said, this is where my school was, this is where the shop was, this is where I lived, here is across the park. I told him all that I've been telling him over the years and he could see the reality, you know, I wasn't telling him a story, and he enjoyed going back with me, really.

RL: When did you go back?

ED: I think it was '97.

RL: And how did you feel going back there?

ED: Well, I had a big thrill when I saw Vienna, Wien, at the airport, you know, big thrill, coming back, without the anxiousness, you know, as a British citizen. That's what I really felt. David was kvelling, I was kvelling, but I don't know, I felt good coming back, and knowing I'm coming back here, you know, I'm not going to be petrified with the Nazis there, but in everybody, they all got blue eyes, and they all look what they are, really, still.

RL: Did you feel threatened going there?

ED: No, not really. Because I came back with a British passport, and with every support, my son, you know, everything, there was nothing to threaten me, no.

RL: Did you meet anybody that had known your family?

ED: No, no.

RL: Did you actually go into the apartment?

Tape 2: 36 minutes 46 seconds

ED: No, because, of course, it's occupied by somebody else, but I went into the street, I don't know, it was quite a thrill to go back, really.

RL: How did you feel towards the Austrians?

ED: Listen, those that are alive now weren't alive then, so... I don't feel good about being chucked out, or all the trouble they caused, or that they killed my grandparents and son and daughter, and all the atrocities that happened, but I'm glad to be here, really.

RL: Have you ever received any reparations?

ED: Yes, oh yes.

RL: And how do you feel towards Israel?

ED: Well, about Israel, they wouldn't let us in when we all needed to be in, England let us in, but they didn't. You had to have something special, you had to have something, I don't remember what. They let a few, well, quite a lot of people in, but they refused us, so I don't feel very thrilled with them at all.

RL: Have you visited?

ED: Oh yes I've been several times, yes, I like going as a holiday, yes.

RL: When was your first visit?

ED: That would have been 1990 maybe.

RL: And how did you feel going?

ED: No, even before. How did I feel going? Oh, I loved going, and I loved the country, I mean, it's a beautiful country, but I've always got that, you had to be either chalutz to go back, or be on the, you know the farm, what's it called, Kibbutz, or something like that, but they never let us in. I don't know why, I can't remember exactly the reason. They only let certain, very young people they let in, because they wanted to, you know, for the farms and all that they wanted them to work and all that.

RL: Do you think your experiences have affected you psychologically in any way?

ED: No, not really, no.

RL: Do you think, you know, in terms of how you brought up your children, what you've tried to pass over to your children?

ED: No, they've always known I'm not an English mother, I am not that way inclined. No, not really, no.

RL: How interested have they been, you know, in your background, in your experiences.

Tape 2: 39 minutes 37 seconds

ED: Well, they've always listened to the stories; they've always enjoyed listening to the stories. I don't know what went in and what went out, but they have listened, yes.

RL: And in terms of religion... has your religious observance changed at all over the years, from when you were in Vienna to coming here, to being married?

ED: It's probably gone frummer here. Of course my children are very frum now, very very frum.

RL: What started you on the path of becoming frummer?

ED: I can't really say, I don't know.

RL: When did that start?

ED: I can't remember.

RL: Do you think it's with the children growing up?

ED: Yes, yes, possibly, yes.

RL: Or before that, when you married?

ED: Well, I was married, and yes, as they were growing up as well, yes.

RL: And when did your first husband die?

ED: He died in 1978.

RL: And was that whilst you were still in the bungalow?

ED: Yes.

RL: Right. What did he die from?

ED: Well, several things.

RL: Right. And what happened after that?

ED: Well, I was on my own for nine or ten years.

RL: And then?

ED: And then I decided my children are both married and this just happened to come along, and I thought for companionship I would have this other man, which was a continental man, as I said.

RL: What was his name?

Tape 2: 41 minutes 34 seconds

ED: Usher

RL: And where was he from?

ED: Berlin.

RL: And had he been married before?

ED: No, he was a bachelor.

RL: And when did you marry?

ED: In '89, yes, '89.

RL: How had you met him? How did that come about?

ED: Well, I'd known him, he was a shul goer, and I knew him from shul, and we had a mutual friend, a couple, that we knew, and he just put me a little note through the door once and he said "he wants to speak to me and he wants to say hello". I'd met him just before that, to say hello to, and when I rang him up I said, "what's this all about" and I said, "well, come and see me if you want". I didn't know what he wanted, and you know, we decided, we had a lot in common and he was a lonely man because he was a bachelor and he was nine or ten years older than me, and he wanted to settle down. And I couldn't believe it, at that age, you know, I thought, well, better to be with somebody, companionship, than being on my own, and as I say, my children were both settled already and they weren't very thrilled with it, especially my daughter, my son was more of a man about town, he couldn't understand it, but eventually, my daughter said, well, if that's what you want, mom, and we were out, you know, for two and a half years we were going out together, and that's how it happened.

RL: So when did you marry?

ED: In August '89.

RL: And where did you marry?

ED: Also in Crumpsall.

RL: And where did you live after that?

ED: Here. I sold my flat, which was in Bristol Court, after the bungalow, and he was in Devonshire Court, and we bought this together.

RL: So you had moved out of the bungalow when your husband died?

ED: Well, when David got married, about four or five years later, yes.

RL: Right, so you sold that up and came to Devonshire Court, no this is Sommerville and you're still here now. How long were you married for?

Tape 2: 44 minutes 10 seconds

ED: Just a few months.

RL: Just a few months? Really? Right, so the companionship didn't last long?

ED: No, that was really sad because I had moved everything into here, and, you know, I thought we'd have a few years together, I knew it wasn't going to be a hundred years, but would have been nice, but wasn't to be, it was just like that.

RL: And you mentioned your children have become quite frum themselves? Did they... and you've got your grandchildren?

ED: They're very, very frum, yes.

RL: What do you think made them go along that path?

ED: What do I think? Well, my grandchildren, the parents they're frum, of course, and they even more so. I don't know what the path was, as I say, my children themselves had gone frum and enjoying being frum, and their children are equally, if not more.

RL: Have any of the grandchildren gone to Yeshiva or sem?

ED: Yes, yes. My, I've got, all my boys, apart from the youngster that David still got, have gone to Yeshiva and in fact I've got the married one now, that's in Yeshiva in Mir. And he's married just in February this year.

RL: And how do you feel about that?

ED: I'm thrilled if they're happy, that's all that matters.

RL: And so, in terms of, I just want to ask you, where are your grandchildren living?

ED: My eldest grandson married an American girl; he's living around the corner. He went to Yeshiva in Manchester, you know, he didn't go away. And... what did you ask me? I'm sorry...

RL: Where are your grandchildren living?

ED: Right, he's in Manchester, my other grandchildren are at Yeshiva, David's. Both boys are at Yeshiva, and there's a younger one that's going. And my daughter's got another one in Yeshiva as well, in Israel, in Jerusalem.

RL: Are your children involved in the community in any way?

ED: No, I don't think so, I think, no, I don't think so.

RL: I'm thinking of, I mean, David, he's...

ED: With the database, or something he's doing, I don't know what, one of them. Do

Tape 2: 47 minutes 15 seconds

you know anything about it? Maybe you know more than I do, I don't know. Something with the Burial Board, with the database, I don't really know what they're doing.

RL: Did you belong to any refugee organisations?

ED: Do I belong to any? Yes, there's the AJR I belong to.

RL: When did you join that?

ED: Not so very long ago. They have meetings, and all these stories come out slowly, you know. I don't know whether it's good for people or bad, but they come out, and each one's got a story, as you know. And they have meetings, and sometimes there's a Hanukah party or a Purim party... nice.

RL: Have you ever told your story before?

ED: No, no, I haven't. Except to the children, little bits and pieces, yes. As you talk, you remember more, you know, as you said.

RL: Is there anything you think we've left out that you wanted to say? Anything we've missed on the way?

ED: No, I don't know what you want to know. I don't think there's much more, no.

RL: And is there any sort of message you'd want to finish with?

ED: No. What kind of message do you mean?

RL: To your children, or your grandchildren?

ED: No, I'm glad to be here, this is like a safety net to me, always has been, even as a child. And... no, not really.

RL: Well, thank you very much.

Tape 2: 49 minutes 0 second

ED: This is myself as a baby, Elise Baroti, 1931, in Vienna.

This is my parents and myself in Vienna, taken in 1936, in a local park. Elise Baroti.

RL: And your parents names?

ED: Mr. and Mrs. Baroti.

This is Martha and Joseph Baroti and myself, taken in 1938, in Vienna.

This is my cousin David Baroti and myself, taken in Vienna, 1936.

This is a honeymoon photograph taken in 1953 in Blackpool, from my dear husband and myself, Joseph and Elise Moscovitz.

These are my two darling children, taken in... David and Debbie... taken in 1962, in Manchester.

This is David and Sarah, the date is February '82 and the place is Leeds.

RL: Surnames?

ED: Moscovitz.

These are my son's children, from left is Simon, the right one is Jonathan, and the middle one is Tolly, approximately 1990, taken in Manchester.

This was taken at the Bar Mitzvah of my grandson Danny Liefman, he is together with his parents Debbie and Gerald and his siblings Avi, Shimmy and Shana, taken in 1994 in Manchester.

END OF INTERVIEW