

IMPORTANT

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Interview Transcript Title Page

Collection title:	AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive
Ref. no:	205

Interviewee Surname:	Phillips
Forename:	Peter
Interviewee Sex:	Male
Interviewee DOB:	28 June 1935
Interviewee POB:	Vienna, Austria

Date of Interview:	30 March 2017
Location of Interview:	Loudwater, Hertfordshire
Name of Interviewer:	Dr. Bea Lewkowicz
Total Duration (HH:MM):	3 hours



REFUGEE VOICES

Interview No. RV205
NAME: Peter Phillips
DATE: 30th March 2017
LOCATION: Loudwater, Hertfordshire
INTERVIEWER: Dr. Bea Lewkowicz

[Part One]

[0:00:00 - 0:00:37 A description of a family portrait is added at end of interview in Photos]

[0:00:48]

Today is the 30th of March 2017. We are conducting an interview with Mr. Peter Phillips. My name is Bea Lewkowicz and we are in Loudwater, Hertfordshire.

What is your name please?

Peter Phillips.

And when were you born?

28th of June 1935.

And where were you born?

I was born in Vienna.

Thank you very much Mr. Phillips for agreeing to do this interview for Refugee Voices. Can you tell me a little bit about your family background please?

Family background. My father was a general practitioner in Vienna. In Vienna 2 [second Bezirk] which was Leopoldstadt which was the Jewish area. My mother was a housewife. I had a sister who died age seven three weeks before I was born, which was quite a tragedy really for my mother and father. Because there was I, about to come out and my sister died. We came to England in February 1939 via Switzerland where my mother had a cousin. We stayed in Switzerland for ten days in Zurich and then we came over to London on Imperial Airways, to Croydon.

Can you tell us a little bit more about your grandparents and where they had come from and-?

[0:02:15]

My grandparents, both sides. My parents met in Vienna. They'd come over from Galicia which was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Today it's the Ukraine- in between the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Ukraine. It had also been I think Poland, the USSR and goodness knows what. Hugo Gryn, famous rabbi, famously once said that he was born in Galicia and he's been to five countries without having to travel. ...They met. They came from Galicia- I'll start with my father whose name was Pfeffer. Because I changed my name to Phillips much later on in 1961. But we came over as the Pfeffers...which was very difficult to pronounce, even for me, let alone for the English. Because the 'P' was silent so nobody could say, [pronouncing with P] Pfeffer. They all had to say [pronouncing with silent P, or F] "Feffer". The Pfeffers came over just before the First World War or might even have been as the First World War started in 1914. My grandfather had a haberdashery shop and- which he had in the Hollandstraße in Vienna, or which he started in the Hollandstraße in Vienna. My father was reasonably academic and it was decided that he would study pharmacy. He then met my mother whose maiden name was Schmarak. And my mother was an orphan which I'll come back to in a moment, living with her sister and brother-in-law. And the brother-in-law decided that pharmacist was not good enough for my mother. So, my father had- if he was going to marry my mother, had to switch from pharmacy to medicine. So, at Vienna University he switched to becoming a doctor. And by the time they married in 1924, he was a fully qualified doctor. He had one brother, Joseph, who is still alive. No, sorry, he's dead. His- his- my cousin is still alive. One brother who went to America... who had wanted to

study law but because our mutual grandfather had been quite ill, suddenly had to take over the shop and he had to take over the shop so he never managed the legal qualification that he desired. On the other hand, my cousin made up for it by becoming a professor of chemical engineering in the States. On my mother's it's far more complicated because while there were only two - my father and his brother - Pfeffers, there were six Schmaraks. They also came over from Galicia from Tarnopol [present day Ternopil, Ukraine] which is a- sorry, I really should have said, my father came from a place called Tluste which is now Tovste and- which is quite a tiny place. My mother came from Tarnopol which is I think the second biggest city in Galicia. And they all left more or less Tarnopol the same time, around the First World War, except brother Bernhard who left because of the Cossacks at the turn of the century. Went to Chicago, became a window cleaner. Suddenly sky-scrapers were built. And he became the first millionaire in the family. And he had made more money as a window cleaner than certainly my father did as a doctor.

[0:05:59]

The other siblings: One stayed on in Tarnopol and was killed in the First World War together with my grandparents. My mother's parents. The others all came to Vienna. And again, there's some irony in these stories. Esther, my mother's next- no let's start at the beginning. Anna who was my mother's eldest sister, with whom she went to live, had met a guy called Joseph Demant and Joseph was a highflyer. He became a member of the Viennese town council. They made a bit of money. He had a wallpaper factory. And my mother, after- when she left Vienna- left Tarnopol, went to live with Joseph and Anna who by this time were married and- et cetera. The next one in the list would be Abraham, who ironically in Vienna changed his name to Adolf, which when the war broke out quickly changed it back to Abraham. The next one was Erna who perished in Auschwitz. She actually - again - was born Esther but in Vienna changed her name to Erna. I think she died as Erna but the- she and her husband as opposed to the rest of the family all- they went east, while the rest of us went west. And to the best of my knowledge, they died in Auschwitz- which, and I'm not being facetious when I say we actually were fairly likely less off because- except for a cousin which I'll come to. Erna is the only one who perished in a concentration camp. So that means Anna was the oldest, Bernhard was the one who went to Chicago, Adolf was number three, the one who died in the First World War four, Erna five, my mother six - yeah, that's it. The other ones who actually died in a concentration camp were Adolf or Abraham's elder

daughter, who was taken to Belsen with a newly born baby and her husband was a doctor. It is known that the mother and the child were- died fairly quickly. The husband, it's established, was alive almost to the time the British liberated Belsen. And died after the Germans had already left. So that was particularly tragic. There's another very sad story, really, which I don't know whether they did the right thing or the wrong thing But, when my uncle went to Belsen to look around, there was one child that attached himself to him. And Abraham - Adolph - decided that that might be his grandchild. And he wanted to adopt the child but his wife said, "No you're mad." "You're not going to do that." So, he didn't and I think he regretted it because he still felt that may have been his grandchild. Anyway, that's by the by.

When was that?

That was in 1945. As- after Belsen was liberated.

So, he came as- as a liberator, or...?

[0:09:25]

No, no. He came from- right, let me go back again.

Yes.

Going back to- my father's brother went to America. And he and his wife and my cousin, 'the professor', are actually- went to New York. On my mother's side, Bernhard as I've already said, became this millionaire window cleaner in Chicago. Adolf went first to Switzerland and then also went to Chicago being sponsored by Bernhard. Anna and Joseph went to Ecuador first and then were sponsored by Bernhard and also went to Chicago. My mother and father came to London. So, when Adolf went to Belsen it was after the end of the war, to try and find what had happened to his daughter, his son-in-law and his grandchild. So that was as a civilian American- sort of. Did he have American nationality? I have no idea. As an Austrian, or whatever.

And you have this knowledge. Where does this- where- how do you know all these things?

I was interested in it. I've written- I'm not calling it a book because it isn't a book yet, but I've written the life story of both the families...

Right.

... going back to about 1830.

So, you've done quite a lot of research.

And so, I've done quite a lot of research on it. It's something that I'm interested in and funnily enough I've got a grand- an Australian grandson, who has done family trees and goodness knows what. So, he's fascinated - he's sixteen or- fourteen - with all this genealogy.

Ok, so let's go back to your story.

Back again.

Do you know how your parents met?

No. I gather my mother was... quite attractive. Obviously, the fact that her brother-in-law and sister insisted my father read medicine before he was allowed to marry her. No, I don't actually know how they met. No idea. It was a happy marriage. Ruined of course by the death of my sister and then the Holocaust which happened very soon afterwards.

What happened to your sister?

[0:11:45]

My sister had... earache. It was ordinary middle-ear inflammation but there was no penicillin or sulphonamides or things like that at the time. And... it turned into a mastoid. And then meningitis. And she died literally three weeks before I was born, which was... quite- well, incredibly tragic. So... And I think the fact that it was seven years between my sister and me

they must have wanted another child for a long time and then I do, my mother does become pregnant with me, but her daughter dies.

Did they talk about her?

They talked enormously about her. And I've got loads of photographs of her. And- I think the thing that- because we were- it sounds bizarre and most people can't understand how my father left my mother and me in the apartment and surgery. But my father was due to go to Dachau. And a patient's wife had rung up saying, "My husband's a member of the Gestapo..."- or SS or whichever one it was – "and I thought I'd warn you, that- get out!" That was on Kristallnacht. "Because you are due as a..." I don't know what 'eminent' means, but- "as an eminent Jew in Vienna, you are due to be taken to Dachau." So, the Gestapo duly arrived and they smashed up the whole surgery and the whole apartment. But the thing that mattered most to my mother, were that they smashed all the photographs of my sister that were in frames. All the glass, because they were all in glass frames, were smashed and all over the place. And these pictures were just lying on the floor. What people haven't understood is how could my father disappear, leaving me and my mother in the surgery and the apartment. And the answer was that she- the- this patient had given her word and they took it, that they were not interested in my mother or me. They were only interested in my father and therefore, it was he that needs to get out. And my mother and I, they won't touch us. So, we were in the apartment. I was only three - was I three? – yes, I was three when- on Kristallnacht.

And where, just to go back a little bit, before we talk about Kristallnacht- where was the surgery? In the- you-?

[0:14:22]

The surgery was right next door to- it was almost the same. They may have had two different entrances but it was right next door to where we lived.

And what was the address please?

Förstergasse fünf.

And that was in the zweite Bezirk?

That's in the *zweite Bezirk*.

And can you describe- I mean, you probably- do you have any memories of that at all?

Well, only that I've taken my children and- two of my grandchildren to have a look at Förstergasse *fünf*...

Yes?

And... It's- obviously was bombed; it was in the Russian sector and it's all newly- new houses. But there is a Förstergasse *fünf*. And what was actually really horrible was that on the- our last visit which wasn't that long ago. A couple of years, if that, when I took two of my grandchildren, which I hadn't seen before, there was a placard in a- I'm making the number up - in Förstergasse *neun*, saying: "Four Jews were hidden in this house throughout the whole of the Nazi occupation. Unfortunately, they were caught right at the end." And that was quite sobering for me and certainly for my two grandsons. And my son. And my wife.

So, what do you imagine the flat and the surgery looked like?

Ornate. I don't know, is the answer. I've never really thought about it. Heavy, ornate, German Austrian Polish *Mitt*- European furniture, with lots of *Kristallglas* and- I don't know. I have no idea.

And was there, do you know whether there was a maid, or- who lived there?

Yes. Sounds as though we were very posh. We had a maid and we had a nanny. And ... presumably there was a cleaner as well, I don't know. But what was again, horrific, and I'm sorry to keep going back to the Holocaust, but the nanny and the maid who left after the Anschluss, both wanted big presents when they left, because otherwise they would turn us in. So, they went away with loads of money. So, although they were wonderful, I- it- I gather. Allegedly. The- once the Anschluss happened, they were not so wonderful.

So obviously you don't have any memories, but what happened? What happened in Anschluss- in the Anschluss? What did your parents tell you?

[0:17:03]

Well, my mother was more with it than my father, really, because my father was one of the few Jewish doctors allowed... to carry on working under Hitler. And therefore, my father decided- ah, well, it won't happen to him. My mother really wanted to get out of ...Austria almost the moment the Anschluss was decided. But he kept saying, "No, no we're going to be all right. We're going to be all right. We're going to be all right." He then, when he had his teeth kicked in by some louts - Nazi louts - in the street, he then decided which seemed a completely mad idea, but he and his brother decided to climb into Switzerland. But they were caught by the Swiss guards and sent back.

By themselves?

Yeah, by themselves. So- must have been fitter than I was, anyway. What was that, 1938, '39? He would have been about forty-one. And his brother would have been I don't know, thirty-eight, thirty-nine. Then he got beaten up a few more times in the streets by which time I think even he decided well, perhaps he ought to get out. But it was my mother who I gather right from the Anschluss onwards, said, "We've got to leave. We've got to leave. We've got to leave." And this story you've heard from goodness knows how many times on just about every film that's ever been made about the Holocaust, but it was difficult to get out. Luckily my father found a- a... sponsor called Solomon Badler, who was a distant cousin in England. And obviously there was also Bernhard Schmarak, the window cleaner in Chicago. So, we managed to get exit permits to England through Badler and through Bernhard to America. But it was very, very difficult to getting these exit permits and it must have cost my father a lot of money to actually buy off the Austrians, who, to give you the permit, would still want loads- loads of money. And the one that came through first was the English one. So, my mother had this cousin as I said earlier called [inaudible] in Zurich. And so... we fled to England via Zurich. Where oddly Adolf - Abraham - was also.

Why do you think did they go via Zurich?

[0:19:33]

It's a good question. I- I- I don't know. Presumably- what I do think I remember, and I'm not sure I do, although I've just been told this and therefore, I think I remember it. I know we took a train from Vienna to Zurich. Now, perhaps it was easier to get out via Zurich, than to go from Austria to England that way. So, we certainly went first to Zurich, had a whatever it was, seven days, ten days with the [inaudible] in Zurich. And then went on by plane from Zurich. Perhaps there weren't the flights, or trains, or whatever from Vienna direct to London. I've no idea.

What date was it? When did you go?

Round about the 21st of February we arrived in England. So, I suppose we left Vienna ten days before that or twelve days before that. Very early in February, '39.

Thirty-nine, yes. So... about two months after Kristallnacht.

Yeah. So, he- he did- my father- I'm probably giving my father too hard a time saying he didn't move very fast. But I do know, because when my parents had a row, which was not very often - yes it was - but when my parents had a row, I know my mother kept saying, "And you didn't want to leave Vienna." So... the- I think obviously it was only two months. But it was she who- my father was very- even after the war ended, he was quite proud of being Austrian. He didn't want to be- having been born in Galicia, which by that time in- during the First- the Second World War was Poland- he didn't want to be Polish. He didn't want to speak- even though he could speak Polish, he didn't- wouldn't speak Polish. My mother would speak Polish, but he refused to be Polish. In a strange way he was- it was a bit like *Edelweiß* in *Sound of Music*. My father was quite proud of being an Austrian. And I think that may be why he wasn't as keen to leave as my mother was. He felt "I'm an Austrian. I fought for Austria in the First World War." Which he did. He- he was an ambulance whatever. Medic. In the First World War. So, he'd ...I don't think he could quite believe what was happening to him, an Austrian, in- after the Anschluss.

[0:22:02]

Maybe because of- also, who were his patients?

Most of the patients were Jewish.

Right?

Most of the patients were- in fact-

Because of the location?

Because of the location. I'm not going to say 100 percent, but I'd say ninety-nine percent of his patients were Jewish.

Well, one patient wasn't. The one who warned him...

Yeah. One patient obviously wasn't.

At least.

Sure, OK. You're right. You've corrected me. Let's say ninety percent. But yes, the Leopoldstadt is- was almost entirely Jewish.

And on Kristallnacht did he manage not to get arrested?

Yes. He-

Where did he- where did he go?

Well, the most bizarrely he went to his brother's, who- they'd had an - perhaps they weren't that- that desperate to find him. But, no, he- he hid at his in his brother's apartment.

So, was he working until Kristallnacht and then stopped?

He worked till they- we left.

Oh, he continued.

Yeah. He literally continued, and they didn't have cars in those- well, but Joseph Demant because he was fairly wealthy had a car. But my father did all his visits on foot. That's why he got beaten up so often because presumably there may have been a Jewish accent when he spoke, I've no idea. Or... perhaps he looked Jewish. But he got beaten up quite- quite a few times. He got beaten up two or three times... doing his visits on foot.

OK, so then they, they went to Switzerland. They stayed- you stayed...

[0:23:31]

Then they stayed in Switzerland- we stayed in Switzerland. The only thing, again, I'm told on the flight to England, aged three-and-a-half, I wanted to *aufsteigen* [rise, take off], and all I wanted to do was get out of the plane, I'm told. And this has been held against me forever, that the only thing I could say was *aufsteigen*. And then we arrived in... at Croydon Airport with Imperial Airways.

And what could they take, your parents?

It's a very, very good question that, because had I not thought about it, I'd have said, very little, but there were quite a few pictures of my sister. There were... more belongings than I thought, because what actually happened was, they parcelled everything up in big crates which we saw after the war, and they were sent off to Chicago. So, all the big belongings... went to Chicago. So, this was mainly hand luggage that my parents took. But God knows how the- and my father was- I'm like my father, I'm hopeless at packing, so my mother must have done it all. How they managed to get as much into hand luggage as they did, is quite beyond me. But it was hand luggage that they took first to Switzerland and then to England.

Did you take anything? I mean, I know you can't remember.

I took- yes, I do remember one thing, only because I was, I had it till I was about ten. I had a teddy bear. A big teddy bear, not one of those little teddy bears, but a big teddy bear.

So, he came?

He came.

And where is this teddy bear? Do you still have it?

God no. No idea. Knowing my wife, she probably threw it away. No. I'm sure that the teddy bear must have left me in my- before I was ten.

So, you said they came to England. They had a guarantor here?

[0:25:27]

They had a guarantor Saul Badler, who as I say was a very, very distant cousin. And when we first arrived, we stayed with him in- where else but NW3- in happy Hampstead. Somewhere around Haverstock Hill. Then we moved to our own - sounds very grand - flat, digs, whatever you want to call it, room. In Haverstock Hill. And then it was- war was about to break out and my grandmother and my father's brother were still stuck in Vienna. And my father and Badler- it couldn't be my father, it was prob- although he wanted to take credit for it, it was probably Solomon Badler, managed to get my grandmother and Joseph, my father's brother, and his wife and my cousin, out from- and that was in August '39. So literally just before the war started. Now, due to bureaucracy, which was very weird, Gisa my aunt and 'Bob' or Robert, my cousin, were able to move straight on to New York. Because Gisa had a sponsor called Aberbach in New York who was a music- had a music company. And- but Joseph couldn't because Joseph for reasons which is beyond me and my cousin, had a Polish visa. And the Americans wouldn't accept the Polish visa. They'd accept an Austrian visa but wouldn't accept a Polish visa. So, Joseph stayed with us, well- well into the early 1940s before he could re-join his wife in New York. But that- that was again, thanks to Solomon Badler and my father agitating like mad to get his brother and mother out.

Yeah. And they came.

And they came.

And they stayed in England, the mother? The grandmother?

No, no, no. My grandmother stayed with me - all her life.

Right.

[0:27:25]

When I say with me, with my parents, all her life. And in fact, she outlived both my father and her other son. So... she lived to a ripe old age of ninety-three, while both my father and my uncle died in their sixties. But the ...No, as I say, she stayed on. Uncle Joe stayed on till the early forties, when his Polish visa was accepted in New York. But Gisa and Bob went immediately within days from London straight on to New York.

Do you know was it your parents aim also to go to America? Did they-?

Yes. Well, I can, well I can tell you now or later. Because at this- we now jump very quickly to 1945, '46, '47 when they decided they wanted British nationality. Or they would go to New York. By this time my father was- had a practice in Banbury, in Oxfordshire. And his patients put a petition which was actually signed by 3,000 saying: "Doctor Pfeffer must be naturalised". And so, he used blackmail by saying unless I get naturalisation quickly, I'm off to New York. And Colonel Douglas Dodds-Parker who was our MP in Banbury and we were one of the first- we were naturalised by about forty- early '47. So, we didn't go to New York nor- or to Chicago but stayed in England. But I've jumped. I've jumped right from '39 to '45.

Right. Let's go back. And it brings me to you. What are your earliest memories?

Besides *aufsteigen*?

Yeah.

What are my earliest memories? My earliest memories I suppose are the Blitz. And we were bombed out three times in Hampstead. We were- we were good at getting bombed out. But we lived in Haverstock Hill and, and that had a bomb. We then moved to Fellows Road and that got a bomb. And the last one was the Adelaide Road which is the one I remember best because we'd come out of sheltering in Swiss Cottage underground station. And I was older by then by a few months. And that one I do remember, because I thought, well, "Where are my toys going to be?" We walked back to Adelaide Road where we had this flat and the house had gone. It was completely gone and the only thing was that I was worried about was where were my toys? So that one I do remember. I don't really remember much about Haverstock Hill and Fellows Road, but I know we got bombed out three times in Haver- in happy Hampstead.

[0:30:11]

In which shelters- were you in Swiss Cottage?

Swiss Cottage. Yeah.

Not in the Belsize Park?

No...no. I- allegedly, I can't remember this, my mother would hold me up so I didn't fall, all night, in Swiss Cottage underground station... as the Blitz was going on above. Then, and this is a coincidence, having had enough of bombs and the Blitz, a lot of Austrian Jews ...most of them funnily enough doctors or lawyers and dentists, moved to lo and behold, this area. Near Watford. Place called Garston which is a- three miles, two miles- it's a suburb of Watford. And none of them could work because Austrian doctors and dentists and lawyers none of- well nobody- were allowed to work. My father would take the 142 bus which still runs, to Bloomsbury House to learn English. And if you were a good pupil you would be given an apple and he would bring back the apple for me. And as far as I- well this I do remember; they played cards and dominoes all day because there was nothing else to do. And the women gossiped or did whatever they did. My grandmother was with us as well. And so we lived in Garston Crescent... for about a year.

When did you move? When did they move?

They moved around- just after the Blitz. So... '41.

Yeah.

I then, much to my parents... horror, developed also ear problems. And I- the ear, nose and throat hospital had been evacuated to Ashridge, where funnily enough I played bridge yesterday. But Ashridge which is also not a million miles from Watford; it's about ten miles from Watford. And I was in there for seven weeks having a mastoid done as well. So, my parents thought, well this- you know, they'd lost one. But luckily for me, by this time, penicillin had been invented. And although it was a long deal, seven weeks in hospital, and difficult because my parents- my, my mother's English was non-existent. My father was only just learning. There were no cars but she'd come and visit me which was still six, seven miles from Garston, almost every day, by bus. Or walking.

[0:32:42]

So that you do remember?

That I do remember. Yeah, I remember- I was due to come out of hospital and my father had come to visit- pick me up. Ad he said to... the nurse, sister, other doctor, I don't know who it was, "I don't like the look of him. He looks as though he's still got a temperature." "No, no. He's fine." And I wasn't fine and they had to do the other ear. So yeah, I know I was there for seven weeks, which is a great disappointment when you think you're coming home. [half laughs] You're not going home; you're going to have another operation instead. So that I do remember. And I remember their playing cards and their playing dominoes and I still remember- what is so different nowadays, where they all call themselves by their surname. There wasn't sort of, "Hello, Bill, and Hello Fred and Hello Charlie", they were all "Hello Goldberg, Hello... Bernstein, Hello Pfeffer". I mean, everyone was a surname.

Yeah.

And then-

What about- sorry to interrupt you- what about internment? Did that affect your parents?

No. And it's a mystery to me. We weren't interned. My father wasn't interned. I had a little cousin who's sadly died who was seven years older than me. She and her mother were interned. We weren't. I don't know. I've never quite understood the internment thing because why weren't we interned? Why was my innocent cousin seven years older than me, therefore she'd have been about ten or eleven- Why was she interned? It doesn't make any sense. No, we weren't interned.

Was she - must have been - with her mother?

She was with her mother. Her mother was Czech. Did they like interning-? She was a divorcee. Did they like interning people if they were Czechs? I really haven't a clue. I don't know why we weren't. Thank God we weren't, but we were not interned.

She must have been classified 'Enemy Alien A' for the women and children, otherwise they wouldn't have interned her.

Presumably – presumably. Why were we not enemy alien - anything?

You didn't- so your father-?

[0:34:39]

No, no. No. And then suddenly, which was tremendous for my father - for all of us, was that Austrian and German doctors were allowed to practice. So were the dentists. Obviously, the lawyers weren't, without taking an exam, as long as they would pass and English exam. My father I think was quite good at languages. In fact, was very good at languages. I think his English in the end - his written English - was probably better than mine. But he passed this exam. And the one thing though that was essential, was that the German and Austrian doctors had to work with an English doctor. So, you couldn't open your own practice or be on your own. You had to be as an assistant - not in partnership - as an assistant to an English doctor. And we were sent from the nice middleclass Watford area, Watford's not that middleclass, but anyway, suburban area of the Watford area, to Becontree, which was the LCC estate for

the Ford workers in Dagenham. And we were given a council house, which was fine. And my father started working with a Jewish doctor called Doctor Joe Finer in Becontree. And we had this ...council house, which was comfortable and no, if I look at it now, you'd think, gosh. But the- it was fine and we were incredibly grateful and it was wonderful. It- what- by this time some of my mother's relatives had come over to England. Cousins and nephews and nieces and things. And they inevitably were in NW3. And therefore, it was a bit of a schlep getting from Becontree on the District Line. I still remember where we changed and all that kind of thing, getting from Becontree to NW3. And I remember much preferring Belsize Park tube station to Chalk Farm, because Belsize Park had escalators which were terribly exciting and Chalk Farm had a lift, which was not so exciting. But the... But my mother's niece and nephew, that was at that time the only ones, my mother's niece and nephew had come over, had found a place. One in Finchley and one in oddly enough in St. Albans the nephew in St. Albans. And a lot of moth- no, a lot is an exaggeration. One or two of my mother's friends had also come over from Vienna and they were also in the NW3 area. So, we did, when we met people, we met them in Hampstead.

Yes.

And places which have become legends, like The Cosmo and Dorice and... The Cumberland Hotel and all this kind of thing.

Tell us more about it. What do you remember? Tell us...

[0:37:54]

Well, no. Well, I remember I had one particular friend called Eric - Erich Nussbaum, who changed his name in England to Eric Nuttall. But funnily enough when he went- he then moved on to America at the end of the war and he then became Nussbaum again. But in England he was Nuttall. And... He was my best friend and I played with him cowboys and Indians - and all the things you're not allowed to play these days. A funny story which I know I shouldn't tell but I'm going to tell because I want to shock everyone. We had a cat in Becontree and the cat was black.

Yes.

And it was called 'Nigger'. And - I'm sorry about this. I'm purposely telling this story. We would go into the garden to call the cat and we would go, "Nigger, Nigger, Nigger!" Now, imagine that today!

Yeah...

But that was a different society in 1942 or '43, to what we have today. And one of the things that still I find very funny, was having a cat called 'Nigger' when in fact you can't even have a gollywog on your... jam nowadays. So, things have changed dramatically. Becontree was very much a working-class area.

Yeah.

Probably now they'd all be National Front. But the- my father, A, he- to him, medicine was everything. I mean, he was a truly vocational doctor. And I'm not just saying that because he was my father. He was also a very, very good doctor, a very dedicated doctor. He hated house visits at night but he would do house visits at night. And... he was- he was a bloody good doctor. He really was. Whatever faults he had he was a very good doctor. And- but, because we were good at getting bombed, when we had the flying bombs, our house had a direct hit in Becontree. Now very, very luckily, my father and grandmother were sheltering in the Becontree shelter which was near the station. And my mother and I had been- had gone off to a family in Banbury who were friends of- of relations of... some of my father's patients. And we weren't there.

[Sound break]

Yes, please.

[0:40:19]

So very luckily, when the house in Ban- in Becontree had the flying bomb hit it, my grandmother and father were sheltering in the Becontree shelter. And my mother and I happened to be in Banbury where some patients of my father's had some relatives in

Banbury. And they said, “Well, Banbury’s wonderful.” They hadn’t had a bomb except one, that was dropped after Coventry. This was a respite from flying bombs and V-2s and all that. “Why doesn’t Betty and Peter go to stay with my relatives for a while?” So, we did. And it was that time when the house in Becontree got hit. Then we had another bit of luck. Because we couldn’t go back. There was no house. Although Doctor Finer was a lovely man, his wife didn’t particularly- wasn’t that hospitable. And she wasn’t going to say, “Well you can all come live with us.” So, we actually stayed in Banbury. And my father and grandmother stayed in Becontree living in shelters for quite a while, about maybe two months. And then a real marvellous piece of luck, because it was still the war and doctors, Jewish doctors were still- sorry- German and Austrian Jewish doctors were still not allowed to work on their own. But there was a Society was a precursor to the National Health Service called the Friends’ Society Medical Association - were advertising for a doctor who would work for a committee. They were panel patients. They were people who paid in, therefore there were no private patients. They weren’t rich. And the old man applied for it in Banbury and he got it. And so, just before the war ended, round about February, March... ’45, he took this job in Banbury. And therefore, the family were reunited in Banbury... and my mother and I moved into the house that we were given or he was given to have- which had both the surgery and the living accommodation. There was a committee that looked after it and I remember my father- my father was a bit worried. I suppose it’s understandable because of the Nazis, about authority. But I know that if the committee met, I wasn’t allowed to have *Dick Barton* on too long, or... now there’s the doorbell.

[Sound break]

[0:42:47]

So, when the committee met, I had- everything had to be played very low because I wasn’t supposed- mustn’t disturb them. And I couldn’t have friends in when the committee met and I used to listen to *Dick Barton Special Agent* and *Paul Temple*, and that had to be played low. But Banbury was- Banbury was OK in comparison to the war still waging everywhere else. Because Banbury, as I say, except for the one bomb when they bombed Coventry in about 1940-41, you wouldn’t have thought there had been a war at all. And then I suppose the best thing of all that happened was the NHS, because the Friends’ Society Medical Association ceased to exist. All those patients switched to my father, and suddenly, although there were, I

think, eleven doctors in Banbury, he had the largest practice, and they were *his*! They were *his*. And so, things really looked up from 1948 onwards.

Just tell me, how was it for your father? You said the first was quite- Dagenham was working class. How did he relate to...?

He was- he was very- my father was- was Labour, really. He was fairly left-wing. He was definitely a socialist. And... so he- he, he quite liked that. And he didn't- I mean he was the only one - besides the fact that it helped him personally- he was the only one that really welcomed in the National Health Service, because he couldn't see any reason why if you had money you could get good doctors and if you didn't have any money, you couldn't have good doctors. So, while most of the doctors in Banbury- Banbury was written about in the 50s as being one of the most snobbish societies in the whole of England. The old man actually... disagreed with all of them because he really was at heart a socialist and I think- I'm almost sure he voted Labour. So- before Corbyn. But I think that ...he, he felt at home with the ...Ford workers in Becontree. And he felt at home with the people who couldn't afford proper medicine. When I say, 'proper medicine', who couldn't afford- the private patients. And he felt at home with the Friendly Society Medical Association.

And how did your mother manage her...?

[0:45:11]

My mother had it far tougher than my father. My father was working all day, he loved his work, he was dedicated to his work. He was into football and Banbury had a small football team where he became the doctor. And he enjoyed that. And- no, my mother found it much more difficult because she never had any English lessons, and although her spoken English was fine, her written English was not fine. And my father or I would have to correct her written English... right to the end. ...She missed ...The Dorice, The Cosmo, The Cumberland Hotel. She missed- there were no Jews in Banbury. We were the only Jewish family in the whole of Banbury. And she missed having anything Jewish about her. And this to her was... very difficult. My father again, perhaps because of what happened in, well, undoubtedly because of what happened in Vienna, did not publicise the fact that he was Jewish. But people in Banbury except the other doctors were not overly bright in discovering

that. And therefore, at no stage did anyone actually know, openly, that we were Jewish. As far as they were concerned, he was some Austrian who happened to be in Banbury. He wasn't an Austrian Jew; he was an Austrian. And... so for my mother, it was quite difficult, because she felt she had nothing in common with the other doctors' wives. Because the society was so snobby, you only mixed with other people in the professions. And I think she probably spoke to our char lady as much as she spoke- no, I'm exaggerating. But the- what I'm saying is that she didn't have much of a social life. And her social life on a Sunday, every other Sunday we would drive to Finchley, where my neph- my- my cousins, her nephews and nieces and then eventually some of the Americans came over and lived in London. So, her sister came and lived in London. Her life was coming to London and seeing her relatives in Finchley. And then staying on occasionally and doing The Dorice and The Cosmo and The Cumberland Hotel and all that. Banbury- I think she was very, very lonely. Now if you talk about my mother, my grandmother, who hardly spoke English, let alone write English, she really had no life at all. Her life was my father and me and my mother. And that's all she had, because she couldn't speak. She still dressed as though we- she was in the *shtetl*, although she came from Vienna. But she wasn't interested in- in anything. She was a wonderful old lady who was still- prayed every day.

What was her name?

[0:48:10]

Her original name was Breine. And in Vienna she was Beate.

And she prayed every day.

She prayed every day. My father prayed every day. And I'll- allowed- if I can, I'll now go into the religious bit because it's quite odd.

Yes, it's something we ask.

I gather in Vienna we were kosher. Although my parents were not in any way religious. Yes, they had a Friday night and yes, they were kosher but they didn't go to shul every- every Shabbat or anything else. By- by the time they came to England they weren't kosher at all.

And I ate ham. My- I ate bacon. We had no dietary laws whatsoever. As I say, my father- it's being unkind to my father to say he hid he was Jewish, but he certainly didn't publicise he was Jewish. We had Pesach, but my mother would go into Oxford and buy a kosher chicken mainly for my grandmother. But my father would fast on Yom Kippur even though doing surgery during Yom Kippur. He prayed every morning, and yet he had this- we were able- because this is the great thing about Judaism I suppose- we were able to do whatever we wanted to do. Even though he prayed every day, and... he ate ham, he ate bacon. He had- didn't have those kinds of hang-ups. The- 'Hang-ups' is the wrong thing to say. He didn't have those kinds of beliefs.

Yeah.

I- Ban- in Banbury, being... the only Jewish family, of course I didn't have any Jewish girlfriends, 'cause there weren't any Jewish girls. On the other hand, it had been drummed into me that I must marry somebody Jewish. And... when I went to Oxford, there was the Oxford University Jewish Society ball. And I said to my mother I didn't know anyone Jewish to take. And she reminded me there was a girl at my Bar Mitzvah – 'cause I did have a Bar Mitzvah - in Oxford, which was our nearest town with a shul, who would be about my age, therefore she'd be thirteen- uh, eighteen by now. So, I wrote to her out of the blue, and she became my girlfriend during - it wasn't Davida - during Oxford. And then we split up and Davida and I met by going to a Jewish hotel in Bournemouth, where, at that time, Bournemouth had about seven Jewish hotels. And that was a- great places just to meet Jews of the opposite sex. Seven hotels. Wonderful. And that's where I met Davida. So basically, my own Judaism, is- yes, I did have a Bar Mitzvah. No, in no way do I follow anything. I have belonged to a shul. I'm a very much a progressive Jew, in that I don't mind Reform or Liberal because although neither of them like me saying this, as far as I'm concerned, they're interchangeable. But the- I'm not a keen- I'm not keen on the United Synagogue and seeing this is an open platform, I will now tell two more stories just to shock everyone.

Go on.

[0:51:44]

My father's funeral at Bushey. He died unexpectedly, in 1965, of a heart attack. We were already married obviously and... we were living in Bushey, so the obvious place for him to be buried was Bushey. And we were in the prayer hall, when a chap with a big top hat patted me on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, are you the son?" I said, "Yes." "Could I have a word with you?" I said, "Well, we're in the middle of prayers." He said, "No, I really need to have a word with you, urgently." So, I went outside. "I don't think we can bury your father. We haven't had your cheque for the transport of your father's body from Oxford to Banbury-from Oxford to Bushey." Now in those days I carried a chequebook. I would have either have hit him or given a cheque, so I gave him a cheque. I was not impressed by that. In fact, I was unbelievably depressed and became very, very anti- the United Synagogue which is unfair on the United synagogues to- because of some idiot at Bushey Cemetery. But the same thing happened at Bushey Cemetery when my grandmother died. Where- my- I didn't think my Hebrew was good enough to say Kaddish. And therefore, the rabbi who did the service, said, "Well, what about your..." - Davida's brothers - "can they say Kaddish?" I said, "I don't think they can- their Hebrew's good enough." Anyway, somebody said Kaddish. And then they came back to us for the Shiva. And he said, "Why can't- isn't your Hebrew good enough?" So, I explained I was brought up in Banbury and yes, I had a Bar Mitzvah, but my Hebrew wasn't good enough. Rhubarb, rhubarb, rhubarb. He said, "What about your brothers-in-law? Why is their Hebrew so bad?" I said, "I haven't a clue. They were brought up in Hampstead Garden Suburb, so that they were brought up in the Jewish area. Ask them." And my oldest son-in- brother-in-law, who was very aggressive and stupid at that time - may still be - said, "Not only can I not speak Hebrew, but I even married out." And suddenly this rabbi said to me, "I don't feel comfortable here. Could you take me home?" So, I said, "Yes, sure." So, I drove him back to- he was from Finchley. I drove him back to Finchley. And he said, "You know, a lot of people come to me and say, Rabbi, I've fallen in love - his word - I've fallen in love with a *shiksa*, what shall I do? And what I say is, have them as a mistress but marry a nice Jewish girl." At which point I nearly slammed on the break and told him to get out of my bloody car. So, I had a few thoughts about... Judaism and United- well not Judaism but United synagogues which I didn't like. I then met a wonderful rabbi whose son has taken over our synagogue called Andrew Goldstein who is or was the- he's now the emeritus rabbi at North London Pinner Synagogue, who I think is wonderful and is now one of my closest friends. I was on the Synagogue Council for ten years. His then associate rabbi who's a photographer, Frank Dabba Smith, I think is a wonderful rabbi as well. And I've actually got very involved with Liberal Judaism and the rabbis thereof. Which is ironic, after

my time in Banbury and also my disagreements with the, the two guys from the United Synagogue.

But your parents, when they came, did they join a synagogue, or there wasn't a synagogue?

[0:55:24]

They- no, they joined Oxford.

They joined Oxford.

They never went. It's twenty-three miles. They never went. That's where I had my- my Bar Mitzvah.

And there must have been other refugees in Oxford.

Loads of refugees in Oxford. At my Bar Mitzvah there were loads and loads of refugees from- in Oxford.

Yeah. So, when was your Bar Mitzvah?

Forty-eight. 1948. But the- no, even Miriam Margolyes, God help us, was in- she- she's the Jew who is a self-hating Jew, who is always- if there's anything nasty to say about Israel, she's the first Jew to stand up and say it. No, her family lived in Oxford. This girl who I went out with while I was in Oxford her family were in Oxford. There were loads of Jews in Oxford at that time. They'd evacuated from London.

Yeah. But tell us about your own schooling and what...

My own schooling. Actually, another good story there which, I think my father did 100 percent the right thing. But a friend of mine who- I played bridge with him yesterday, thinks he did the wrong thing. Be interesting to hear what you think.

Go on.

[0:56:34]

I went to this school and I was again, the only Jewish boy in the school. It was Magdalen College School, Ox- Brackley, which was the sister school to Magdalen College School, Oxford, and at that time was an independent school. But after the Butler Act and this Act and the other Act, it then became a direct-grant school. And by the time I left it had become a grammar school. Because Magdalen College Oxford were only allowed to have one school and of course they chose Magdalen College School Oxford. And therefore, Magdalen College School Brackley, which is where I was, in Northamptonshire, and Magdalen College School Liverpool, they had to get rid of and give it- hand it over to the council. Anyway. I was the only Jew at the school. And the headmaster at the time was a reverend. The Reverend Arthur Bolton. And... when it came to discussing what would happen to me during- there was a chapel. What would happen to me when everyone went to chapel and when they had religious lessons and everything else. What Bolton said to my father was, "It's up to you, Doctor Pfeffer, *but* I would suggest that he's not treated any differently to any of the other boys. That he goes to chapel when they do. That he goes to religious classes. Well, some of it will be Old Testament anyway. And that nothing changes throughout the time he's there." And I did. And when I was a prefect, I read the lesson whether it was New Testament or Old Testament. And I don't think- there may have been one or two boys in the school who knew I was Jewish; I doubt it somehow. One or two of the teachers may- probably did know. But I was very happy at the school. I was good at school. I was academically bright... on the art side. I was hopeless at sciences. Which is why I read law and not medicine, much to my father's dismay, where he literally cried when I said, "I can't- there's no way am I going into the science Sixth. I do not understand physics. It is quite beyond me, physics." So that is why I went into the humanities side. But the- no, I- I loved school. I- oddly, I was good at rugby and I got on to the school's first fifteen. And I was hopeless at cricket so I managed to become the umpire. But the- no, I- I liked school very much. And the school, when it became a grammar school and the Reverend Arthur Bolton had gone, a guy called Eric Forrester became headmaster, who is my hero. I have two heroes: Eric Forrester and the editor of *The Sunday Times*. But Eric Forrester was a really bloody fine headmaster. And while it was an independent school, we were lucky if every year we got one person into either Oxford or Cambridge. By the time I left Oxford, there were in Oxford and Cambridge nineteen of us. So, Eric Forrester- it may also be that the intake once we became a grammar school, was a

much better intake than when we were an independent school. But Forrester's philosophy was, "Let them try. If they fail, they fail." Bill Bolton's philosophy was, "We don't want them to fail. It's not good for the school or for them. So, if we don't think they're Oxford or Cambridge material, let them go to Sheffield or Leicester or wherever - Liverpool." And obviously I think Forrester, as I say, is one of my two heroes because I think he was a brilliant headmaster and he did an enormous amount for the school. But, at school- no, I was very happy at school.

[1:00:20]

And did you- I guess you had no accent?

No accent.

You had no accent. So, you-

Nobody knew I was- I was- I mean, the thing that upset me was the name 'Pfeffer'.

Yeah.

Other than the name Pfeffer, nothing, nothing else upset me. Why- why do I have to be called Pfeffer? Then- two things. No, I'll come back to that. The- no, I- I found speech day, where - this sounds very immodest where - I normally did get a prize and my parents would come. I found that embarrassing because they had a foreign accent.

Yeah...

And the boys wanted to know why they had a foreign accent. So, I had to go a bit into, "Well, they're Austrian..." So, I found that a bit difficult... as far as the school was concerned, that...

You wanted to fit in?

I wanted- I wanted to be in- and perhaps I've always wanted it all my life. I wanted to be fully integrated. I did not want to be an outsider in anything. And that may have been my philosophy even now. I want to integrate.

And you did.

And I did. And I'll just digress for a second, in case I forget it. But for example, at the golf club, where I- which is not a Jewish golf club. But the Jews there, tend to sit together. I don't. I go and sit with, if you like- not the non-Jews, that would be unfair. But I will not actually sit at what is now known as the 'Jewish table'. Because I don't understand why they can't sit with the others. Why does there have to be a Jewish table at the golf club? It's not a bloody Jewish golf club. And I believe very strongly in integration. I really do. I'm a follower in that- I don't believe in faith schools. I'm a follower of [Rabbi] Jonathan Romain in this one in that-

You've written on this topic.

[1:02:20]

I've written loads and loads and loads and stuff in the *AJR [Journal]* about it. I really believe we should integrate. I believe there shouldn't be faith schools. I've gone away from- from my own school days.

So, you wanted to fit in.

I wanted to fit in and luckily, I did. Let me just bring up one other thing which is very important, because somebody mentioned it to me the other day and I'd never thought of it. I had a happy childhood. I have no hatred for the Austrians. How can I hate the Austrians of today, when I'm eighty-one and those who were Nazis have all been dead for a long time? And some of my friends from Moor Park Golf Club said, "I don't understand that. Everyone we know, hate- hate the Austrians or the Germans for what they did to their families. How can you not hate them?" And then some actual person, and it may be a coincidence that they read psychology, but, came up with the idea- and I think it was so fascinating, 'cause I'd never thought of it: I had a very happy childhood. But my mother cooked Austrian food. I

had *Tafelspitz* and I had... *Gulasch* and I had – besides the obvious things like *Strudel* and *Wiener Schnitzel* and all that. We were brought up - or I was brought up - on Richard Tauber and Grand Hotel and Austrian music. And Mozart. Mustn't forget Mozart. So basically, I was happy. Except for my ears, I was reasonably healthy as well. So, what I found- why should I hate? I- I had a happy childhood. And therefore, that hatred that I'm supposed to feel this psychologist said to me, "Perhaps you don't hate- have that hatred, because you did have a happy childhood."

Yes.

And that may well be the answer.

It seems to me also- you said your father felt very Austrian.

My father felt very Austrian.

So, I don't know- how did he feel at the end of the war?

[1:04:16]

Well, what was interesting was that- the war ended in '45. I think by about '48, '49 he'd already gone back to Vienna with me, and with my mother, to have a look round. When we looked round Vienna Two, Leopoldstadt, it had been in the Russian zone. And it was demolished. And it looked as though the war had- was still being fought there. It looked like those terrible pictures that you see at the moment from Iraq. But the- by this time though, the American sector in particular but also the British and French sectors had already been built up. And it didn't seem like a war zone. But my parents went back to Vienna every two years. And if it wasn't Vienna, they'd go to Bad Gastein or Bad Ischl. And even after my father died, my mother with friends would go back to Austria. So... as a family, we didn't hate.

Yes. That's your answer.

That's my answer. As a family we didn't hate the Austrians as much as I'm supposed to have hated them. Because as I say a lot of my English Jewish friends can't- don't understand this.

The other thing which seeing this is an open platform I want to have a go at. The English Jews. Anglo-Jewry weren't that bloody wonderful to Continental Jewry. And- because they thought a lot of these people are coming over with foreign accents. They're going to cause more anti-Semitism. And we don't- even my own parents-in-law- eventually after loads of whiskey my father-in-law admitted that he wasn't that keen on 'all us refugees coming in'. And also, what- we- we were very middle class and they weren't because they'd come over at- First World War. They were in the sweat- shops of the East End. They had to work their way up to NW3. We had actually come in and we went straight to NW3. And we believed in *Bildung* [education] and they believed in money. So, there was- a friction. And I mean a friction between- and I've noticed even at my ripe old age now, my eighties, with my mates who were English born with English parents, at my non-Jewish golf club- that they also don't have the same empathy as I do.

Yeah. But in your own case, did your parents have experience of English Jews- any negative experiences?

[1:06:58]

Yes, my father found the most wounding thing possibly anyone ever said to him- it was one of his colleagues, whose son I still see - in Banbury, said, "Don't you think it's disgraceful what your people did to our sergeants?" That's when the two sergeants were hanged in Jerusalem. Do you know about this one?

No.

After the King David Hotel was blown up.

Oh, yes. Yes.

The Israelis, I think it was the Irgun. I think it was Begin's lot, hanged two British sergeants. And that was in retribution of something that the British had done to members of one of the two illegal outfits. The word which I don't want to use is 'gangs'; I don't like the word gangs. But either Stern or Irgun.

Yeah.

So, the British hanged - or, sorry - the Israelis hanged- they weren't Israelis then. The Jews hanged these two guys. And my father came back shattered when this colleague said to him, "What do you think about what your people did to our two sergeants?" And that was the first time he came across... anti-Semitism.

But that was not English Jews. That's English.

That's English. That's English. Sorry. That's English. You are absolutely right. Sorry, that's English.

But that's also an interesting question. Did they- you know, did you feel anti-Semitism in Britain?

Yeah, well- yes, I think so. But then it's very easy to find anti-Semitism in everything. I find anti-Semitism in everything. Everything Corbyn says, as far as I'm concerned, even if it's nice, I find anti-Semitic. So, it's very easy to find anti-Semitism if you're looking for it. I'm conscious, funnily enough, perhaps as a continental Jew, of anti-Semitism possibly more than my English Jewish friends are. Because I really do believe he said that, that's anti-Semitic. Even if it's not really.

And English Jews? Was there any? Did your parents have- I mean-?

[1:09:16]

No, I- I, I just feel more comfortable with continental Jews. That's just me, perhaps. The mates I've made, again, at the golf club- why I keep talking about that is that that's where I've met most Jews.

Yes...

Even though it's not a Jewish golf club. I have more sympathy and empathy with those who have continental parents, than those who've been in England since the beginning of the last century. I don't know why.

That's interesting, yes.

Haven't a clue, why.

Why do you think?

I just feel that we have more in common. I-

But you said you were brought up in a quite an Austrian household in terms of food and culture.

Yeah. Totally.

What other culture? You talked about Tauber and music and...

Mainly- mainly music, I would think. I mean I didn't get into paintings and things till I was at university. No, I- I think at home, it was mainly music... and translated books, because obviously I couldn't read German.

Yeah, I wanted to ask about German.

Well, I've got O-Level German where I gather, I got something like ninety-nine percent in translating from German into English. But sort of one percent- I'm making that up. But very low marks translating from English into German because I can't spell anything. I don't know. I mean, a train is a *Zug*. How do you spell *Zug*? I don't know. Z U G? Z U double-G? Z U K?! I mean I- I haven't the faintest idea. So basically, I can read, I can speak, but I can't- I can't write.

And did you speak German to your parents?

[1:11:00]

Yeah. All the time. Because my grandmother couldn't speak English.

Right.

So, till I met Davida, until I- in fact until we got married I- my- and the interesting thing is, it's a very interesting question, I didn't speak English till I was five.

Right.

And I've always wondered how I learnt English cause I couldn't have learnt it from my parents. So, I must have learnt- and I don't think I was- my first school that I went to, that I remember, was in Becontree. So, I can- I assume I learnt English there.

Yeah.

But I was lucky, because... I think had I - what was I, three? - Had I been about eight, I probably would have had a foreign accent. I think those who were below five, below six, didn't have foreign accents. Those above, did. I may be wrong.

Yeah, there seems to be a cut-off. But it's also- I think it varies among individuals.

It varies. Absolutely. But the- no, this is again, as I say, going back to integration in that I didn't want a foreign accent and I haven't got a foreign accent. And I think for me one of my very proud moments was winning the Senior Reading Prize at school. Cause here was I- they didn't know it - an Austrian boy who didn't speak English till he was five, win- won the Senior Reading Prize at school. So, I was very conscious all the time that I was very different.

You were conscious?

Yeah.

But on the inside?

On the inside.

And the name. So, your father- what happened? They didn't want to change the name, or...?

[1:12:31]

No, my father was fine about it. My mother was a bit upset, but my father was fine about it. I joined my- I haven't really gone into my career yet, but- so I'll jump slightly into my career.

OK.

The second advertising agency I joined, was made up of... refugees. One was called Wally Hausman. Walter Hausmann. A German-Jew, with two N-s. And he anglicised his name to Hausman; he dropped an 'N'. Peter Laufer, who was a Viennese Jew who changed his name to well, Peter is – he didn't have to change it - Langford. And then he put into the- our trade press that 'Peter Pepper' had joined, as head of copy. Now my bloody name isn't Pepper. I know it's the translation. And it's a silly name, Peter Pepper. So, I said to Davida, "I'm going to change my name. There is no way I'm going to be called Pepper." And what Hausman and Langford were worried about is that they didn't want to be seen as a 'Continental Jewish Advertising agency'. So, Davida having a funny first name anyway – D A V I D A and it was- and Pfeffer being difficult on the phone, because P-Peter, F-Freddy, E- Edward, double-F-Freddy, E- Edward, R-Robert. Our elder daughter was born as Caroline Pfeffer, but Davida was pregnant with Mandy, our second daughter, and I thought, "This is ridiculous. There's no way I'm going to be called Peter Pepper." So, we looked for a name where the P is silent as in Pfeffer because nobody could say Pfeffer. So, I wanted a 'F' beginning and Phillips has no F, but it has a P and I wanted to keep my initials. So, it became Peter Phillips. What I didn't realise, which is a nuisance, is they then say, "How many L-s in Phillips?" Because the Welsh Phillips is with two L-s and the Dutch Phillips is with one. And I'm obviously a Welsh Phillips, because we put two.

[1:14:26]

Yeah. And did your- did your parents change their name, or they...?

No – no. My father had no problems with it at all. I was- he was brilliant. My mother was a bit upset. Not very, but she was a bit upset. But they both understood why I did it. Because P- Peter, F-Freddy, E- Edward, double-F-Freddy, E- Edward, R-Robert - having to repeat that so often was really boring. And Davida as, again, if she had- if her name was ‘Ann’, fine, but Davida...

But that was much later in the 60s.

That was ’61, yeah.

So, let’s just go back to your...

So throughout at school and Oxford I was Peter Pfeffer.

So, you went from secondary school to Oxford?

Yeah.

[1:15:06]

Reading?

Law. And... I didn’t enjoy it that much. I edited *Cherwell*, which was the undergraduate newspaper. And I loved writing. And I sort of started as cricket writer and then news reporter and then news editor, and then features editor and then editor. And I got much more into writing than law. And I did a deal - my father was actually quite understanding - that if I could get a job in a Fleet Street newspaper, and *News Chronicle* had a circulation of about a million and three quarters at the time. And it was Liberal so my father didn’t object to it being a- a ‘Tory rag’ – I could go into journalism. And very luckily the *News Chronicle* offered me a job on their what you would now call their gossip column. It was a wonderful job. All I did was go to parties, and interview film stars and politicians and things, and reported in and go to the next party. So, it was a- it was a great job but sadly the *News*

Chronicle had... They were owned by the Cadburys and they'd been very, very anti-Suez. You- you may know about the Suez Canal problem that Eden had in the ...the early 50s. And – was it? No, it wasn't the early 50s, it was the early 60s; I'm talking rubbish. And... the *Chronicle* sold out to the *Daily Mail*. And I was not kept on. Cause it was first out, and first – last out first- sorry, last in, first out. And so suddenly I thought, "Well, what am I going to do now? Better go back to law." And I was at a party, and a friend of mine said, "Have you ever thought about getting into advertising?" Because by this time I didn't want to go back to law because A, I'd got engaged. We wanted to get married. I wanted to earn some money. If I went back to law, my father- in those days you had to pay the lawyer to give you articles. So, I would have been dependent on my father again. He would have had to pay the solicitor who took me on... I think it was £500.00 a year at that time, which was a lot of money in the late 50s- early-60s. And... so this friend of mine said, "Have you thought about going into advertising?" Now commercial advertising started in 1955. And it sounded quite exciting. I hadn't a clue what it was. And I said, "Yeah, why not?" So, on my old Olivetti typewriter, Davida typed up forty-eight letters for me to forty-eight advertising agencies. And I was offered three jobs. And I took one which was a good agency- Masons Ferguson – then about the third or fourth largest in the country - at £650 a year. Davida was earning £500 and on that we got married. But the- and I've never looked back, because again, I've been very lucky. I liked school. And I liked advertising and I liked eventually making commercials. So, I was- I mean, I've been quite lucky.

And you said your parents, they wanted you- or your father wanted you to-?

[1:18:27]

My father cried, because- that's another time he cried, because he cried when I didn't do medicine. And he cried again when I went into advertising, because there was this word which is now no longer used that often. He said, "What are you going to do in advertising?" I said, "I'm going to be a copywriter." And he thought I was going to be a copy typist. So, he burst into tears with the "Oy vey, I sent him to Oxford and now he's going to be a copy typist." The word 'copywriter' has now been dropped by agencies; they now call it writer and art director. But the- and I had loads and loads of tears but then after my first promotion which was put into the trade press, he carried that cutting around, showing everyone that

Peter Pfeffer had been promoted to - I don't know - Copy Supervisor or something. So, he was quite proud at the end.

So just to go back to your time in Oxford. Did you stay at home or did you live in college?

No, I lived in college for two years and then...

And which college? Where were you?

Wadham. And in digs my third year. I'm- another favourite topic. I'm 100 percent against people who go to university staying at home. I don't- if you live in London, don't please go to London University. If you're living in Sheffield, don't go to Sheffield University. If you're going to have university life, live it to the full. And I did. Go away from Mummy and Daddy, because otherwise you're not going to have a proper university life. So, Oxford was only twenty-three miles, but there was no way I- I'd- I'd sooner have gone to Cambridge. No, I really, the idea of living at home would have been terrible. Absolutely terrible. And I had a great time. I- I loved university time. My son Richard also was at Wadham thirty years after me; he read history. But the interesting thing is and perhaps my father should have allowed me to read history. He- I read law but didn't become a lawyer. I wanted to read history and I got in on history. My son Richard read history and is now a lawyer. But at least he read what he enjoyed reading. I hated reading law; I loathed it. It was really, really boring. And Richard didn't have to read law. He read something that interested him in history. That is presumably why he's now a lawyer.

And your parents stayed in Banbury?

[1:20:54]

My parents stayed in Banbury. They visited me much- I should have been very proud but they visited me almost every week and brought me sort of chicken and...sausages and salamis and God knows what. And they had this foreign accent and I was still trying to pretend I was very English. And I only introduced them ever to my Jewish friends because they understood. And I hardly ever introduced them to my non-Jewish friends because I was ashamed of them. I say this. I wasn't ashamed of them, but I- I had this thing that I wanted to

be English. I wanted to be- why have they got foreign accents? So, they met all of my non-Jewish friends. Sorry- they met one Jewish- non-Jewish friend. But the- they were brilliant parents. How they put up with me is quite beyond me, because my parents- if my kids treated me as badly as I treated my parents, I'd kill them. But they were absolutely superb. They came at least once a fortnight. Always bringing me food. One thing I will though bring up. And that is that my father believed - and again, it's a philosophy which I'm curious about- I had far less money than any of my friends. I got a state scholarship, so I was not dependent on him to give me money but I was, because the state schol- my father's earnings were too high, so the state scholarship only gave me thirty quid a term. My father was giving me ten shillings a week pocket money, when all my friends were- had a pound - and many of them had five pounds. And one of the reasons I actually ended up in journalism was I started writing for the national press while I was still in Oxford, to earn money. And I was almost earning twenty quid a week towards the end of my stay in Oxford. So that I could- had more money than my friends, who were depending on their money. Wasn't my father right in keeping me down to ten shillings a week, or... because possibly, I could argue that had he given me the same as my friends were earning- were getting from their parents, I might be a lawyer today, because I wouldn't have started doing all this stuff with the national press. I don't know. So I don't really know should one be generous with one's kids when they're at university or should one get them to say- to work behind bars or do whatever. I've no idea. It's a- it's a- it's a puzzle.

[1:23:22]

Yeah. But did you stay- you stayed close to your parents?

I stayed very close to my parents. My father and I shared this love for football. Perhaps that was the most understanding we had together. They were brilliant parents, they really were, and I feel very guilty that I should have been nicer. My father died very suddenly. He'd done morning surgery. We'd been up to Banbury for his sixty-fifth- sixty-eighth birthday, on the Sunday. And he- because the accommodation was on the first floor and the surgery was on the ground floor and he had quite a few people coming- other doctors coming to his birthday party. And he was running up and down the stairs letting them in, et cetera. And then on the Tuesday, Davida rang me in the office, saying - it was- was as brutal as this, "Are you sitting comfortably? Your father's just died." Which I couldn't believe. And I left the office, bought

the *Evening Standard*. I was smoking in those days. Bought myself - making it up - a packet of Silk Cut and got home. Drove to Banbury. And it just didn't seem real. And when I got to the house, they said, "No, Mrs. Pfeffer is with your father." I said, "I thought my father was dead." Said, "He is, she just won't leave him." So... It was a tremendous shock. He had a heart attack. He'd said to my mother he wasn't feeling at well round about lunchtime. Lay down - it was a great time to die - lay down, then had a bigger heart attack - and died. So it's a good way to die, but it's not a very good way as far as my mother was concerned because there she was, aged sixty... He died in 1965. Aged sixty-five. No friends really, in Banbury. My grandmother's still there but going a bit gaga.

That was her mother-in-law.

[1:25:24]

Yeah. And going slightly gaga, more than slightly. So, it was very, very tough for her. She eventually, in fact, very soon, moved to London. And there's another thing where if you like I have a guilt, because the ideal thing would have been for us to share money and to have a house. Just as she had her mother-in-law, Davida was willing to have her mother-in-law. And we looked at some wonderful properties in Hampstead, in Primrose Hill in- but everything- she decided- now perhaps she just didn't want to do it. But this one was too dark, that one was too light, that was too near a road, that was too near a- a field. Everything we looked at - and some were marvel- some would now be worth three million quid - she didn't like! And in the end, I thought, sod it, I can't- I can't carry on looking at houses, when she's going to turn down- two in particular I remember, one near Primrose Hill and one near the Bull and Bush which were wonderful! Which today would be worth loads and loads of money, which she just didn't want. So perhaps she didn't want to live with us. I've no idea. Although she pretended, she did.

What did she do?

She lived alone in a flat and then she had a carer in... East End Road in Finchley. Just off East End Road. And my grandmother went into- I think it was an AJR home in those days- to Osmond House, which was in Bishop's Avenue. I think they've sold them all off.

It was in Highgate, wasn't it?

It was near Highgate, yeah. I think they've sold them all off. And my mother ended up there as well. ...They were very good. But presumably, because of where they were, the AJR must have made a fortune on selling those. But anyway, that's digressing.

So, let's just briefly- we haven't talked about the AJR. Did your parents join the AJR or-?

Not that I know of.

No.

Let me go back to- if I may, rather than talk about the AJR,

Go on.

[1:27:34]

Is... When- I then became a copywriter or a writer at this advertising agency. And then I moved around a bit because the easiest way of getting more money and getting promotion was, you start off as a writer, then you move to the next agency as a supervisor and then you go on to the next agency as a chief. And go off to the next agency as a god. I took a calculated risk in 1967, in joining an in-house agency, called the Thompson- called The Thompson Group Marketing, which was owned by Lord Thompson, who was a Canadian newspaper magnate, who owned *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *Thompson Yellow Pages*, *Thompson Holidays*... a whole load of magazines... regional newspapers. He owned loads and loads of things. And then after about- I was in charge of all the creative work that came out of there, as far as advertising was concerned - and marketing. And then the board decided to decentralise. They didn't want the in-house agency anymore. They asked me to stay on and I could see nothing in it for me to stay on at all. Cause what was- staying on would- they offered me a lot of money to stay on, but what it would have meant is destroying the place, then after you've destroyed it, yes, they give you a cheque, and they say, "Thanks very much. That's great. You've done that." What happens next? So I said, "No I don't want to do that. I'll go now." And then... I suddenly had an idea- they said, "No, we really want you to stay

on. What do you want? What would induce you to stay on to help us close it down?" And I said, "All right. I want some business when I leave, I'll start on my own. And the business I want is the "*The Sunday Times*." And the editor- as I say, after Eric Forrester my other hero in this world is Sir Harold Evans. The editor Harry Evans said, "What a great idea. I'd love to give it you, all." So, in 1970 I started on my own with *The Sunday Times*. Harry Evans gave me the whole business and I kept that till '82 when Murdoch bought the whole thing from Thompson and Andrew Neil took over from Evans and I never even got to meet Andrew Neil but I was not- kept on. And what was brilliant was that because *The Sunday Times* was a prestigious news- is a prestigious newspaper, because people liked the work we were doing, that brought in other work. And therefore, I was able to start this production company business, where I went in with three others on the first one. And my- as I say, work-wise my proudest moment was when in 1971 we won the Palme d'Or in Cannes as the best advertising production company in the world. And we won loads and loads of awards which you can say fairly masturbatory in that it's advertising people giving other advertising people awards. But it's still nice for your peers to acknowledge what you're doing. And I had a lovely time!

And was the agency- was there any particular ad?

[1:31:00]

We were marked- on the Palme d'Or we were marked on our top six entries. And it was really exciting. It was like Miss World or Eurovision or what. But they started counting. Three of them were *Sunday Times* commercials.

Right.

One was a Guinness. One was a- a thing called NatuSol Peach. What the hell was the sixth one? There were six. Can't remember.

Yeah.

Anyway. And what was exciting was that you're sitting- we knew we'd done well because we already knew we'd won three golds and a silver. So, we must have done fairly well. And in tenth place, ninth, eighth, seventh, and round about fifth we started to listen. Fourth, third-

then I was thinking if there's been a mistake, why aren't we there? Second- because I'm a pessimist. Second- bloody hell, we've got all these things and we haven't got a thing! First: HSL of London. And it was magnificent! And my- one of my partners that was so pissed at the time said, "Where are you going?" I said, "We're going to pick up a prize!" No, it was absolutely wonderful. Absolutely wonderful. And... It was- it was a great moment.

And it was film?

All film. 35mm film.

Yeah, so there must have been new- I mean not new, but it was also a developing field.

Yeah. Well, no, commercials were always shot on 35mm because the only people who knew anything about commercials- about filming, sorry, were the feature film people. And the feature film people always shot on 35mm. So, commercials carried on being shot on 35mm. And the cameraman and people that we used were all feature film cameramen. Like Peter Suschitzky- like Wolfgang Suschitzky - sorry. Peter was his son - who- it was very good money for them because commercials paid far more than feature films did. So, the cameraman would get even, well, certainly by the 90s would get a thousand a day, when they were not getting anything like that kind of money-making feature films. Going on to what we nearly touched on, "*Entertaining Mr. Sloan*".

Yes, go on.

[1:33:08]

I have a- had a cousin in Vienna, who had been hidden in Holland throughout the war by a gay. And Otto himself was gay. Otto became, after the war, which is a bit like being admiral of the Swiss Navy, but he became after the war head of the Austrian Film industry. Now the Austrian film industry was hardly huge. Like- it was small. But he had under contract Attila Hörbiger, and he had under contract - I've forgotten his wife's name - it'll come back to me in a minute.

What was his name?

Attila Hörbiger.

Your cousin.

My cousins name was Professor Otto Dürer. Now his real name was Demant, but he changed it, I think before the war, to Dürer. Sorry I've just suddenly remembered. The Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier of Vienna at the time were Paula Wessely and Attila Hörbiger. Paula Wessely some people decided, after the war- in the- if you- in the AJR people wrote saying she was a Nazi. I've no idea. But she certainly signed on with Otto after the war and Otto had them under contract. And most of the films that were being made in Vienna were made by Otto Dürer Productions. And Otto... as I say, was gay. Was kept by a gay, but you can't be gay in those days. So, he married a young starlet in name only but ... he was now married to Nina Sand who was a young starlet and who looked good on his arm. But he- and I keep having to repeat, but he was gay. And he had a boyfriend called 'Willi'. And... There were threesomes there without a shadow of doubt: Otto, Willi and Nina. There was a definite threesome. Now if you know "Entertaining Mr. Sloane", "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" is a threesome. There's the brother and the sister, and there is the- there's Sloane who's a handsome young man. And the sister fancies him and the brother fancies him and he can play the two up against each other. So, Otto bought the film rights from Peggy Ramsey. And... so here was this strange Austrian with the film rights of a very English Joe Orton book called "Entertaining Mr. Sloan". And he said to me, would I be interested. I said, "Yeah, I'd be interested but I know nothing whatsoever about feature films. I've never made a feature film. Don't know feature films." So, I spoke to a colleague of mine called Doug Kentish. And Doug said, "Yeah, we'll do it." And that's where I was had because yes, I was associate producer but I- I got- I got a few trips to Vienna but... I got twelve and a half percent of net profit. And it wasn't till years later when I found no film ever makes net profit. So, I was completely- he diddled me. Mr. Kentish, I know he's dead, but he diddled me. And I didn't make a penny. It was fun going to the premiere. Princess Margaret came to the premiere. That was fun. As I say I got two or three trips to Vienna out of it but I did not make a penny.

And Wolfgang Suschitzky was the cameraman?

Wolfgang Suschitzky was the cameraman.

Tell us a little bit about him.

[1:36:41]

Nothing really to tell you. He was- I used him on- I mean, I was so rarely there that I know him to say hello to. And he made one or two commercials for me.

Did he?

Yeah. But I, I can't tell you anything about him, really. He was a nice guy. I knew his son better than I knew Wolfgang. So... He- he was alright. I mean cameramen could be quite temperamental.

So how- how did he get involved, Wolfgang?

Doug Hickox who directed it chose him...The direct- I went to Illustra Films who were Doug Kentish, the guy who diddled me out of my money, was the producer. Doug's partner was Doug Hickox. And in feature films it's the director who chooses the – usually – the crew. And he chose Wolfgang.

And that was your only experience of feature films?

My only experience. Don't want any more. ...Am I telling the truth I don't want any more? Well, certainly not at my age, now. No, I, I- to be honest, with a commercial, you do it, you make it, they pay you and you move on. Yeah. I- I'd love to have made a really big feature but as a producer that is quite difficult. As a director... it's difficult enough. As a producer you've got to find the director and the writer and everyone else. And the actors. And you've got to start chatting these people up, saying- and then it's all- you say to the director, "I've got this actor and actress." You say to the actor and actress, even though you haven't, "I've got this director." Even though you haven't. And it's- it's all... hours and hours of eating and drinking at the Groucho Club.

And what was your personal highlight in your career as a- in this-?

[1:38:38]

Winning the Palme d'Or.

Yeah.

Without a doubt. We won a lot of prizes. We probably won over a hundred prizes. But as I say, they were very masturbatory in the sense that it was your peers saying: "You are very good." I didn't care two hoots what the public thought. I didn't care two hoots whether it had sold the product. All I wanted was that- for my competitors to say, "Hey, that was a bloody good commercial you made the other day." That was very important to me.

And were- in that field, were there any other refugees or any...?

Barry Myers was certainly Jewish South African and his parents had been refugees. He was a very good director. Excellent. I wish I'd gone in with Barry. He died recently. Not that I know of. Oh, yes. Tom Bussmann. His daughter is now quite big in- as a writer, I think. Tom Bussmann was German. He was born in this country. But Tom's parents were. Not many, no. It was not known as a-

No.

As a... thing that- no, that- the- Particularly the continental Jews, they all went into the professions.

Yeah.

Nearly all my friends who weren't in advertising were all lawyers. Because ...that's where they all came from.

There was Ken Adam. You said you knew Ken Adam.

Yeah, but I only knew him.

Yeah.

I'm talking about friends. My- my friends, I mean the guys who were ushers at my wedding or that I saw socially, nearly all of them as it happens were lawyers. Cause I read law, I met them at Oxford. And so - yeah.

They were continental or Jewish or both, or?

Both. Mainly English. In fact, I'm just trying to think. Were there any continental? Don't think there were, no. No. In my year, '53, at my college, I don't think there were any continental Jews. Not that I can think of. Don't forget, for me, I mean, I didn't know anyone who was Jewish till I went to Oxford. So. But no, I can't think of anyone.

And how did you meet your wife?

In Bournemouth....

Oh, you said. Sorry – in the hotel.

Yeah.

Yeah. And which year was that?

'58 – No! '56. We got married in '58 - 1958.

And where did you get married?

[1:41:11]

Hm?

Where did you get married?

Hampstead United Synagogue, Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Right.

...United Synagogue. But then again, that was interesting, because you'd have thought both sets of parents would be delighted. But they weren't. My father and mother, my father in particular, said well, he'd have preferred me to marry someone from the professions. And my father-in-law and mother-in-law would have preferred Davida to marry somebody with money. And when we married, we literally had- which is not bad, I'm not complaining- but we were earning 1150 between us. We didn't have a car; we didn't have a carpet. We had a tiny little television set. We had a tiny little fridge. No central heating. Nothing like of- we had a tiny fridge, we had a tiny television set, no carpet. We had nothing. And what I'm very proud of, is that what I've got, which I'm not complaining about, we've done very well. Davida and I've actually done together. And nobody has gifted us things. Yes, when ...my father died, he obviously left everything to my mother. When my mother died, she left what there was left, because she'd carried- carried on after my father died for another... my mother died in '86, so... twenty-odd years. Yes, she left me whatever there was to leave, but Davida wasn't left anything. And so, what we've got, we both built up together. And Davida was fantastic because although her background now was social work, and... she got a social work degree and things like that after- when she was already in her forties or fifties, where she was brilliant was that she would happily chat up all these dreadful people that I had to chat up. And I could ring her up and say, "We're taking out X for dinner tonight. Can you be in town by seven thirty or eight o'clock?" And she'd be there. And she was superb. And as Frank will tell you, a lot of our business, is- at that time was who you knew and who you chatted up, and whether they liked you or not.

And what was Davida doing when you met her? What was she doing?

[1:43:46]

She was a secretary. She then went into recruitment. But when we first met, she was a secretary and then just- just before we got married, she went into recruitment. But no, I'm- I'm very proud of the fact that...I think both sets of parents could have been more generous but - we actually did begin with nothing.

And how many children do you have?

Four.

And where do they live today? Where-?

One's in Australia, which has broken his mother's heart. But after university his- he said he'd never been- no, he had a- he went to work for a recruitment company as it happens. And he fell for his PA. His PA was Australian. And he ...her visa had run out. She had to go back to Australia. And he said he'd never had a gap year. He was going to go back to Australia- with her. And, not quite as dramatic as I'm putting it, but it was almost then that he then invited us to the wedding, because he stayed on in Australia more or less from then on. The other three live- two live very near here. Richard's a lawyer who lives about three miles that way. And Caroline's- is- you're either a lawyer, or in recruitment. Caroline has her own recruitment company in Soho but she lives about three miles that way. And the one who lives far away is in South London whose husband is a highly successful lawyer on mergers and acquisitions and they live in... Wandsworth. So, there are four. Yeah. Three girls and a boy. Sorry. I'm talking rubbish. Two boys and two girls.

OK. I think we should take a short break.

Yeah, I think I need- Yeah, if I'm saying I've got three girls and a boy, I'm going barmy.

It's time to take a break.

It's time to take a break.

[1:45:41]

When I first came to London... and joined the *News Chronicle*, I had to find somewhere to live. And one of Davida's uncles found me some digs in Maida Vale in Randolph Avenue. A wonderful, wonderful landlady, Jewish landlady called Mrs. Bernstein. And I lived there for about a couple of years. And then... I moved to be nearer Davida because Maida Vale wasn't

that far off from Hempstead Garden Suburb, but it was far enough. I moved to Temple Fortune. And I moved in with a Mrs. Strauss who was probably as anti-Semitic a lady as I've met at that time or probably even now. Mrs. Strauss didn't like Jews. She took me because I - according to her - didn't look Jewish. And she accepted Davida as my girlfriend because, according to her, she didn't look Jewish. And she almost decided on who she would allow in for me to have as visitors, as to how Jewish they looked or how Jewish they didn't look. And very luckily, a very close friend of mine, Matthew, his girlfriend didn't look particularly - I don't know what a Jewish look - I suppose she was talking about huge noses or the way that Alec Guinness portrayed... Fagin. But she - it was the first time I really found somebody worrying about how Jewish anyone looked. And - because I hadn't really felt that much anti-Semitism - even at Oxford. Yes, there were certain anti-Semites at Oxford. A guy who later became one of my very close friends who read law with me, was definitely an anti-Semite. Eventually he became a very close friend of ours and came to our golden wedding anniversary. But I hadn't come across anti-Semitism really till Mrs. Strauss. And that shocked me, 'cause I wasn't aware of it. The other time, while I'm on the subject of anti-Semitism, the first advertising agency I joined, Macias. Mike Macias was Jewish so it certainly wasn't an anti-Semitic agency. But they'd just decided to open a branch office in Frankfurt and one in Düsseldorf. And because I spoke German, they thought it would be a good idea perhaps if I went over there. Because I could help the Germans learn what advertising is about and... help them on the creative side. And I was really looking forward to this because it was a great opportunity. I was about twenty-four, starting off as one of the senior peoples and it was going to be Frankfurt - at Macias Frankfurt, till I was called in by a guy called Peter Risdon, who was a fairly senior director. And he said, "Look, I honestly - there's nothing against you, and it's got nothing to do with anti-Semitism, but I'm going to veto you going to Germany." "OK. Why?" "The Germans have a great guilt feeling towards Jews. And we don't want to be seen as a Jewish agency. And with Mike Macias being Jewish anyway, and with you who would then be one of the senior... creatives on - in... the agency, I think it would be a bad thing because of their guilt they would not want - not their anti-Semitism. Peter, I promise you it's not their anti-Semitism, but because of their guilt towards what they did, I don't think we want to send you to Germany." Which was a great blow to me really because it would have been a great promotion and it would have been a great opportunity. How much truth was there? I really don't know. The Germans have not proved to be as anti-Semitic post - under Adenauer and the post-war Germans, as the Austrians. Perhaps it was true. Perhaps they would have felt uneasy at going into an advertising agency

where one of the senior- well, *the* senior person was Jewish and one of the other senior people would have been Jewish. I don't know. So...

[1:49:57]

You didn't go.

I didn't go. I regretfully didn't go, because it would have been a great opportunity. But life planned out very well without going. But...the only other forms of anti-Semitism I've found, talking about anti-Semitism, perhaps I've been kidding myself. Perhaps there's more. I'm a physical coward, but I do have a bit of a temper and I have been known to hit out. Having been twice called a Jewish 'four letter word', when people have been drunk, once in a pub in Soho, and once at the Colombe d'Or in the South of France, I have actually hit them. And... I don't think of myself as a physical- I'm a physical coward, so I don't normally go and hit people. But I don't like being called 'a Jewish something or other'. And if someone wants to even, now at the ripe old age of eighty-one, get me to hit them that is what they would do. So, I do have a problem. I don't mind being called a Jew. I don't mind being called that four-letter word. I don't like the two coming together. And it's happened to me twice. And both times I actually hit out. And once the guy fell down some stairs, and the other guy- the other time- I actually won both, so I'm very proud of that. So that's really- I'm probably- perhaps I'm over-conscious of anti-Semitism. I don't know. Why should I not mind being called that word or why should I mind not my being called Jewish, but why do I not like the two together? I don't know. I don't know. But that really does rile me and get me going.

Why? Do you think it's connected to your past? To your-?

[1:51:51]

I think it's connected to my past. I think that I still get very, very angry. And I'll talk about letters to the AJR later, but I still get very angry about ...people like Venessa Redgrave or Ken Loach or whatever, who more or less say that Israel has no right to exist. That in 1948 Israel should not have been made. It was not in- the Balfour Declaration had no- the British had no right to make the Balfour Declaration. The British had no right to give Palestine to the Jews. Well first of all the British didn't. It was a United Nations thing. The British actually

didn't- decided not to vote. But it just annoys me because it's happened. And we can actually go through loads of other countries that have been formed since the Second World War. And these lot like Vanessa Redgrave or Ken Loach don't have a go at them, but they have a go at Israel. Have a go at Israel's politics, have a go at anything you like about Israel. There's lots of things I don't like about Israel. I don't like the *frummers* for example, but you cannot actually have a go at Israel being formed! So, why do I get so- what makes me angry? What makes me angry... is anti-Semitism. Any form of anti-Semitism. And what makes me angry is... any ...I nearly want to say anti- anti-Israel stuff. I don't get angry about anti-Israel stuff because a lot of it I agree with. But anything saying that Israel shouldn't exist. And all this stuff of- where some of the Arab nations say, "We want to get Israel off the map of the world" really makes me cross. I worked for British Airways for a while; they were wonderful clients. And I was horrified that on some of their maps, Israel is not on the map. And... I had a go at Lord King who was then chairman, and Colin Marshall who later became chairman was then chief executive. Not 'a go'. I had a discussion saying, "Look, why do you not have Israel on the maps?" He said, "Because that would upset a lot of our Arab customers." You then go into, "Oh, what about having Saudi on the map? That might upset some of your Israeli customers." And it was, "Hahaha, very good point." And- they don't want to discuss it. Things like that do still niggle me and upset me. Going back to Mrs. Strauss. So, I lived in- I then moved into for a while with my parents-in-law. And that- my father-in-law and I had a love-hate relationship, mainly hate, but no, we had a love-hate relationship. And it didn't work out too well. He thought that I was an arrogant young man who thought because he'd been to Oxford the world owed him a living and why didn't I go out and do some proper work as opposed to all this advertising rubbish, or journalism rubbish? And I didn't like him because... he wasn't interested in the arts and he wasn't interested in music and he wasn't interested in anything other than money. So, we didn't really get on. And one night, which is quite an amusing story, he decided to throw me out. He'd had a few drinks. And I'd joined Granada, didn't like it and resigned. And I told Davida who was a bit upset that I'd resigned from Granada after a fortnight, which is another story which I will come back to cause it's fairly interesting. And my father-in-law had had a few scotches and then suddenly said, "Well seeing you have no intention of ever earning any money, I want you out of the house by tomorrow morning." And I said, "I'll go," in my usual arrogant way, "when I'm ready to go. I may not be ready to go tomorrow." So, he said, "Right. Get out now." So- this is about one in the morning. So, I dressed, and packed and Davida said she was coming with me. And we left, Davida's sister throwing jewellery out of the window, because I hadn't got a penny

on me. I rang, in those days you could reverse charge, all my friends who might put us up for the night. I eventually found one in Baker Street, who was still awake and who- I then said, "You're going to have to pay for the cab because I can't afford the cab either." And... then my mother came down from Banbury the next day and it was all kiss and make up and everything was fine again. But- so I stayed there for a while and then I stayed with my cousin in Finchley. So, I- I was a wandering Jew a bit in London really. I was here, there and- and everywhere.

And once you got married, where did you settle?

[1:57:03]

Once we got married, we were very lucky in that having said that we didn't have any furniture and things which we didn't. Well, we did; we had a settee and we had a... table. We had enough money, and my father stood as a guarantor, to put down for a three-up two-down house in Edgware in Beverly Drive, which is near Queensbury, Kingsbury, Colindale, whatever. Phone number was Colindale; across the road was the Kingsbury Station. I don't know where we were. It was a lovely little semi-detached three-up two-down. We put down I think about 500 quid or something. So, we did have a house to move in to. Albeit no carpets and things but there were worse beginnings. There are a lot of better beginnings. We couldn't really afford a- most of my friends at that time were going on honeymoon to places like Mallorca. We could just about afford Jersey. And... That was all fine. That was alright. There were far, far worse beginnings than that. It would have been nice to have had a car and things like that but we've been through all that already.

And how did you want to raise your children? You said you had four children. So how- what sort of identity-?

Well, the kids were all - not the girls - the kids were circumcised, so I wanted them to a certain extent to be Jewish. The boys were both circumcised. We had the girls first. ...I am, I suppose heavily into education, so they did all end up going to - sorry to say this - independent schools. They all did well. I mean Richard went to Oxford. Two of them went to university. Caroline, oddly enough, who didn't go to university, is running one of the largest recruitment companies in London. And she's the one who, on her own she started it and

who's done probably better than most. And she's the one who didn't go to university. So, if you like, that knocks my idea of 'You've got to go to university'. But- no, I'm- I'm very proud of what they've done. They've been- All have done extremely well and... I'm very proud of them. There's an interesting discussion which I had in the car yesterday coming back from bridge, which is: Is our generation better with our children than our parents were? Or ...were we better with our parents than this generation? And I don't know. I think I've got a better relationship with my kids, than I had with my parents. The guy who was driving us back yesterday said that it was the opposite. So, I haven't a clue. I think it depends on the family. I- I see certainly three of my four kids as friends. And we socialise; we go to their parties. And the fourth one is just different. I mean, but... I think that, well I never saw my parents as friends. They were the pater familias. My father sat at the head of the table. It was a different- different kind of thing. So, I think there is a different relationship with this generation, to my parents' generation. But I don't know.

And did you talk about- you're interest in your own past- did you talk about your past with the children? Was that-?

[2:00:45]

Yes, they all know my past. I've written my life story. Except for one. My son, older son, who for some unknown reason says he doesn't want to read it. Which I found odd, but there you go- slightly hurtful as well. The other three have read it. My younger daughter has even given me ideas and where she was quite right, if you mention things like, could be anything, Suez, Kristallnacht – or Anschluss, if you don't explain what it is, except for the people who were of that generation, they're not going to know what it is. So, you've got to say, "And the *News Chronicle*. I left the *News Chronicle* because of Suez..." What's Suez? So, Mandy was very useful in telling me that I was taking a lot for granted of my reader, when in fact I should be explaining things. They all- they're all interested. My grandson, in Australia, has even done a family tree just reading my book. My book – it isn't a book. Reading my...

Manuscript.

Manuscript. Thank you. So yeah, they all know. And I don't hide things. And again, another interesting thing was that a lot of guys and girls who came out when I came out, said their

parents would not talk about the Holocaust. And they knew nothing about the Holocaust. And my parents talked about the Holocaust the whole time. And they didn't hide anything from me. And although I was only three, I almost feel as though I was brought up in the Holocaust. So... And I've done the same with the kids, in that - I regret not having taken two grandsons to Vienna, but - all the other grandchildren have been. So...

You've taken them. And was that important for you?

Very important.

Why?

Exceedingly important.

Why?

[2:02:47]

I don't know. It was very, very important. And even though I'm now finding walking very difficult I'd like to take Ben and Adam - who haven't been - to Vienna before I die. Because- I don't know why. It's a good question. I even want to go to *Heurigen* [wine tavern] and... let them see the Klimts and the Schieles and- you can see Klimts and Schieles in any gallery anywhere. But I want them to see them in Vienna. I want them to see Schönbrunn. I want them to see the Hofburg. I want them to see- let them see where Förstergasse was. I want them to see where the Prater is. I still cry at the end scene of the Harry Lime film- of 'The Third Man'. My grandfather and sister are buried in Vienna, so I've got a good excuse for going there, because I promised my parents that I would always tend the graves and I do. The walking thing is- is a problem now but no, it is important to me that my kids know. And I'd like my grandchildren to as well, know ...what Vienna meant.

What does it mean to you today, Vienna?

I still have a great sentimental spot about Vienna, even though, as I say, I was only three when I left. But to all intents and purposes I was brought up in Vienna because all we listened to was Austrian music. And the only thing I ate was Austrian food.

So, do you feel Viennese at all?

Yeah. I think so.

So how would you describe yourself today in terms of your own identity?

British. I mean let- I mean one of the things I put in my book- my manuscript- is that if England played Israel at football, I back England. If England plays Austria at football, I back England. If Israel plays Austria at football, I back Israel. But third, I support Israel- I support Austria. So basically, I still feel I'm first and foremost British. I'm secondly Jewish and therefore Israel. And third is Austria.

And what for you is the most important part of your- of your continental identity?

The Merry Widow. [laughing] No. The- the music and the food. And the *Gemütlichkeit* [*"atmospheric cosiness"*] The- it was everything that my parents told me it would be. And I went back to Vienna, yes it was back, when I was about fourteen or fifteen. And although Vienna too as I'd said earlier, was demolished, it was- it was good. I was glad and I was, you know that's where I- my roots were.

[2:05:42]

Was it familiar when you went back? Elements of it?

No.

No.

No, not really. Not really, no.

No, it's interesting this whole thing of Gemütlichkeit. You know, it's-

It's lovely – you know that word-

What does it mean - to you?

Well, what it means to me.

Translate it.

Yeah, well, it's very difficult to translate, but what is still important in Vienna - allegedly - is that they worry as to whether the first chocolate cake was made by Sacher or by Demel. Now when they start worrying or are concerned as to whether Demel or Sacher made the first chocolate cake, I think it's a lovely thing to worry about. Or to be even concerned about. And how you want your coffee when you- I know you can have it in England nowadays like that as well, where the Hotel Sacher has coffee done in about twenty different ways. It's sort of great, it's sort of *gemütlich*. It's comfortable. What does *Gemütlichkeit* mean? Comfort - I don't know - probably. I feel reasonably comfortable in Vienna. Also, because I can speak the language. If I go to Paris and I love Paris. I've got A-Level French, but I really struggle with- with French. I can get by, but- I once had to make a speech in French and I really found that difficult. German, I find fairly natural. I've – I've lost an enormous amount of vocabulary 'cause I haven't spoken German since I've been married. But- but I feel comfortable in the language as well.

[2:07:12]

And how different do you think your life would have been if you-?

In Vienna?

Yeah, if you hadn't been forced to emigrate?

That's a good question. I don't know. I'd probably be a doctor. My father would have made me be a doctor. [laughing] Without a doubt I would have been a doctor. I would have taken

physics eight times till I passed it and still been a doctor. I failed O-Level physics. This is my hatred for physics.

But in Vienna you think you- you would have had no choice?

I'd have had no choice. But then everything would have been different wouldn't it? But my father was very much- perhaps I am to a certain extent - my wife would certainly say I am – a very much pater familias. What he said, went. And there was, when I rebelled about not doing medicine, I think that's the first time, I mean my mother didn't rebel. The first time anyone rebelled. So, going back what have we not covered? I think we've covered the- oh, we haven't covered the AJR which I'll do last but so- we've done all the advertising agency bits and we've done the awards which I'm so proud of, and... we've done- what I'm finding. OK, this bit is dismal but what I'm finding very difficult as I've got to this ripe old age, is that I haven't got any friends left. Real friends. Cause they're all dead. And I seem to have- there's a very corny line that makes me cry, so it can't be that corny, in 'Les Mis[erables]' called 'Empty Chairs and Empty Tables'. And I find that actually can still reduce me to tears, because I'm fairly sentimental; I cry quite easily. And my father cried quite easily as well. And I think that basically all my very close friends are dead. Or three out of the four ushers at my wedding. My very close friends are all dead. I have friends, obviously, but they're not close friends. They're not the guys who I would tell my innermost thoughts to. I'm doing that to you. But- the- and I find that quite sad, because I would go into London up to about the last three years, at least once a week and have lunch with a different friend. And we'd come back. Now my best friend is my wife. And I go into lunch with her but she keeps telling me I'm drinking too much, so- which my friends never did. So, the- she's not as good fun as my friends were, where we could have another bottle. I can't even do half a bottle with Davida before she starts telling me I'm drinking too much. So basically, I miss my friends enormously. And I could burst into tears now, when just thinking about them. And I'm the only one left and that's quite lonely. And I'm very glad that particularly with my elder daughter that I have a great relationship with her. And if I'm not going into London with Davida, I meet up with Caroline in town. And she's now another friend as opposed to just being a daughter. But I do miss my friends very much. And... there were eleven of us who read law in my year at Wadham in 1953, and there are only four of us left. So ...sad. And somehow or other, I'm one of the four left.

That's... another issue. That's what happens when you get older.

[2:11:00]

That's what happens. That's what happens.

Yeah. Now I was just wondering, speaking of getting older, whether you think you know being a refugee if there are some issues which sort of become stronger when you get older? Whether you think it's different from, let's say, if you hadn't emigrated?

Don't know. I don't know. What I will say is that... the AJR as you know have got a lot of elderly refugees. And there's a wonderful man called Robert Gelman and his wife Vera, who in the Pinner area, have teas for elderly refugees. Now as it happens, I'm one of the younger ones. And I'm ashamed to say, that when I go to these, I get slightly scared, because many of them have got Alzheimer's or senility. And I'm sitting with them and I don't want to be there. And Davida's very good and she says, "Well you've got to go." And I say, "Well, I'm not going." And I now hardly ever go, because, am I going to end up - if I live - having dementia like they have. And I don't want that. And I don't want to see it and it frightens me. But I do want to give enormous credit to Robert and Vera Gelman because they do this and they're not even themselves refugees. They do this because they're good people. And...

I know them.

You know them?

Yeah.

Well, they're very good people.

They invited me once to give one of lectures in their... and it was in Pinner.

Pinner, yeah.

But can I just say- So do you see yourself as a refugee and do you see yourself as a first or second generation?

No. No, not at all. I see myself as having been born in Austria. I see myself as actually quite proud I was born in Vienna. Vienna! You know, that wonderful city. Of Mozart and Strauß and whatever. Mahler.

So, not as a refugee?

[2:13:08]

I do not see myself as a refugee at all, no. Not at all. Refugee, me? Certainly not. How dare you? ...No.

But different- yes?

What is interesting is – because I'm just thinking about it - if I hadn't been born in Vienna. Let's assume I'd been born as my parents were in Galicia. I would think of myself as a refugee. I think that because it's Vienna, and because of what Vienna means, I don't think of it so much. I don't think of it at all as being a refugee. I'm just somebody who was born in a rather lovely city called Vienna. If I'd been born in Tarnopol or Tluste, no.

You said when you go to meetings you have all the refugees- so you, you're different because you were very young...

That's right.

...When you came. You don't have an accent.

No. I'm not like all that old lot. I'm only eighty-one!

You're a spring chicken.

I'm a spring chicken.

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah well, you could be a second generation - almost. Not quite.

Yeah. But- no, I think that you've hit upon something which I hadn't really thought about, that Vienna means more to me than I- than I actually thought. I knew I liked it. I know Davida doesn't like it. Davida likes Salzburg 'cause we've been to the *Festspielhaus* and things like that. But she doesn't like Vienna because she believes that they're all Nazis. Well A, logically that's impossible. And B, I like it, she doesn't. Perhaps she likes- she dislikes it because I like it so much.

Yeah. But- perhaps for you, I mean maybe there is a sense of nostalgia.

There is a sense. I mean on a silly thing like 'The Merry Widow'. I went to see 'The Merry Widow' at the Volksoper, and I cried because it reminded me of my parents.

Yeah.

So... yeah. It is a nostalgia. It is- whenever I hear particularly as it happens the lighter music, the Lehars and the Straußes, it reminds me of my parents.

Yeah. No, it makes perfect sense.

So there is a nostalgia there.

Because it's not your experience. You didn't experience that in Vienna.

No. No – no. And because it was a happy childhood and because they were good parents and I was the, the bad one, the- I have only have happy memories.

[2:15:45]

Yes, and you didn't have any bad experiences in Austria. You.

No. No, I didn't.

Yeah.

No, I didn't.

That' makes it slightly different. Is there anything else we haven't discussed? Your career also, you said you were very involved in education.

Ah, yes, let me tell you what- thank you very much. I...When I retired. OK- I'm fairly emotional and as I said earlier, I cry easily but I also make decisions very quickly. And... having- I'm going to go back and talk about this Palme d'Or in Cannes. Having won the Palme d'Or in Cannes being in very good company, as the time went on, we were still making a reasonable amount of money but we were now producing not stuff I'm proud of. And I- If people said, "What commercials have you made?", I didn't really want to tell them because I didn't like the ones I'd made because they weren't very creative. But they were still making quite a lot of money. And I was thinking I'm getting near sixty, I'm not enjoying it anymore. Yeah, the money's good but I'm- come on, we won Palme d'Or in Cannes; look at the rubbish we're doing now. And then one enormous job came up with the Ford Motor Company. My turnover was about four million, and the Ford Motor Company were on one week's filming, going to spend 750,000 pounds. And- but there was only one film director I had that they wanted for this. It was beautiful car photography they wanted. And I had a guy called Roger Alexander who was a photographer, but also made commercials and he was the one they wanted. I said, "Yeah, of course you can have Roger." Spoke to Roger: "That's fine." And then Roger rang up and said, "Look Peter, I can't do that week. I'm also under contract to a Spanish production company. And... as you know I actually prom- you were saying you thought you were going to get this job. I've confirmed with them." "That shouldn't be a problem. I'll tell Ogilvy and Mather," the advertising agency, "that we'll postpone it for a week." They said, "You can't postpone it. They only week they've got..." I know. It was about twenty-four cars, it was in the south of France where they were going to film it, "...is the week of *bo-bom* to *bo-bom*." So, "OK, what about one of my other directors?" I had about six other directors. "No. We want Roger." In the end, I didn't get the job. It was near my sixtieth birthday. I went into the office. We only had a permanent staff of about six or seven. I said, "I'm giving you all three months' money, cause I'm closing on my birthday." In fact, I closed on the 30th of December- of June. I was so emotionally upset that I

didn't get this job because it was a big job. It was a nice job, and as I say I was really- didn't like the stuff we were doing. And I told Davida, "I'm retiring." And I did retire two days after my sixtieth birthday. You then wake up in the morning, a week later or two weeks later and think, "Oh dear. What am I going to do now? I've just closed everything. That's not very clever." So, whenever anyone asked me to do anything I said, "Yeah, I'll do that."

[2:18:57]

The only problem was most of them were evening things. So, I became a school governor. I was a governor at Northwood College where both my girls were- went, which is an independent school. I became a member of the Synagogue Council for ten years. In charge of PR. Working with Andrew Goldstein, mainly. I became eventually Chairman of the Loudwater Residents Association. I set up an edit- I made an edited, a magazine for Loudwater. I did various other things, just can't remember what they are. But they were all in the evening. And I was out almost every evening doing something. I was on the golf course, not this current golf club, I was on their committee. And I suddenly thought, what five, six, seven years ago, "I don't want to do all this. I have no evenings to myself. I want to watch 'Coronation Street' or 'East Enders'." I'm joking. But the- I'm always out. And so slowly but surely, I gave up every single one. It now means I'm totally bored and I've nothing to do and I do watch 'East Enders' and 'Coronation Street'. No, I don't. But the fact is that... for- I gave up at sixty... For fifteen years I was doing other work but mostly as it happens all these committees that you're on are always meeting in the evenings. I enjoyed it. It gave me- it got me out of the house. I made new friends. Inverted commas, the friends. More new acquaintances. Got me out of Davida's hair. Davida's a social worker and was doing- started a, a thing for children locally in the Watford area. Where- for children of divorced parents where they could meet. So, she was out a bit. And so yeah, it gave me something to do. I also started writing quite a bit. And I started writing letters to the AJR.

[2:21:12]

Let's get on to the letters now. Yes. Please tell us how it started?

Well, I don't know. I mean, bless him, will deny this, but Howard Spier will deny this. But Howard Spier is the Executive Editor, or Tony Grenville is, I don't know which is which. But

one is Editor and the other one's [inaudible]. Tony- I met Howard and Howard- the first letter I ever wrote was fairly aggressive and whatever. And Howard said, "You wouldn't like to carry on doing this because we got three or four letters in answer to yours, and that's very good for my letters page. So, would you like to be provocative, and just anything that comes to your fancy, write about it. And you can be as rude as you like." And Howard, he would even ring me, bless him, and say, "Peter this one isn't as rude as you usually are. Can you just make it a bit sharper?" So, I have been doing that for - I think it's nearly - ten years. Been doing it for a hell of a long time. I enjoy it because it's much easier being provocative and rude. I was talking to your cameraman earlier about Michael Winner. I was editor of *Cherwell* at Oxford when Michael Winner was editor of *Varsity* at Cambridge. And he sued me. And nothing actually happened. But Michael Winner was very, very rude. And although I actually disliked Michael Winner, there was something about his rudeness because he was not- Michael, I know you're in heaven or hell somewhere. He was not a very good director. He was a bloody awful director. But he got loads and loads of publicity and his films were seen, because of his rudeness.

Right.

And presumably, why I'm now a- a legend in my own rudeness, is that by being rude in the AJR letters, I get people meeting me- and there's the lovely- lovely Gaby Glassman who I sat next to at some dinner or other. And she said, "Oh, I was really dreading sitting next to you because you sounded really horrible." And very luckily, she didn't find me very horrible and we've actually become friends. But the- I do it because I enjoy doing it. Now that Howard is semi-retired or whatever. I don't know what's happened to him. Whether this new editor will take the same view, I've no idea. But it is- there are certain things which upset me like faith schools. Like... ultra-religious ceremony. Like knocking Israel, et cetera, where I will... react. And the easiest way to react is to react sharply. Not to do the English way saying "Possibly", or "I think", but to just say it as you think. And I do. And Howard loved it.

[2:24:05]

So, in fact you're a sort of hidden column writer. [laughs]

I'm a hidden column writer. A blogger. A blogger.

And you've got a persona.

Yeah, I suppose-

A letter persona.

Yeah, I suppose so. I- as I say I don't know what's going to happen now that Howard's... not editing for the time being. But the- perhaps this new editor will agree. I don't know whether she's permanent anyway. But-

It's been very successful because of [inaudible] letters.

It's given them a lot of letter pages, which is one way of filling the magazine. And I like doing it; I really like doing it. I enjoy doing it.

So, what was your most recent letter about?

Oh, somebody had attacked- oh, it must have been again- it's the same thing. It must have attacked- I can't remember what the recent one- there should be ones coming out in the next, two or three days.

Yeah? On what topic?

Oh, somebody had a go at me and I had a go back. It must be one of the usual ones. I think it was to do with Israel.

And do you ever meet the people who write against you? Do you know them?

I don't really know them, no. No.

And do you-?

There's one lovely lady, who according to Howard is really, really nice called Margarete Stern and she always attacks me about something or other. But I gather she's nearly ninety and... If you get to know them, you would find it far more difficult...

Yes!

... to be rude. And therefore, I don't really want to know them. Margarete Stern sounds a really charming old lady. I can't be rude to her if I think of her as a charming old lady. Therefore, I don't want to meet her.

[2:25:46]

Yeah. So, you don't- you don't mind getting the letters back? You enjoy it?

No, not at all. No, no - I love it. Davida hates it. Davida gets really upset and worried that somebody's going to kill me one day, but no, I love it. I believe there was a... a- *Campaign* which is the advertising magazine - still exists - did a piece about me- a profile on me - I don't know what the right word is - where the headline was and it's probably true, which I hadn't thought about, that I didn't mind- I liked being loved but I didn't mind being hated as long as people I- knew who I was. So, to me it was more important being known... than being ignored. And probably that was a very, very astute headline. It was far better than I've just given you. I can't remember the exact words. But the- it was a very astute thing because even in advertising, people- most- a lot of people knew who I was. Loads of people knew. A lot didn't particularly like me, but what was important to me, was they knew who I was.
...Complicated.

Well, I think you've succeeded because if you Googled yourself, [laughs] the thing is there's a lot of AJR.

Yes, sure. It's all to do with the AJR.

There's a lot of letters coming and a lot of letters other people have written.

Sure.

Which is interesting.

But some people have agreed.

Yes. Yes.

Some people have agreed.

How do you see the future of the AJR? I mean, as an institution?

Well, I'm- I'm- I'm happy they can afford it, but I'm happy to make Richard my son, and Caroline and Mandy, if they want to, the three living in England, members of the AJR and pay their subscription. I think the only one who might, because he's interested in Israel, rather than the Jewish bit, is Richard. The others are- they're interested in my past, i. e. Vienna. They're interested in- they all knew my mother because she died in '86 and they were all- well, Caroline, Mandy and Richard were in their twenties. I think that I'm not sure they would do much. I'm just- I don't think, except for Richard who when he comes here, first thing he does is pick up the *Jewish Chronicle* and read the Israel bit. I don't think they're very Jewish. Uninterested in the Jewish bit and therefore remember the Association of Jewish Refugees. You ask me if I think of myself as a refugee. My answer was no. They certainly don't think of themselves as refugees. They think of themselves as Jewish, but 'Jew-ish', as Jonathan Miller said.

Yeah. Yeah.

They- they definitely, they don't deny being Jewish. They are, they are Jewish, but they're not synagogue-going, faith school visiting Jews. So as far as the AJR is concerned... paying the twenty-five quid membership, fine, but would they do anything? I don't know.

But what do you think? Do you think the AJR should sort of go into more education direction, or?

Yes.

You think...

[2:29:10]

They have- have to. Because... I mean, you know I had lunch with Michael Newman. And ...who as you know is the Chief Executive of the AJR. Michael saying that second generation, third generation are joining. That's fine, but what are they going to do? And I think it has got to go towards education. We- I was on the original committee and I think it was done brilliantly. Northwood United and Northwood Liberal started ten years ago, fifteen years ago, a- a thing for schools. And it's the first time that a United synagogue and a Liberal synagogue go together on anything. And we have these Holocaust things in January, February. And one year it's- in fact one year we used both shuls. And Andrew Goldstein on the Liberal side and Rabbi Brawer on the United Synagogue side, were actually- they got on well and they were friends, which I would like to bring in something else while I remember. They were friends and it worked well. And we still have, even now, something like 2,000 kids coming in a year to hear about the Holocaust. And I think it's wonderful. Just to go back to what I just said, "and they were friends". What I think is a great shame is we're in Northwood. Northwood United, when Rabbi Brawer was the- and he was a Lubavitch- was the rabbi, he and Andrew Goldstein recognised each other as rabbis. They had respect for each other's views, et cetera. Since Northwood- since Rabbi Brawer's left- I mean the current rabbi at... Northwood United, does not recognise Aaron Goldstein who's now a rabbi – Andrew's son, who's now a rabbi. He's an Israeli who's come over straight from Israel to take over Northwood United. Has totally different views. And as far as he's concerned, we're Liberal, we're not Jews. We had the same problem with Pinner in another way, when Rabbi Grunwald was rabbi in Pinner. He didn't recognise Andrew Goldstein. Now, the Pinner lot do recognise Aaron. So, depending on who is the rabbi in the United synagogues on whether we get recognition or not, and whether they will stand next to each other at Remembrance Sunday or things like that. And I think that is a tragedy. And I think and perhaps we'll end on this- I think the thing that worries me most, is Jews fighting each other in this country because of their beliefs. And I think that is really, really dreadful. Because to say you have caused which some United Synagogue and *frummers* have said, "You have caused more problems than the Holocaust by having Reform and Liberal Judaism." That is disgusting... and really makes me angry. So, shall I- shall I end as angry Peter? [laughing]

[2:32:21]

Well, maybe, no. [laughing] Maybe let's find by something else. I agree with you; it's divisive. But it's interesting because some of the- there is a sort of whole multi-faith element. But towards other faiths. But...

But it's so ridiculous that... Rabbi Sacks for whom I have a lot of time, and a highly intelligent man, would only go to the stone setting of Hugo Gryn as a member of the Christians and Jews, not as- not as Chief Rabbi. Which is ludicrous!

So, then Peter, maybe- what- have you got a message for anyone who might watch this interview?

Don't- forgive, but don't ever forget the Holocaust. I think it's the most important thing. You've got to forgive. The kids who are in Germany and Austria now were not the ones- or even the adults- even those in their fifties, they're not the ones who were the Nazis. It was their parents and grandparents. You can't blame the current lot for what happened to us and our parents. And also, in this country, one, beware of anti-Semitism. There is anti-Semitism. It is growing. And don't be fooled by Corbyn. Corbyn and that side of the Labour party is anti-Semitic. The whole thing with Shami Chakrabarti was a disgrace. And I think- it worries me enormously what is going on on the left wing of the Labour party. There were problems at Oxford at the Oxford University Labour Club. That was swept under the carpet. Beware. There is anti-Semitism in this country. And the third and last thing is, forget whether you are United, Reform, Liberal, Masorti or whatever. You're all Jews and try and be friends with each other as opposed to sniping at each other, because it's so pointless. There are enough people sniping against us without us sniping at- at them, amongst ourselves.

Are you worried about anti-Semitism for yourself, today, in Britain?

[2:34:40]

No.

No.

No, not in this area. But I can- there is definitely- I mean what, what is so ironic. Right, I'll tell you a little story. Right - Whee! Another story. When I joined Moor Park Golf Club- Moor Park- I- I was a golfer at Sandy Lodge, but a load of my friends had died and I didn't really know that many people. Hadn't done much socialising at Sandy Lodge. I decided to join Moor Park. And Moor Park- I initially wanted to join in the 70s. And my two neighbours decided to join. And I said, "Well, I'm not sure I'm- Moor Park take Jews. And I'll tell you what. You two join. I'm going to go and join Sandy Lodge, 'cause I know, they do take Jews." Cause I know quite a few Jews had belonged to Sandy Lodge. They joined. Three months later, I got a phone call from Moor Park. "Mr. Phillips?" "Yes." "Hallo, this is" - whatever his name was. "Your two neighbours have joined us and we understand that you decided to join Sandy Lodge. We're doing some research. We'd quite like to know why you made that decision." "OK, the reason I made the decision was that I understand that you're not too fond of taking Jews and that's why I joined Sandy Lodge." "Ah, but you went to Oxford. We would have taken you." At which stage I did call him that rude four-letter word and put the phone down. So- now, what is extraordinary about Moor Park today, is the next Captain is going to be Jewish. He's going to be about the fourth Jewish Captain they've had. The Rabbits Captain is Jewish. The Jews have almost vaguely taken over Moor Park. But Moor Park in the 70s, allegedly did not take Jews, and they actually said to me, "We'd have taken you because you went to Oxford." So... anti-Semitism. Yes, there is anti-Semitism, and anti-Semitism is around. But why Moor Park now - and this is the point I'm trying to make - are welcoming Jews is A, we're white, and B, the great worry they now have is with the Muslims. And they're trying to keep the Muslims out. They're not succeeding, but they're trying to keep the Muslims out. And while we have Muslims - people to hate - they're not going to hate us. So basically... the hatred- I can only talk about this area. But I would say it's probably- goes even wider. The hatred of foreigners is towards the Muslims. And I- for Muslims I include poor devils the Hindus and the- or everyone else because they- the Asians. They don't know whether they're Muslims or not. In this area we've got mainly Hindus. But the- the- it is- taking the gold club again, it is the- the Asians that they're wary of. "Jews, come on in! You're lovely! You're all white - and you don't all have long noses."

[2:37:42]

Yeah. So maybe finishing on the political situation today, maybe let's finish on Brexit, because that seems topical. What are your views? Do you have-?

Well, I- I was a very strong Remainer. I'm a European. I can't understand... what advantages there are going to be in moving. The Brexiteers told a pack of lies. Mind you, so did the Remainers. They both told a whole pack of lies. And I don't think anyone really knew what they were voting for. And if you take the northeast in particular the northeast thought, "well, we hate what's going on and we're not doing very well, so let's just have some change." They didn't really know what it was all about. And I'm not saying that the Remainers were any more honest than the Brexiteers. But I think the- Cameron will go down- if- if Tony Blair goes down as the guy who invaded Iraq, Blair will- Cameron will go down as the idiot who gave us a referendum, 'cause he wanted to keep the Tory Party happy. And I think it was a terrible, terrible mistake. And I don't think this country knew what they were voting for and what's going to happen. God only knows. I've no idea.

So are you- [sound break]

No, I was going to ask you how you feel about, because you have also an Austrian passport- So in that Brexit situation, does that...?

Well, I- I've got an Austrian passport. My wife didn't want me to take Austrian nationality at all, but when they offered it in late 90s- because sorry, another thing I did after I retired, I became Chairman of the Austrian restr- Austrian Restitution group. And we negotiated- I negotiated on behalf of the UK - big deal - with Austria and with Ariel Muzicant who was then in charge of the Austrian... Jews and what money we were going to get. And also, with a very charming lady called Hanna Lessing, who probably hates me, but the - because I gave her quite a hard time – but the - it wasn't fun but it gave me something to do and it- I was able to get even angrier. [laughs] So one of the other things I did was, as I say, I was Chairman of the Austrian Restitution Group and I've lost my train of thought. How have I got to that one?

[2:40:15]

The passport.

The passport. They- besides getting very little money, the- they offered me my Austrian nationality back. Davida was very much against it, saying, "They threw you out, tell them to get stuffed." I couldn't see any point in... telling them to get stuffed. I also get a pension, so why should I lose that? And I have a pension now with the euro and the pound it's not that bad. It's about 300 a month which is not bad... 300 euros a month- sorry. So basically, I decided I am going to take Austrian nationality. And with it came an Austrian passport. Now I've never used the passport and it's now wildly out of date because it must be about 1998 or whatever. But the- ...I might need it. I might need to renew it. I'm eighty-one so I doubt if anything is going to happen in my lifetime that's going to make much difference. But it's belt and braces. I certainly wouldn't give it up and I'm glad I've got it in case of emergency. I can't see there being an emergency, certainly not at my age. But the- it's a good thing to have. The- what was so strange- I must go back to these negotiations.

Yes.

The negotiations were crazy. They wanted to see my air ticket. How the hell was I going to have my air ticket from British- from Imperial Airways that I took from Zurich? Why did I go from Zurich, not from Vienna? Do I have this, do I have that? All we got, and Davida came with me on several visits to the Austrian archives- they only- every Jew had to, after the Anschluss, sign - I think I'm pronouncing it correctly - a [pronounces:] *Vermeignungsverzeichnis*.

Vermögensverzeichnis. [list of assets]

-*Verzeichnis*. And I found my mother's, and my father's and my grandmother's. And they- in the end, that is all they would pay out, what they had signed for. And we got thirteen percent of what it was then. So, they didn't actually say, "Well, it was worth that, so now, in 1998 it'll be worth so much." It was based on the value in 1938. Thirteen percent was pretty damn little. I argued very strongly; I lost. We got involved in the *Woman in Gold*, the... case because she had - what was her name? - anyway, she had...

[sound break]

[2:43:12]

Yes, before the light blew, we were discussing the- your work in the Austrian Restitution-

Yes, so I was the chairman of the Austrian Restitution Group. We got the thirteen percent. We got our-

Thirteen percent of what?

We got thirteen percent of what we could prove from the *Vermögensverzeichnis* - if that's the way you pronounce it - that our parents had to sign at the Anschluss for- all Jews had to sign. And that were in the Austrian archives. Anything that couldn't be proved from that *Verzeichnis*, you didn't get. What I think was really bad was besides why thirteen percent was that they didn't take inflation, change of currency or anything like that into account. It was thirteen percent at what it was at that time. I argued with Hanna Lessing who is a lovely lady, who ironically is Jewish but who is running the Austrian National Fund. And I argued with the Austrian Embassy. I argued with Ariel Muzicant who is head of the Austrian Jewish lot. We couldn't do any better, and if you like, it was - we failed. What was particularly annoying was that due to a mistake by the Austrian Embassy, my grandmother didn't get anything. And they admitted it was a mistake, but they said I'd signed it. Now my German wasn't good enough and... they said it was my own mistake. I should have checked before signing. My argument was it was actually filled in by the Austrian Embassy themselves. And they said, "No, it's correct." In the end, as a compromise because I don't think my grandmother left very much, they agreed to put up a plaque to my father at the Hakoah Sports Club, which was a Viennese Sports Club. And he was the doctor there when they had a football team- and a very good football team; they actually played in Europe in the thirties.

We didn't mention it. What was the sports club? Hakoah...?

Hakoah in Vienna. And he was a doctor to that club and they even played Arsenal and West Ham. And... anyway, I managed to persuade-

Where is the plaque? Sorry-

[2:45:42]

The plaque is at the Hakoah Stadium which was rebuilt in Vienna. It's in Vienna now. And I managed to persuade Hanna Lessing, who thought I was being very naughty in doing this, but because of the mistake made by the Austrian Embassy in leaving my grandmother out altogether, in compensation, they put this plaque up to my father which was- I don't think my grandmother left that much. But it really was ridiculous that this mistake should have been made. What was also very sad is that I had them in tears at the archives, because they said, "We would like to tell you more. We would like to give you more. But we can't. So-and-so's an anti-Semite," and, "So-and-so won't let me do this." And in front of Davida this one guy Doctor Hubert Steiner - I'll name him 'cause he was a nice man - he actually cried and said, "Herr Fink, who is my boss, won't let me do this" and, "Won't let me do that." And I had terrible rows in the- with the archive people. But eventually as I say, I think we lost. The- I don't think the Claims Conference - and I'll say this happily if somebody wants to have a go at me - I don't think the Claims Conference did us much good, because Rabbi Singer who was in charge of the- it, was travelling around the world, travelling business class, staying in five-star hotels at our money. And I don't think he did very much with his Irish friend whose name I can't remember, as far as Austrian compensation was concerned. How- till the Waldheim case came along, when they discovered that Waldheim was a Nazi. The Austrians had been let off, by saying, "We had been invaded." This is crazy. The Germans- Adenauer came out, held up his hands and said, "Yes, Mea Culpa." The Austrians were allowed to get away with it till the 90s and till Waldheim. And the Claims Conference who want to take a load of credit, they don't deserve any credit because they had let us down. And I feel very angry about Rabbi Singer, because I just don't think he did enough. And yet he was travelling on our money, around the world, staying at great hotels, travelling business class and doing nothing.

You mean 'us', the Austrian...?

'Us', the Austrian refugees.

OK.

[2:48:10]

One last thing.

Good.

I'm- 'cause I want it to end- end up on a happy note. I like cinema facades. And I buy books on cinema facades. I think it's a great shame that they're all now called 'View' or 'Cinevision' or whatever they're now called, because those old cinemas were very lovely to look at. And I think my interest started by being a refugee, a- a Jewish Austrian refugee, in Hampstead, when my mother would wheel me down in a- my little pram or... whatever those things were. And the first cinema I saw was the 'Odeon' in Swiss Cottage before it was re-done. And I've loved old cinemas ever since. So, let's end on a happy note, that rather than- and I do have anger, because why did the Germans have such a good deal and the Austrians such a bad deal? And that does make me angry. And I just don't think that... those clever Americans did enough for us. Sorry, one other thing. *Woman in Gold*. Oddly, one of the reasons the Austrians were very slow in paying us, even after they agreed, it was their fault, was that - what was her name? The, the lady who sued - the Austrians decided - who sued on the Klimt paintings -

Yes...

The Austrians decided that till her case - Maria Altmann - until her case was out of the way that no other payments were going to be made. So, I have loads of letters attacking Maria Altmann saying, "Why is she given all this precedence over the rest of us? She is one person." And I was very amused to see the film. And the film is absolutely right. And they are her paintings. But the Austrians had managed to get an agreement with the American courts that nothing would happen till the Altmann case was out of the way. So, we were actually stopped. So, go and see *Woman in Gold*. It's a great film.

OK. Just one last question. You said you like cinema facades. Do you remember any- have any films influenced you greatly, or is there...?

I remember seeing in the war, and it's my favourite film - it's probably everyone's favourite film - *Casablanca*, which I loved and it's great and every- I know every line in the film.

Because of my love for Vienna, I like *The Third Man* which was a tremendous film and when I hear [*sings part of the theme song*] - that sends shivers down my spine. So, I- I like *The Third Man*. Yeah, I was influenced, I suppose the war- with *Casablanca* and I suppose *The Third Man* as well, were two of my favourite films, both in black and white.

OK. Thank you very, very much for this interview and sharing your life story and we're now going to now look at some photographs.

OK.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[End of interview]

[2:51:20]

[2:51:41]

[Start of photographs and documents]

Photo 1

This is a photograph of my father. He fought in the First World War. I want to quickly say that he fought on the Russian front and not on the Western front, because it offends some people that he actually was in the First World War and fighting against the Allies. But he was on the Russian front. He was in the German or Austrian Military Corps- the Austrian, in fact, in fact Austro-Hungarian Military Corps- [correcting himself] Hospital Corps and was working with the ambulances.

Photo 2

On the left are my parents. I would guess this- they were married in 1924, so I would guess this was the late 20s, and they liked going to Bled, so it might well be on Lake Bled.

Photo 3

This photograph was taken in Vienna in 1936. It's my grandfather, Michael Pfeffer. It's in [inaudible] Park. I'm sitting on his lap together with my cousin Bob who is still with us and he's a successful professor of chemistry or chemical engineering in New York. My mother insisted I was the prettier baby.

Photo 4

OK, this photograph is taken in 1933 in Bled, which is I think now Croatia– not sure. It's my sister with her school friends, enjoying a holiday there, I would guess. Otherwise, I don't know what they were all doing in Bled. But my sister died in 1935 just before I was born so she would have been about five years old.

Photo 5

This is a photograph of my sister Liane – L I A N E. She died age seven of meningitis in June 1935, three weeks before I was born. The tragedy of my sister and then I hope, the joy of my birth.

[2:53:55]

Photo 6

This is a picture of me. I would guess- I look about just over one year old. It's with my nanny and it was taken in Baden bei Wien. My parents, to escape the heat of Vienna in the summer, would go to either Baden bei Wien or Semmering in the summer, or my mother would. My father would carry on doing his surgeries. But I know that both Baden bei Wien and Semmering were two of their favourite places for sort of long weekends.

Photo 7

This is a photograph of me before we left Vienna. I would guess by this time I was about two-and-a-half to three. Location, I would think is the Stadtpark. It might be the [] Park which is in the centre of Vienna. The girl with me is perhaps my first girlfriend. To be honest, I don't know who she is.

Photo 8

This is a photograph of me. Again, I would guess I was about two-and-a-half to three years old. I'm there with my favourite teddy bear which is the one toy I remember most from my Vienna days. I don't look very macho, do I?

Photo 9

Photograph in Vienna of my mother and me. Me holding my teddy bear, again. It was before we left. We fled from Vienna in February '39.

Photo 10

This photograph was taken in Becontree. My father's first job as a doctor in England was in Becontree, which was the LCC Estate for the Ford workers of Dagenham. My first school in England - proper school - was in Becontree. And here I am wearing my school uniform, about to go to school.

[2:56:04]

Photo 11

This photograph was taken in Becontree. My guess is that it was probably about 1943, '44. It's my father in his surgery in Woodward Road. He was working with another Jewish doctor called Doctor Joe Finer. And... we stayed in Becontree till the beginning of 1945.

Photo 12

This photograph was taken in Becontree, which is the LCC or was the LCC's Estate in Dagenham. Where my father was a doctor. We lived in a council house. This was the garden, and in the garden on the far left you'll see my grandmother, Breine, or Berta as she was in Vienna. On the far right is my mother, Betty. I'm the one holding the cat. And the other boy is Eric, who was my best friend.

Photo 13

In 1945 the family moved to Banbury in Oxfordshire. And my father took over the Friends' Society Medical Association as the doctor. This was a pre-National Health Service organisation that catered for patients who went on the panel because they didn't have enough money to pay normal type fees that doctors paid. That was the house we lived in. It's still standing there. It's now an RAF benevolent home. The surgery was on the right. The living

accommodation was on the left and up above. And my mother, my father, grandmother and I lived there from 1945 till... well, till my father died in 1965.

Photo 14

This is a picture taken in 1953 at Oxford University. It was matriculation time. In the photograph six of us read law. One read physics. The two top ones on the left-hand side both became professors. I'm on the top row on the right. The Indian gentleman in the front row, his father was Prime Minister of Pakistan and he went to- back to Pakistan as a member of the Ruling Party. The guy in the middle of the back row became my closest friend, like a brother, and he was our best man and a great, great friend who is sorely missed, John Wood.

[2:58:48]

Photo 15

This is our wedding day in- on September the 21st 1958. It was at Hampstead Garden Suburb synagogue. The officiating rabbi was Rabbi Lew. I married as Peter Pfeffer. Davida Graff. I was twenty-...three and Davida was twenty. We were both very young, but very much in love! Which I hope we still are!

Photo 16

This is our honeymoon which we spent at St. Brelade's Bay in Jersey. We were going to go to Mallorca but our finances didn't take us there. Weren't we young? And still very much in love even three weeks after getting married, or was it two?

Photo 17

As an advertising film production company, we were very lucky, or very talented - or both. And we won quite a few awards. We won awards the *Palme d'Or* in Cannes in 1971 as the best advertising film company in the world. This particular picture is winning an award in England, a thing called a *Cleo* which actually was American. And it was handed to me by Glynis Barber of *Makepeace and Dempsey* fame, if that was fame. And... I was very proud that day and I think we consumed a bottle of champagne.

Photo 18

This is a photograph taken on our 55th wedding anniversary in our older daughter's- elder daughter's garden in Sarratt which is a village in Hertfordshire, featuring all our children and their partners or husbands and wives. Starting on the left is my son Mark and his wife Tanya. Then we come to Diana and my eldest son Richard. Then we come to Caroline who was the hostess who is my elder daughter and her husband John. Then there's Davida and me. And lastly, there's Paul and my younger daughter Mandy.

Which year?

It was taken in- if... '14- must be three – yeah, '13. It was taken in 2013.

Photo 19

This photograph was taken in 2013 at our 55th wedding anniversary when all the grandchildren were there and all our children were there. To identify them; on the left is my wife Davida. Next to her is Polly. In the back row are three grandsons: Charlie, Jamie and Ben. In front of Charlie is his sister Emma who's got her arms around Daisy and Jemma. Next to Jemma is her brother Josh, and next to Josh is Lara. Further back behind Lara is Lara's sister Lottie. In front of Lottie is me. And with his hand on my shoulder is Adam.

Thank you.

[3:02:15]

Document 1

Two cards which we found in an album that we were going through recently. The first one is announcing the engagement of my father to my mother. And it was in the year 1922, I think. Sorry, I correct that – it's 1920. So that was four years. They were engaged for a long time. They didn't get married until 1924 so they had a four-year engagement. I think what my mother's side of the family insisted on was that my father has his medical degree before they got married. And I don't think he actually got his medical degree till about 1922.

Document 2

The bottom one is where he is now, his business card. He's Doktor Marcus Pfeffer. He's practicing at Förstergasse *fünf*, Vienna 2 and that is his business card. And he obviously was practicing there till we had to flee Vienna in February 1939.

Thank you.

Artwork 1

This is a portrait of my sister Liana who died aged seven in June 1935, three weeks before I was born. The picture was brought from Vienna... with my parents to London and has been in our possession- well, as my parents' possession and now my possession ever since. So, it's had a long journey. Most of the other photographs overall- this isn't a photograph, it's a portrait- but the photographs of her were smashed during Kristallnacht in Vienna when the Nazis came into our flat and smashed up everything, including the portraits of my late sister.

Artwork 2

This was a portrait done of my father in Banbury by one of his patients. It's quite good, really. And it gets him perfectly, because he was fairly formal and I think even in the summer probably wore his waistcoat. He also, because he had a wound in his neck from the First World War, he tended to always wear stiff collars. And that's captured as well. He was a formal gentleman. He loved his ties and his waistcoats. And it's very much like him!

[End of photographs and documents]

[3:04:53]

[The following segment is found on the interview recording at [0:00:00] but belongs here at the end of photographs and documents]

[0:00:00]

Artwork 3

Having a portrait of my father, it seemed appropriate, I should also have one of my mother. This was done miraculously by an artist in Thailand from a tiny, tiny little photograph that was given to me by one of our film drivers, who had a girlfriend in Thailand. And I think it was the girlfriend who actually did it. And it's a great likeness.

Peter, thank you very, very much again for this interview, for sharing your history and your photographs with us.

Great pleasure.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[0:00:38]

[End of addendum to photographs and documents]