

**IMPORTANT**

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**AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive**

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**Interview Transcript Title Page**

<b>Collection title:</b>	AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive
<b>Ref. no:</b>	13

<b>Interviewee Surname:</b>	Sellers
<b>Forename:</b>	Ruth
<b>Interviewee Sex:</b>	Female
<b>Interviewee DOB:</b>	1 February 1922
<b>Interviewee POB:</b>	Karlsruhe, Germany

<b>Date of Interview:</b>	28 April 2003
<b>Location of Interview:</b>	Stock
<b>Name of Interviewer:</b>	Dr. Anthony Grenville
<b>Total Duration (HH:MM):</b>	2 hours 35 minutes

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

**INTERVIEW: 13**

**NAME: RUTH SELLERS**

**DATE: 28 APRIL 2003**

**LOCATION: STOCK, ESSEX**

**INTERVIEWER: ANTHONY GRENVILLE**

**TAPE 1**

**Tape 1: 0 minute 36 seconds**

AG: First of all, Mrs. Sellers, I'd like to thank you very much for agreeing to do the interview with us. Perhaps I could just start by asking you to state your full name, please.

RS: Full name is Ruth Sofie Sellers.

AG: And your maiden name?

RS: Josch.

AG: And when were you born?

RS: 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1922.

AG: Where?

RS: In Karlsruhe.

AG: Could you tell me about your family background, please?

RS: Well, I had a wonderful father and mother, we were quite well-off in the early '30s, and I have one sister, who was born in 1927, she was five years younger than I am, and we had a very happy life. We used to go out weekends, my father had a car, and we had picnics, and it was a jolly happy life, until of course it got a bit more difficult, really when Hitler took over in 1933, it all went downhill. My father didn't have a proper job, my grandfather's factory, he had a flags factory, that was gone, and on the whole it was getting more and more difficult once Hitler came. I went to school, I was very good at sport, and I used to win things and, in the end, because I was Jewish, I couldn't do it anymore and every year it was more and more difficult. And then, when I got to about 13, I think it was, I had to leave the school. I went to a Jewish School, I think there are one or two people at the AJR, I think somebody wrote me a letter some time ago and he thinks I used to write wonderful essays, but I can't remember that. But then I went into a - 13 I was when I left school - I went to Lessing School,

Realschule, which was a higher thing, but because I was Jewish I couldn't go into that, and I went to a Jewish school. Then, by the age of 13-14, I felt I ought to help my parents with money, and I had typing lessons and stenography lessons, and I managed to get a job, when I was 14, with a Jewish firm, Schnurman and Company, and I stayed there for about 2 years, until '38. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, of course, when they burnt all the synagogues, I happened to go to one of the - I can't remember how it happened - anyway I went to the synagogue and saw it burnt, rushed home, told my parents. And we had been told that my father was going to be arrested, and my mother wasn't Jewish, she became Jewish when she married, and we decided to go and live in my grandmother's house in Karlsruhe. She offered us the top flat upstairs, and we just left more or less everything and went and lived there, terrified. And I think my grandfather was downstairs, my non-Jewish grandfather. He died, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November. And life was very difficult, and my father decided that I should leave and so he applied, I don't know how much money he had to get together, because money was very short, and he applied, he wanted me to go.

**Tape 1: 4 minutes 41 seconds**

AG: Before we get to when you come to England, I'd like to take you back a bit. You were talking about your father. Could you tell me your father's full name?

RS: Max Adolf, of all things, absolutely ridiculous, Josch.

AG: And when was he born?

RS: Oh gosh, I think you've got it on your piece of paper. 1968 he died. You've got me there. 1800 and something. He was in the war. Yes, he was in the First World War.

AG: And what did he do?

RS: He was in the army.

AG: Do you know where he served?

RS: I don't know where. But one of his brothers, he died, and he is in Karlsruhe, in the cemetery, they have a memorial for him. They were five brothers, and they were all in the war. And fought for Germany, for what? But anyway he survived, and one died. Two brothers are, I think one of them emigrated eventually. But I've got to go back to '38, because that sticks in my mind.

AG: Yes. Was your father the oldest of the brothers?

RS: You know, I can't tell you that. I've got a photograph; I'll show it to you afterwards.

AG: Was he born in the---?

RS: He was born in the Weingarten, which is just outside Karlsruhe. And the other day I heard somebody say that Rommel was born in the Weingarten, whether that's the same one or not, it's near Karlsruhe. Anyway, they were five brothers and two sisters. And I have a photograph I'll show you later, which is of my grandfather's seventieth birthday, where they stand behind.

AG: What about your grandfather? Did he start a family business or anything?

**Tape 1: 6 minutes 46 seconds**

RS: Yes, he had this 'Flaggenfabrik', they had flags and things like that, and then afterwards my father followed and they were selling sports stuff, you know, sport materials.

AG: So they were selling German flags as well?

RS: That was before Hitler came, but it is ridiculous, really. Anyway, they were all in the war, and one died, and the other one was a footballer, the international footballer, Yula Hirsch, from Karlsruhe, he was quite famous.

AG: So the family had been established in Karlsruhe for some time?

RS: They had, yes.

AG: Do you know when your father met your mother and how?

RS: I think they married in 1921. I don't quite know how they met; I don't know that, I don't know how they met.

AG: What was your mother's name?

RS: Lina.

AG: And her maiden name?

RS: Brotz.

AG: Do you know when she was born?

RS: Well, I have it down; written down all the dates, but in 1954 she died. I don't know, really, I can find it on the paper, perhaps you can sort it out afterwards.

AG: And what sort of family did she come from?

RS: He had coaches, my grandfather on my mother's side, he had coaches, and he was a blacksmith. And where the house was - in Marienstrasse, in Karlsruhe. And we got on fine. We really celebrated Christmas and the Jewish festivals. I was brought up in the Jewish way. We went to synagogue fairly regularly. But it didn't seem to matter very much between the families, you know, we were happy.

AG: And did the two sets of grandparents meet?

RS: I'm not sure whether they met or not, because my other grandfather died in '31, I believe. They must have met, yes, they must have met, but I can't remember. Oh yes, of course, I have a photograph. When my grandfather and grandmother and the other one, they sat together and had a meal at my parent's house. Yes, but I can't remember so much about the various---

**Tape 1: 9 minutes 7 seconds**

AG: But your mother converted?

RS: Yes, she converted. And, as I said, they had a wedding in Nassauer Hof in Karlsruhe, which of course was burnt down eventually. But they were happy, and religion never seemed to be a problem, as far as I'm concerned.

AG: Your grandparents, on your mother's side, were they particularly religious? I mean as Christians?

RS: Not dreadfully. My grandfather was a great singer, he loved singing, and I came across a photograph the other day, when he died, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November of that year when I left. Nobody went to his funeral; my father couldn't go, because he was frightened and hiding. And I have a photograph of the wreath, with the 'Hakenkreuz', the Swastika, on it, which his parents and so on must have put on. I don't think they knew that they'd hidden us at the time. I can't remember what happened after I left, because contact was lost, and I don't really know what happened after I left.

AG: How did the family business do in the late twenties or in the early thirties?

**Tape 1: 10 minutes 19 seconds**

RS: It was alright, we always seemed to have enough, we had always a car, we always went out, we seemed to have money, so I don't. We had a maid, you know, we were quite well-off. But then we moved into this flat, when things got worse, in Weinbrennerstrasse. And we were young. You know, I had German boyfriends, at 14, 15, and it didn't seem to matter. But then they were in the Hitler Youth, and then of course they were told, 'You mustn't go and do this'.

AG: How do you remember the family home when you were a small child and before Hitler came?

RS: It was a happy home. It was a happy home.

**Tape 1: 11 minutes 7 seconds**

AG: And where did you live, was it a house?

RS: It was a flat; we always lived in flats, because mostly in Germany you live in flats. Very nice. I had one, Filipstrasse, that's where we were. I was born at Sonntagsplatz, then we went to Filipstrasse, and then we went to Weinbrennerstrasse, that's where all the horrible things happened. And when Hitler came, you know, when the Hitler Youth came, I was often beaten up on the street by the Hitler Youth, and my father used to say, 'I'll go and beat him up'. And we used to have to tie him up almost, not to go and, you know, take revenge. That was a terrible time.

AG: And when did this happen to you?

RS: This was about, yes, when I was 13, 14.

AG: Did they lie in wait for you when you went to school?

RS: Some boys wearing uniform, when you came home they just hit you, and that was it, and then I rushed home, ran home and you didn't want to go out again, so it was not a happy time at that time, when I was 13, 14. And then I went in this office, which was run by Jewish people, and then of course it was taken over, because Jewish people weren't allowed to have a business anymore, and the man who took it over, Mr. Langenbein, I remember him, he was a very nice man, he kept me on, until I left in November, 'til I left and came to England in December.

**Tape 1: 12 minutes 38 seconds**

AG: What sort of office, what sort of firm was it, this Schnurman?

RS: I can't remember what they did. Both bosses, Mr. Ahorn and Mr. Hertz, they emigrated to America. And I did typing and stenography, but I can't remember what they did. I think it was to do with leather. Leather sort of stuff. Anyway, I was there until I left for England.

AG: One person I haven't asked you about in your family, that's your sister. What's her first name?

RS: Judith. She was born in 1927. I don't know, all the photographs I've got we were always picnicking somewhere with my father and my other aunts, we were very friendly with the other aunts on my mother's side. And, you know, it was a very happy family life, until things went wrong.

AG: Did you see much of the family on your father's side, your father's brothers and sisters?

**Tape 1: 13 minutes 44 seconds**

RS: I went to Switzerland, we went to Switzerland regularly. One went to France. We didn't have much contact there. Or Brussels. And my uncle, my Tante Rosa's husband, Rosa was a sister of my father's, he died in Auschwitz. He was an Einstein, and the story always was that he was related to the other Einstein, whether it is true or not, I don't really know. But he was taken to Auschwitz and killed. And his wife lived in Strasbourg in France for quite a while. We went regularly, as I say, my cousin and I, to Switzerland to have holidays when we were smaller. And I think the one in Switzerland was called Wieler, and I think they still have a shop there, but I have not much contact now with the families at all. They were my second or third cousins. And I haven't got much contact with them at all. I think they're still there.

AG: Did you have any experience of anti-Semitism before 1933, before Hitler came to power?

RS: I don't remember very much.

AG: But you would have been in school by then?

RS: Yes.

AG: Was sort of school did you go to?

RS: I went to a Gutenbergschule, which was very nice. I did a lot of sports, and when I got slightly older I won things, but I couldn't get my prize because I was Jewish.

AG: What sort of sports did you do?

RS: I ran and I high-jumped. I can't do it now. But I was very fond, and the boys inherited some of it, I think. But it was a fairly happy life, until things started going wrong. We had to leave and we didn't know why because we weren't bright enough at eleven or twelve to wonder what was going on.

AG: Did you have to change schools?

RS: Yes. I had to leave and I went to a Jewish school for a while and then started the job when I was 14, until I was 16.

AG: What was the Jewish school?

RS: It was in the Kronenstrasse, was it Kronenstrasse? I had a letter some time ago from this young Jewish boy, who lives in London. It was near the synagogue and of course, once the synagogue was gone, that was it.

AG: In your family, how observant were you, in your family home? Your mother had converted to Judaism?

RS: We had the holidays and everything. We celebrated those. We weren't orthodox, not really, but we kept to the Jewish thing, and I went to synagogue. My mother didn't go, I don't think she went, or I can't remember her going. We had to sit upstairs and we were separated. But we kept the holidays.

AG: Did your family mix with other Jewish families?

RS: I don't remember terribly. My father had cousins and things like that. I don't remember. Not intimately, not really. We were more on my mother's side.

AG: Did your parents have a social life, social circles, in Karlsruhe?

RS: Yes. They were very keen on the theatre. And my aunt, my mother's sister, she married a man who kept a wine-house, Weinhaus Karpf, it was well-known for artists and things like that. So we had quite a lot to do with---. We were very fond of our aunts. Eventually, we went on holiday, when we went back to see my parents, we stayed at my aunt's house. She married her second husband, her first one died in 1936, I think, he had a car accident, and then she married this second one, who had always been keen on her, I believe. And I lived with her for a year when I was about 14, between 14 and 15, when I was working. After he died, I stayed with her for about six or eight months, while my parents were living with my grandmother. And when we went on holiday with my family now, we went there; we stayed in the Hotel Karpfen, in Karlsruhe, which is well-known. And they did, yes, they went out quite a lot, they knew artists and actors and things like that. I've got a photograph of myself with two well-known actors, who are mentioned in a book, which Karlsruhe gave out in 1988, when they asked the Jewish people to come back.

**Tape 1: 18 minutes 55 seconds**

AG: What are the names? Do you remember the names of those actors?

RS: Dahlen and Klöble, I think it was. I have a photograph of me, naked actually, in the swimming pool. No. I really had a happy childhood actually, until, of course, all things went wrong.

AG: Did your family entertain at home with their friends around?

RS: Yes, well, we were always going out, I remember that. We were very thick with both families, it's funny that. I don't remember a lot of strangers. In the flat we lived, we knew the people quite well; we were invited to various things. But I think it was somebody in the flat we lived in Weinbrennerstrasse, I think he was in the SS or something like that, I think he warned my father to move out, because they were going to capture him. And then, of course, I left, so I don't really know much more, I don't know what happened after I left.

AG: You and your sister, how did you get on?

**Tape 1: 19 minutes 56 seconds**

RS: Fine, yes, well, she used to pull my hair. I still grumble at that. But we were good friends, and we're very good friends now, although we don't see each other very often. She came across last year. But we're in constant contact, on the telephone, or writing, so we're very good friends.

AG: Do you have any memories of the actual day when Hitler came to power?

RS: Not really.

AG: And when did you start to become aware of the change in atmosphere?

RS: At school. When I was about 13, and then, as I say, it got worse. And then I got this job. But I liked that job. And I don't know, it didn't sort of hit you really. It hits me more now than it did then, I think, the terrible things that happened.

AG: How did you take to being in an all Jewish school?

RS: Well, I didn't, I don't know, you didn't really, because it didn't seem like a school, you know, because you went, and you wondered whether you'd get beaten up or, you know, you had no peace of mind.

AG: Were you a good student, other than sport?

RS: Yes, I was fairly bright. I used to write, as I say, I had this letter from this chap, who used to write essays, who remembered that I used to write essays, which I can't remember. But he was with me, and I think he's in London somewhere now, I can find out his name.

AG: So from about 1935 or '36, you thought you might be attacked on your way to school?

RS: '36 to '38, yes. '36-'37, yes, '38, yes, I think I did get beaten up in '37.

AG: And do you remember any particular incident?

RS: No. You just came home from school, and they were in their uniform, in their brown shirts, and they just way-laid me, and called me 'dirty Jew' or something. And then of course the night when things burned, every window was smashed. I cycled along and suddenly you see these dreadful windows and 'Jews' and the Star of David written everywhere. And then I queued up for my passport, we had to wait for hours and hours, outside on the square, and they came along and they pushed you, people pushed you, and people were beaten up inside, when they got the passport. I think I got the passport on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, I think. I came home and this was getting a bit frightening.

AG: But you were able to work in this Jewish firm?

RS: Yes, until this man took over, and then he left me there, I was there two years. And of course I paid my stamps and things like that. And this is why: one day, when my husband went out for a walk here, he met somebody, and he said, and this was before I was sixty, and he said this girl he met, she was related to some Jewish family, and she was from Austria, and she's getting compensation. And I said, 'I don't want any money from Germany, thank you'. And he said, 'Well, don't be so stupid. Find out, what happens, you'll see'. So when I got to sixty, I wrote to the German Embassy, the embassy here, and I said I was working, and I could remember where I was working and so on, and they followed it all up. And in a tick of the German way, they recorded every payment that I made from 1936 to 1938, and they allowed 11 years of persecution on top of that, so now I get a pension from Germany, which saves my bacon.

### **Tape 1: 24 minutes 10 seconds**

RS: So that was pure luck my husband spoke to this girl because I had never even thought about it. But I have the papers here. Every payment I made is all written down. And yet here, when I asked, when I came to this country, when I rang up this Jewish thing, they said I arrived on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, which is not true at all, and then the other said, the other letter said that they'd lost the papers that I arrived as a refugee or something like that. And yet if you think of the Germans -1938 - they gave me all the payments that I did from 1936 to '38. And luckily, touch wood, I get a pension now, they allowed the eleven years after the two years I did, so that is very useful, I can tell you. Because my husband wasn't all that wealthy, and when he gave up his job, they didn't give him compensation. Lord Leverhulme gave him a lump-sum, and I still get a little bit of it. But it's useful to get that now. It dies with me of course.

AG: What about the atmosphere at home during these years of increasing persecution?

RS: Well, it was frightening. You see, when we did go into my granny's house, after, we lived up in the top, every time you heard the bell ring or people coming up the stairs, you thought, 'Well, this is it'. That was frightening. This lasted, you know, a fair time. I don't know how my mother, I don't know how they coped; I don't know how she coped. Perhaps that's why she died young. She was only sixty. But she did have the courage, she stuck with my father through thick and thin, which I think is wonderful.

**Tape 1: 26 minutes 10 seconds**

AG: Do you know whether she was under any pressure to divorce him?

RS: Yes, they had told her in the - I heard that, that they called her to the Gestapo headquarters in Munich, and said, 'You go and divorce him and your children will be alright'. And she said, 'Under no circumstances'. Why they went to Munich, I don't know. I think Munich was rather Catholic. I don't know whether my father applied for that job, I don't know anything about how he got there. Because, soon after I left, they went there, you see. And I couldn't know, because I couldn't, until '38 I got the odd letter and then of course it stopped because of the war. And then the first letter I got was when my son was born, in 1945, through the Red Cross. I saw it the other day, and the translation, how happy they were to hear that I was alright. And I was happy that they were alright. I can't remember very much about my feelings then. They're worse now than they were then. I don't know why it is. Because you think back. I had a very happy youth; you know, a very happy---

AG: Can you tell me something of your memories of the November pogrom, Kristallnacht?

RS: Well, I just remember cycling to-. I can't remember where I was cycling to, the synagogue perhaps, to school. The 9<sup>th</sup> of November, wasn't it? Yes. I went there. And, of course, I saw this place on fire, the synagogue. Yes, I went cycling along and I rushed home. And I said, 'This thing is on fire'. And I saw all these broken windows, and things like that. Then fear started coming for all of us.

AG: Karlsruhe is not that big a town. Did you not know all these Germans, who were looting, or some of them who became Nazis?

RS: Not really, I can't think back now, I can't think about that very much. No. Except for the boys, who used to wait, wait coming home, but I can't remember anyone-. And, of course, the thing is that on my mother's side, you see, we had non-Jews, you see, and their children, when I went of course afterwards on holiday, I couldn't understand why their parents didn't object to this, but they daren't - they got arrested or shot. Nobody had dared speak up, let alone Jews speak up.

**Tape 1: 29 minutes 5 seconds**

AG: Did that mean that effectively social contact between your family and your mother's side was, I wouldn't say finished, but kept very small?

RS: I can't remember. You see, I went. I can't remember what happened there after I left.

AG: Let's go back to the day after the Kristallnacht.

RS: Yes. I cycled. And then, of course, we just sort of hid more or less, and that's when my father then said, 'She's got to go', I've got to go, we've got to save her'.

AG: You went in with your-?

RS: We stayed at my grandmother's house. We stayed there, you see, and we were frightened to go out. My father, they wouldn't let him out. He didn't come and see me off at the station. The train was, well, that was a terrible thing. I can't imagine what my mother felt. They put me on this train. And my sister came, and when she was here the other day she said she hates going to that station in Karlsruhe because they saw me off. I remember the train stopping every now and then, and my mother said, 'Come out, don't go'. And, anyway, it went off. But it never struck me until, you know, lately, how awful it must have been for her and my father to let me go. I was only sixteen, and I had my little suitcase, and I was quite smartly dressed. We didn't look like refugees. And they came and emptied out all our suitcases on the train.

**Tape 1: 30 minutes 38 seconds**

AG: Do you remember anything that you brought with you when you were-?

RS: No, well, they certainly didn't worry about the wreath, my mother's wedding veil. No, I can't remember what I had in.

AG: Tell me a little bit more about the wedding from your mother?

RS: The veil? There is a little bit up there of it. I sent it up; I cut a little bit a way of it. I didn't know what it was. It was stuck away. And I put it away for years and years and years. Until they asked for things, you see, until they asked, 'Have you got anything with you? Had you brought anything with you?'

AG: Who's the 'they'?

RS: The AJR. You know, after the-. You see, I had no contact with anyone until the get-together, you know, in 1999, when we had this big AJR meeting, for everybody coming, yes, the Kindertransport thing. And I didn't really know anything, anybody, and I didn't have any contact with any Jewish organisation. First of all, they didn't bother with me, and, when I arrived here, it wasn't really, I don't know, it was very strange.

AG: One or two things I'd like to go back on. First of all, you mentioned very briefly that someone you thought was an SS-man warned your father-.

RS: He lived in the flats where we lived, and he just gave a signal to say I have been told they might collect your father. And that's when my father said, 'Well, this is it, let's go'. And then my grandmother said you can come and live here, and that's it. And then, after that, it's a bit confusing.

AG: You said that you went to queue for your passport. Where did you do that? Not in Karlsruhe?

RS: Yes, in Karlsruhe, on the Marktplatz, yes, on the big place we had to stay, I tried to get up there.

AG: The British Consulate?

RS: No, the German-. I've got it here. I've got my birth certificate, you know, the birth thing, the 'Urkunde'. The passport is lost. I don't know where my passport went. It had a big 'J' in it.

AG: Yes, of course you didn't need British documents.

RS: No, no. I didn't. All I had was the label when I got to England: 6,0,7,3.

AG: So all you needed was the German-?

RS: You had to get a passport to get out, and your 'Geburtsurkunde'. You speak German, don't you? Your birth certificate. And I've got it here with a stamp on it. I've still got that. And then we had no tickets for the boat or anything like that, you see. Nothing.

AG: How long did you have to queue for it at the office in Karlsruhe?

RS: Oh, quite a few hours, and then some elderly man, when they went, they wanted to go up, they got beaten up on the steps, I saw them being beaten up on the steps.

AG: By whom?

RS: By the Hitler, by the Nazis. Going up to collect their passports, you know. We had to queue outside on the road and then go up these - I can still see it now, well, I know when I look at the picture, I know which house it was, which place it was we collected it. So that wasn't very pleasant.

AG: A queue of-?

RS: Yes, a queue of all sorts of people, yes, I think I must have been one of the younger ones, I don't know, I can't remember much. But I remember that.

AG: How did your father manage to make arrangements?

RS: I have no idea. And I don't know how much he paid. I have no idea. He just said, 'I'm going to get you out'. And that was that.

AG: And they decided to send you and not your sister?

RS: She couldn't go. Well, she was put down to go to Holland, after I'd left. And then they had a diphtheria outbreak in the camp, and of course it stopped. And thank God she didn't go because she might never have survived, because Holland, they followed, didn't they? But I remember that journey, with the Hitlers coming round, turning our suitcases out.

### **Tape 1: 34 minutes 35 seconds**

AG: Did the train start in Karlsruhe?

RS: No, I think it came from Vienna and I think it had a lot of Viennese, because the people I eventually met up were Viennese, a lot of people I met up. We went to a hostel and they were Viennese. I can't remember at all - I remember getting to the border in Holland, I remember

the journey, I remember getting to the Dutch border, and they brought us coffee and cakes, and it was wonderful, and then the Nazis left this train, and it was such a relief - but I cannot remember how I got onto that boat. It was a stormy night. It was a horrible crossing, and we were put - it wasn't the war yet, you see, it was '38 - we were put in these cabins. And I found two tickets, first class tickets, which I kept. We had nothing, you see. Anyway, I have kept them. One of them is going to be in that suitcase, and I've got another spare one here in my handbag, in my pocket. I just took them. They were first class, on the 'Amsterdam'. There was a boat called the 'Amsterdam' on the 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> of December.

AG: That was the day you left?

RS: I left on the 13<sup>th</sup> and we came here to England on the 14<sup>th</sup>. And we went to Dover Court Holiday Camp.

AG: Do you remember the circumstances under which you left Karlsruhe? Your journey to the station?

**Tape 1: 36 minutes 32 seconds**

RS: No. I can't remember.

AG: Do you remember saying, you said your father-

RS: My father didn't come; we didn't let him, because we thought he might get arrested. My mother and sister came. That was it. As I said, I don't know-.

AG: This was the central station in Karlsruhe?

RS: Yes. I think it was 9.52, the train, in the morning. There were many children going. I think there was somebody else here in England, in the AJR, who was on the same train. One other boy, I think.

AG: Do you remember which platform it went from?

RS: No.

AG: There must have been plenty of ordinary Germans going round at 9.52 in the morning; do you remember any of them?

RS: No, I don't remember. I just remember these few children. There weren't an awful lot of children getting on, because it was crowded already from Vienna.

AG: Do you remember saying goodbye to your mother and sister?

RS: Yes, and, as I say, I stood at the window, and it went two or three times. Mother said, 'Come out', and then it was gone, and that was it. And it wasn't very nice. I can't imagine what they must have felt. For us, it was awful but it was a slight adventure in a way, you know? And I don't remember feeling terribly homesick when I got to England. Of course the idea was that my parents would pick me up in England, on the way to Cali, to South America. My uncle-.

AG: Where?

RS: Cali. In South America. That's Columbia. My uncle, my father's brother, went to Columbia. And he opened a restaurant. And I've got a letter here, which he wrote, about all of us, who are named, all of us, to go and join him. And they were going to get organised to go to Cali, in Columbia. And he got a job for my father, and he said we could all come out, and pick me up on the way, from England. And of course the war started. He was not allowed to go.

AG: Your parents were trying to get out?

RS: Yeah, he was not allowed to go, but he had everything organised, typed. And I've still got the letter here and I had it translated the other day. Of course, it never worked, it never came off. So whatever happened to them then, I have no idea.

AG: Going back to you, you came across on the SS Amsterdam, did you have anything to do with the other children?

RS: I don't remember much about the trip at all. We arrived here at winter. It was the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> of December. Ice, snow, cold.

AG: Which port did you arrive at?

RS: Harwich. And we were sent to Dover Court Holiday Camp. I think it's not there anymore. Heidi-Hi used to do it, I think.

**Tape 1: 39 minutes 35 seconds**

RS: Anyway, we got there and we were put into these little summer huts. No heat, nothing. The only place where the heat was was a huge hangar, with great big stoves, which were lit, and we all huddled around those because we were so cold. I didn't brush my hair for five days. We lived in these, you know, summer huts. It was terrible. It was so cold. And then at weekends, I was only there, I think it must have been about a fortnight, no, I couldn't have been, I'm sure I had Christmas in Bournemouth. We huddled around these stoves, and it was so cold, and the weekends the British came to pick up their servants, from the refugees, girls, and I hid each time, and I thought I'd become a nurse, I thought I'd do that. And then they said, 'We've got a hospital for you'. And it was some mental institution, and I said, 'No, I've just come away from things', so I didn't go. And they wanted twelve volunteers to go to Bournemouth, and I thought, 'Well, it must be better than here'. And it was a hostel in Bournemouth, which was going to have these twelve girls.

**Tape 1: 41 minutes 1 second**

AG: Was this for refugees?

RS: I think for refugees, yes. And I think we went via Liverpool Street Station then, we had to I suppose. We got on this-. I don't know who the others were, whether they were on the same train. I can't remember. And we went to Bournemouth, to this hostel.

AG: Going back to when you first arrived in England, what impression did it make on you to arrive in Harwich and then went to Dover Court?

RS: Cold and miserable.

AG: Did you speak any English?

RS: No. Hardly. Hardly. I had a little. Well, I left school so early, I couldn't. Very little, I think hardly any. But somehow you managed to get, I don't know how I got through, how I learned. You know, when we went to Bournemouth eventually, to this hostel, I remember going out for walks, and going up to a policeman and saying, 'Can you direct me to so-and-so?' And when he answered me, I was so proud.

**Tape 1: 42 minutes 9 seconds**

AG: How were things organised, if organised is the word, at Dover Court? Did you share the summer hut?

RS: I don't remember. Yes, there were two or three in a hut, I think. And in the morning was breakfast. But it was so cold, it was so cold, and the snow, it was awful. Anyway, when I had this escape, be able to get out of there, I did. And we went to Bournemouth. I arrived on the 14<sup>th</sup>. I had Christmas in Bournemouth. I must have been there eight to ten days, ten days, yes. And I had Christmas in Bournemouth, with these eleven girls, whoever they were.

AG: What was this hostel?

RS: Just a hostel for refugees. Wollaston Road. I couldn't find it. I went not long ago. Wollaston Road it was.

AG: Who organised this?

RS: I have no idea.

AG: Who ran it?

RS: No idea.

AG: You can't have been just eleven girls all by yourself in the house?

RS: No, I can't remember who was there; I can't remember much about that at all. I can't remember much about it. I tried to go back and have a look the other day, you know, when I went, I couldn't find it. I don't know. But, anyway, what happened there? We had Christmas there. And then there was a girl there, called Gisela Rötkin, and she was sponsored by somebody in England, a Lord, I can't remember which, a famous name, I can't remember who it is, and she was told that she could pick up a girl from these twelve, and go to Upton, Poole, near Poole, and go to a school, which was attended by very rich girls from abroad, from America, you know, from all sorts of countries.

AG: So like a finishing school?

RS: Like a finishing school. And we would go there. Well, I thought it was better than, you know, something, so we went. And of course we thought we might be scholars and, when we got there, we were going to be the maids. It was run by two spinsters, a lovely school, called the Yarrells. Anyway, we were put in these uniforms, and we served the girls. There was a scullery girl. We slept in an attic, in a little room, up above, the two of us, and the scullery maid was next door. And we had to get the rooms done and food ready and things like that. We were servants. But it didn't seem terrible, really, I can't remember being dreadfully unhappy. It was so nice to get into a house and get warm food and get, you know-. And the other girls were all very smart. I can't remember how we were treated or not. But I went back to this place, two years ago. The bowling club here went to Bournemouth, and I thought, 'Well, I'll get a ride and have a look at the school'. So I went with them, and I have a friend down there, and she died, and her husband's got a daughter there, and she ran me out to the school, with her little daughter, and I met the headmistress.

AG: It still exists?

**Tape 1: 45 minutes 40 seconds**

RS: It still exists, but it is now a school for boys and girls, 250. I met the headmistress. I wrote to her first to say I was coming, and she received me very nicely and I looked round to see whether I could- I got a lot of pictures when I was there in '39 - and the only thing I could recognise was the butler's sink, where the scullery maid used to do the washing-up. She took me all round the house, some rang a bell, some didn't. And then, when I got back, I rang up my friend, I said, 'Look, Gisela, I've just been there'. She'd been with me. She lives in Gloucester, she's still alive, and she married a Christian or something. But, anyway, we have met up some time ago. And I said the front door did not ring a bell at all, I couldn't recognise it, and she said, 'Of course you wouldn't, we always used to go through the servants' entrance', which of course we did. The room we slept in was taken down, and it's now a school-. But, anyway, the school was very nice, and I'm glad I went back because I had to satisfy myself. So it was quite a memory to go back to that, after all those years.

**Tape 1: 47 minutes 4 seconds**

AG: Did you have to work hard there?

RS: No, it wasn't terribly hard. The women were a couple of spinsters, a Miss. Berkeley and a Miss. Knight, and they had - I'd forgotten this - Gisela said to me, 'Do you remember the journeys, the car journeys? They had a little Austin 7, and they used to put us in the back and take us out' - and I'd forgotten that. And, no, we were well-treated, and then of course the war started, in 1939. And we had to leave the coast. The soldiers came, they were billeted in the village, and, well, being 16, you start looking at boys, don't you? So I had a boyfriend, nearly every day I had a different one, but Gisela, she had this one soldier all the time we were there, which was a few months. And then we had to leave the coast, and there was a chance to go to Cambridge, to, I think it was Newnham College or something, to fit so many of us. But Gisela, she was taken away, and she was interned, and sent to the Isle of Man for one year. I got a letter here, which I wrote to London, to headquarters. She went to prison first, first she went to Holloway Prison, and I just came across some poems, which I wrote to her in German while she was there. And then she went to the Isle of Man for one year, and I wrote to one of the high-ups in London, to see if I could save her. Why? Why did she go? And they said, 'Well, it's possible she might be a spy. The people aren't stupid when they arrest somebody

like that'. But, in the end, we gathered that she had that one boyfriend, one soldier, the same one for all the time we were there. I flirted, but she had that one chap all the time and it could have been they thought she was a spy. Now, the last person to be a spy would be Gisela. She's now Mrs. Nurse.

**Tape 1: 49 minutes 20 seconds**

RS: So I wrote to her in Holloway Prison, as I say. I wrote to her and then we lost touch. And we went to Cambridge, we were sent to Newnham College in Cambridge, and they said, 'For refugees, we have a domestic science course', and I said, 'We've just been servants for a few months', and we were sent there, in Grange Road in Cambridge, and that was a lovely time.

AG: Did you have any contact with your parents?

RS: No.

AG: From when you arrived?

RS: No.

AG: No letters?

RS: The Red Cross, we had one letter once. No, they didn't hear from me from 1939, when I left, I think they heard that I arrived in England, but then the war came, and I heard nothing until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, 1945.

AG: But you didn't correspond at all?

RS: No. You couldn't, you couldn't.

AG: No, I mean before the war.

RS: I can't remember. Well, there wasn't much time, was there? Well, hang on, war was September, wasn't it? September '39, wasn't it, the war? And we left the coast-. Well, I can't remember, I have no letters, because there was no address and things like that. I cannot remember seeing a letter.

AG: I was just thinking when you were in Bournemouth.

RS: No, I don't think there was. I don't know what happened. I don't know what happened. It seems as though it was the end of an era.

AG: Did you have to go before any of these tribunals?

RS: I didn't, no. I had to go and report, in Cambridge, to report-. We had this domestic science course, a Mrs Piercy ran it, it was quite fun. And we started getting college boys and boyfriends and things. It was quite nice. And Gisela, after a year, she came back to Cambridge, one or two others, and we became friends again. And they went and became nursemaids or something to college people and things like that. And I decided, after the

course was finished, that - I got a certificate, I don't know where it is, we passed - and I said, 'I want to do something for England because they took me in', so I applied to go to the army.

**Tape 1: 51 minutes 51 seconds**

AG: Let me ask you a little bit about the course in Cambridge. What sort of people were on the domestic science course?

RS: Refugees, all refugees, it was just for refugees, yes. I don't know where they came from. I don't know where they all came from.

AG: Who organised the course? Cambridge University?

RS: Absolute blank, absolute blank.

AG: And because Cambridge-.

RS: I just don't know why we went there. There was just this domestic science course for refugees. And I've got my book here, and some of the stuff I wrote in it is terrible, you know. You were trained to be a maid. That was the idea, to train us to be maids, you see? And a lot of girls like - what's her name? - they were maids, Leverton, and things like that. I think they were training us to be maids for the British and I certainly didn't want to do that.

**Tape 1: 52 minutes 50 seconds**

RS: Then I tried to go in the army and they said, 'No, you can't, because you're alien'. And then I said, 'Can I go in the Land Army?' And that was it.

AG: Can I ask you about Cambridge? It sounds like you did enjoy the amenities of Cambridge a little bit?

RS: Oh yes, I did, yes.

AG: What did you get up to?

RS: Well, all sorts of things. One of the first boyfriends was a priest. A priest! And he was very nice to me and very good. I had lots of boyfriends. I don't know. It was just fun. And the students, well, I was getting on for- how old was I? 19, yes, 18, wasn't I? And it was good fun.

AG: Where did you live?

RS: We lived in this college,

AG: In Newnham College?

RS: Not Newnham College, no. In Grange Road. There was a big house, which they hired for us, and the course was in there, just opposite the-, not the football ground. Grange Road, 40-something. I've got pictures of it. And there was this girl from Berlin, she became a Land Army as well. And then, as I say, then I left for a year and then I applied for the Land Army

and got accepted. I got some digs and the digs were in the same road as my husband. He was a veterinary person, you see?

AG: Was this still in Cambridge?

RS: This was in Cambridge. This all happened in Cambridge. I was in Cambridge for a long time. And then I met him, but he went off-

AG: Before we get onto your husband, what did you do with the Land Army?

RS: Oh, I was in an experimental station, outside, in Girton, just outside. I drove a pony and trap, I looked after pigs, and cows and cattle, and ponies, and I had a wonderful time. And I was thinking the other day - do you know Girton? Near the college? Well, the thing was just down the bottom, the experimental station, with Dr. Hammond, a quite well-known scientist there, and I used to have to take these animals to the slaughterhouse, in this pony and trap. I've got photographs. But how you managed to do that, when you think of Cambridge now? It was in Newmarket Road, so you had to drive this pony and trap right up Pistor Road. Oh, my gosh, the road! And you used to have to deliver the animals to the slaughterhouse. But I loved it, it was great fun.

**Tape 1: 55 minutes 44 seconds**

AG: What did you like about it particularly?

RS: Well, it was being out in the open. Of course, then we had air-raids, we had air-raids during that time. I was an air-raid warden, or whatever it was. And so I had a good time in the Land Army. Four years. But I never met anybody. I lived in Girton, in digs, and I met Henry Moore, he was a friend of somebody else, and I got married in Girton eventually, but it was a good life, I enjoyed it.

AG: How did you get on with the native English?

RS: I never had any trouble, being a Jew or anything like that.

AG: What about, say, during the air-raids? You were obviously not English yourself, they must have known.

RS: Well, we listened to-. Nobody, no, we never had any trouble, and I learnt English very quickly. But, no, it was enjoyable, Cambridge was good fun.

AG: Did you have friends among other Land Army girls?

RS: One girl, yes, she lived almost in the same road. And then there was one girl from Germany, I can't remember what happened to her. Her name was Loewe, I have a photograph of me, all of us in the cart.

AG: I thought refugees weren't supposed to have cameras, or am I wrong, during the war? You obviously had one.

RS: No, I didn't, I don't know who took the photograph to tell you the truth, I haven't got a clue. And when I eventually got married there was nobody from my family at all. It was all my friends.

AG: What do you remember of the period of the war in 1940, where the war became serious, as it were, and air-raids and things started? How do you remember it?

**Tape 1: 57 minutes 49 seconds**

RS: It wasn't very nice. I think I helped in one of those 'W', what do you call them? Where they serve the food? Women's, oh, what is it? They used to have-. Where people came to have a cup of coffee, what is the name of that? Voluntary things. In Cambridge.

AG: WRVS

RS: WRVS, yes, I belonged to that, did certain things there. But otherwise I don't know what else we did.

AG: Let's have a break now; the tape is coming to an end.

END OF TAPE 1.

**TAPE 2**

**Tape 2: 0 minute 5 seconds**

AG: I'd just been asking you of your memories of the early period of the war, say, 1940, when there were air-raids and the like, and you were saying that you helped with the WRVS.

RS: And as an air-raid warden on the farm, I used to have to go at night. I don't know what we were supposed to be doing. I don't know whether we were frightened or not, I can't remember.

AG: Were you ever frightened that the Germans might invade?

RS: No.

AG: Why not? Because you were in great danger if they had.

RS: Yes. It never entered my head. I didn't think, I don't know, perhaps you get involved with your own life, I don't know.

AG: Were you able to mix in with the British?

RS: Yes, no trouble, no trouble at all, it was quite easy, and I was accepted, and I always tried to make things a little bit fun, and it's kept me going.

AG: Did you hear Churchill's speeches, for example?

RS: Yes, we used to listen to all that but I mean-. And you just hoped it would finish, I don't know what else one could do, you know, being refugees to start with. But I was never really, I

don't think I ever had any abuse, I can't remember, and I mixed in all sorts of ways, I can't remember. When I lived in Cambridge in digs, and I met a few soldiers and things like that, and my landlady, her son was in the army, but I don't know, I just-. Life was, you know, I didn't worry too much in the war. Sometimes, it wasn't very pleasant, but we weren't in the bombing area, we weren't in London, and so you carried on as best as you could.

**Tape 2: 2 minutes 3 seconds**

AG: Did you not worry about your parents and sister back in Germany?

RS: I worried, but you couldn't do anything about it. You couldn't do anything about it. Just hoping that they would survive, and they hoped that I would survive, which we did, thank goodness.

AG: And there was nothing until 1945?

RS: No, until 1945. Yes. I came across it the other day, and my father praised my husband, as I said, to save me, to take pity on me. And my mother, she was wonderful, and she didn't know I'd got married. I got married in '44. She hadn't even heard. It was '45.

AG: Tell me about how you met your husband. Tell me his name first.

RS: Kenneth Charles Sellers. He was, as I say, a vet in the road I lived in, and he came to the farm and looked at the animals one day, and then he asked, 'Where do you live?' And I said so and so, and we lived almost opposite, and I used to see this little Austin 7, or whatever he had, this car going by, and then one day I think I was going out with some Airforce boy I'd met in a pub or something, and he came in, and he said, 'Oh I'll buy you a drink', and that was the beginning of our friendship. And then he volunteered, he was a veterinary surgeon in Cambridge, and he volunteered for the Royal Marine Commandos.

**Tape 2: 4 minutes 6 seconds**

AG: What sort of man was he? I mean, what sort of age was he, what sort of background?

RS: He was seven years older than me, very educated; I don't know how he bothered about me. And we just became good friends, and then he went away.

AG: What sort of background did he come from?

RS: His mother – imagine that, taking me home for the first time - his mother was Scottish, his father was Yorkshire, Scottish-Irish or something. And he had to go home and tell his mother that he had - and he was the first one in the family to get married or to have a girlfriend - and he had to tell her that he'd met a German-Jewish refugee. Can you imagine how that went down?

AG: And how did it go down?

RS: Well, he had to take me home to introduce me when we got quite friendly. He was in Cambridge as well. They lived in London, in Muswell Hill, and I don't think I shall ever forget to see him at the station waiting for me. I came up by train, I had a smart costume on, I

didn't really look very Jewish or poor refugee, or what they might imagine, I don't know, but the mother-. They were very strict, they were Church as well. And he stood at the station, meeting me from Liverpool Street, and he was white as a sheet, I remember that, he was terrified. Anyway, he took me home. And I was terrified. And I got in the house and I wasn't allowed to go in the kitchen, it was a very untidy kitchen, he told me afterwards, and I wasn't allowed to go there. And within ten minutes we were friends, the parents. I don't know what they expected to see. Nice mother-in-law, father-in-law, very Scottish.

**Tape 2: 6 minutes 0 second**

AG: What did your father-in-law do as a profession?

RS: He was at the Customs and Excise. Nice old boy. And so we, you know, I got in and became friends.

AG: You said they were Church? Was that the Scottish Presbyterian?

RS: Yeah, that sort of thing. I don't think my husband ever went with them, nothing very serious, but they didn't mind the Jewish thing, it didn't matter at all. We never had any arguments about that, and we became good friends. He had brothers.

AG: And how did they behave with you?

RS: Fine, they were both brothers, two brothers. One is dead and the other one is still alive. And they were in the army during the war. And so we were friends, we never had any trouble.

AG: When was it that your husband volunteered?

RS: '42, I think it was, '44 when he came out. Yes, married in '44, he was still in the army when we married in '44.

AG: You said he volunteered in 1942, was he sent away then?

RS: Yes, he went to Germany and that's where he came across some of the camps.

AG: Not in '42, he can't have gone to Germany?

RS: No, but they went in forty- he came back in '44 – '45. They went to Scotland first, and then they went across to North Germany, to Malente, that's at the top isn't it? They cleared some Jewish camps. And he came back with tales of, you know, concentration camps; he came across some of those. It must have been '45. Anyway, he came back and he said, 'We had to rescue, we had to go and clear some camps'.

**Tape 2: 8 minutes 10 seconds**

AG: Did he tell you about the conditions in the camps?

RS: Not really, but I remember when we went to Africa, he used to have nightmares, I could never understand, and that was his nightmare, when he went in these camps. He was - I don't know whether you know, but lately a very high-ranking man died – what's his name? It'll

come to me. He was under him, and we shared a house with him, and it was in The Times, and he was under his command: Pounds, Pounds.

AG: In the British Army?

RS: In the Royal Marine Commandos, yes. He was under him and we shared a house with him when we first met. We shared a house with him, with them, and he's just died, and I rang up his wife. We both had one first child. It was near Horsham. We hadn't heard from each other for years. And I wrote to her and I said I was very sorry Derek died and so on. And she said, 'Well, it was a long time ago that we met'. And she'd emigrated to Canada. There was a big thing about him in the papers, Derek Pounds. Yes, he was still in uniform when we married, '44.

AG: So he was sent away for training first of all?

RS: Yes, he became a second lieutenant, he came out then and he was dissolved in '45.

AG: During the war, after you volunteered, were you able to see him at all?

RS: Yes, he came on leave, or I went, he was stationed, I think, was it Torquay? When was my son born? '45? I always get confused. Yes, I went to Torquay, and that's where he was made, my first boy, and, yes, we met during the war once or twice. And the day I had my child, the first boy, I was in London, I lived with his mother and father, I moved in there, and we had coupons in those days, you know, petrol coupons, and a friend of the mother took us to the hospital, where I had the baby, and he arrived five minutes after I'd left. So he never came with me when the child was born, so that was something he missed, thank goodness. And then he was released in 1945.

### **Tape 2: 10 minutes 55 seconds**

AG: And tell me about your wedding, how did you arrange that and what happened?

RS: Well, my bouquet cost seven and six, from the local nursery in Girton. His sister actually came to live in Girton, and I lived with her. The house became empty, where I was in digs. She took over. His sister came, and she died, soon after. In '44. I had no relations, nobody came. My friends came, the ones that I told you about that I met in Cambridge, quite a few came to that, but that's about all. Things were still on rations.

### **Tape 2: 11 minutes 32 seconds**

AG: Can you remember how your husband proposed to you?

RS: In '42, he went away to Wales and he sent me a card, and I've still got the card, and he said he was looking forward to seeing me, and then we just, well, just - that was it.

AG: And where did you get married?

RS: In Girton, in the church there.

AG: And who gave you away, as it were?

RS: My father-in-law, because there was no-one else, was there? As I say, I just had a few friends. And things were on docket in those days, you know, I had to get ration books and things like that. And my mother-in-law, she did all the arranging of all the things, and I remember having it in the village hall, that's why I got so involved with all the village halls, even in Stock. And we had, I remember, a tin bath, you know a child's bath, where you used to do a tin bath. Have you seen those baths you used to wash your washing in? Well, that was filled with drinks, because in those days you couldn't get anything. She managed to get some ham in London, all on docket and rations, you see, everything was rationed. But it was a nice party and that was the first time I got involved in village halls. And then we were going on a honeymoon and that was cancelled.

AG: What day did you get married?

RS: The 5<sup>th</sup> of September 1944. And then we were going on a honeymoon somewhere and he was called up, he had to go away, so we didn't have that. I think eventually we did have something in Yorkshire, after, but not at the right time. So it was all a bit haphazard, but anyway I lived with his parents. But, anyway, then he came out, and we went back to Cambridge, and he got this job, he was a veterinary surgeon, and he got back there.

**Tape 2: 13 minutes 16 seconds**

AG: You said you lived with your in-laws in London?

RS: Yes, in Muswell Hill.

AG: How do you remember London in 1944?

RS: I don't remember much about it. We had a very nice house in Muswell Hill, which went for a blooming pittance when they sold it eventually. Imagine that now? Muswell Hill, it's quite a well-known place. He went to Stollington School up there. And it was alright. I just settled in, settled down, couldn't do much, I was pregnant.

AG: Do you remember Doodlebugs and things? War-time London?

RS: Not an awful lot, no.

AG: Did you keep any contact with friends that you made in Cambridge?

RS: Yes, yes. You mean now? Altogether, I know two or three, some of them have emigrated of course, they've gone to America, but I have a letter now and then from somebody. And I met somebody who was at this domestic science school with me. I met her in 1999, at the AJR meeting. I met her and I met someone from America, who always was there, so I've made a little bit of contact, but on the whole - I guess we're all getting on, aren't we?

AG: So when your husband was sent away in September of 1944, do you remember where he was sent away? It would have been Europe.

RS: It was Europe, yes.

**Tape 2: 15 minutes 9 seconds**

RS: I don't know. I don't know much about that. And the Commandos, they were all a bit quiet, you know, they couldn't say much, so I don't really know what he did.

AG: How did you keep yourself occupied since you were not working anymore?

RS: Where was I?

AG: If you were in Muswell Hill?

**Tape 2: 15 minutes 33 seconds**

RS: Well, '44, I didn't do much, I was pregnant, wasn't I? Didn't do a lot, and then, soon after, when I had the child, we felt we had to get back, you know, get out of the place and that's when we went back to Cambridge.

AG: I didn't ask you very much about what you did at the experimental station? You explained that you took the animals to slaughter.

RS: Oh yes, well, I had to milk cows and I did all sorts of things, pigs and animals. I do remember as well cutting hedges; I had to cut hedges as well. And the Americans used to go by in their lorries, and throw me chocolates and things like that, because they were stationed higher up the road, you know, during the war. No, it was good fun, it was nice. And I used to - I have a very nice poem - I used to have to pick up the swill, do you know what swill is?

AG: I know what the swill is.

RS: From the army, there's army people opposite, near Girton College, and I used to have to drive up there, with this pony and trap, to collect the swill. And I got friendly with one of the sergeants, Sergeant Omerock. I wonder if he's still alive. And he wrote a nice poem about a pig. Anyway, I've got it somewhere, and I published it in our local paper. And he said it's the gentle hand of Ruth, you know, that saved all the food from the pigs. It's quite a funny poem. If I find it, I'll let you have it. That was a daily trip, I used to have to go collect the swill and feed the pigs with it.

AG: And what about these professors, did you get to know them at all?

RS: Yes, I knew them, Dr. Hammond, he was quite famous, and Dr. Warton, and then somebody called Chang, he went back to America, and the others I don't know, I've lost touch. I used to have to go and drive out and feed the sheep by the crematorium, they had lots of sheep there, I used to have to drive out there in the pony and trap, and I was allowed to look in the crematorium. And the chap there, he drew the biggest onions you could imagine, and we used to laugh, and what he fed them on, I don't know what he used to do with the ashes. But I had a good time.

**Tape 2: 18 minutes 6 seconds**

AG: When you went back to Cambridge, what did your husband do?

RS: He went back to the laboratory, to the research station; he's always been in research. And he went back to that.

AG: Was that at the university?

RS: Yes, and then he got a job in Leeds, we went to Leeds.

AG: How long did you stay in Cambridge?

RS: Two or three years, and then we went to Leeds, and then from Leeds, he got this job here, and we came here in '54, so the children were - my son was just ready to go to grammar school when we came here, the eldest one, who died.

AG: Where were you when your first son was born?

RS: In Leeds, we lived in Leeds; he went to this grammar school in Leeds, and then when we moved here-. The second one was born in, no, Tom was in '45, and the second one in '47, the last one in '50.

AG: Can you tell me their names?

**Tape 2: 19 minutes 28 seconds**

RS: Yes, the eldest one was John, the middle one is William, and the other one is Thomas.

AG: And when were William and Thomas born?

RS: In '47 and '50. They are now, good Lord! 56 Years, William! It's not fair, and I'm still here, and the other one is dead at 53, isn't it ridiculous? Anyway, they've all got children and grandchildren and so on.

AG: What was Cambridge like post-war? Did it change much when the war ended?

RS: Not really. I don't know, I don't know what we did.

AG: You were presumably looking after your son?

RS: Yes. I looked after the children. And they went to school. I don't think I did anything out of the ordinary. It only happened when we got this end. We came here in '54.

AG: The other thing I want to ask you about is when you established contact with your parents and sister in Germany? Could you tell me when you first heard from them?

RS: Well, in '45 I had that letter.

AG: Could you tell me about the letter?

RS: Well, the letter is, well, I could have read it out to you really, and that's when they heard that I'd survived and I heard that they survived.

AG: Could you tell me how you heard what happened? What sort of letter it was?

RS: Well, it was a great relief to hear that they're still alive, you know, you can't imagine. And the same with me, they had no clue. It was a grateful letter towards my husband for having me, for marrying me and looking after me, and also the relief that they had that we were still in contact.

**Tape 2: 21 minutes 34 seconds**

AG: How did they know that you had got married?

RS: My sister had a friend and through the Red Cross somehow they got the letter to say that I got married. But the letter arrived when my son was born, a year after, you see. So they had no idea. So that sorted that out.

AG: And could you tell me what happened to your parents and sister during all these many years?

RS: Well, as I say, my sister went out to Canada.

AG: No, I mean-

RS: Oh, in those years, I don't really know what happened. I mean, they were in Munich, my father was in Munich, in this hospital, and then he had to do forced labour.

AG: What was he doing in the hospital?

RS: He was a janitor. And that's the same time as Leverton's parents were there, you see, and they had the laundry. It's when he met up with the Levertons, Bertha, you see.

**Tape 2: 22 minutes 25 seconds**

AG: Yes, just tell us who Bertha Leverton is, for the film.

RS: Bertha Leverton is the person who organised the Kindertransport. And she came here to speak to the WI and came home with me and then I showed her a letter to say my father-, a poem, and she was surprised to see in the poem that my father was in Munich, and she said, 'Good Lord, my parents were in Munich'. And we found out that they worked in the same hospital. And eventually they met up again, I think they were in Theresienstadt as well, and he met them there, and he wrote in his diary that he met my mother and father and my sister.

**Tape 2: 23 minutes 23 seconds**

AG: And how come they were able to survive in Munich?

RS: No idea. Well they went-. I don't know why they went to Munich and how they survived there. But they stayed during the war and my father survived there, you know. But I don't know much about that period at all.

AG: But why would your father not have been deported like other Jews?

RS: I have no idea. You see, he was doing forced labour. He had to work on the Rhine. When I was still at home, he used to get up early to work on the Rhine. I forgot about that. He used to do some work on the Rhine, I don't know what. And he came home very tired. We really didn't ask any questions in those days, that was before I left, so I don't know what happened.

AG: How long did they stay in Munich, do you know?

RS: My sister went in '51.

AG: I'm taking you back to the war-time years now. You mentioned Theresienstadt.

RS: Yes. They ended in Theresienstadt in '45.

AG: So they were in Munich-?

RS: From '45. Yes. He tried to get the business going again, I believe.

**Tape 2: 24 minutes 35 seconds**

AG: So he was taken to Theresienstadt? Both your parents and your sister?

RS: In '45, yes. My sister. No, not my mother, she stayed in Munich. I don't know what she did. As I said, she had to clean trams and things. She had to do a lot of work. And in that letter he wrote, they said she had a terrible time, but he didn't describe, I don't know. I'm surprised he didn't keep a diary, I really am surprised.

AG: Do you know anything about the stay of your sister and father in Theresienstadt?

RS: No. I don't know.

AG: They were taken there in January?

RS: In January '45. And they were rescued on the way out to Auschwitz apparently, they were loaded up to go to Auschwitz, well, five months later, I believe. When did the war finish?

AG: It finished in May.

RS: In May, yeah, up to then. And they met up with my mother.

AG: How were they released from Theresienstadt, do you know?

RS: I have no idea. No. The Russians. The Russians saved them. I don't know much about that. My sister doesn't want to talk about it, or doesn't know about it. She was very young, wasn't she? I don't know much about that period. And then they went back to Munich, and my father tried to build up a business again, with my sister's husband, they tried to get some sports shop or something going. I don't know, but the first time I went home was '49, with the two children, my eldest and my middle son.

AG: You say home.

RS: I went back to Karlsruhe for the first time in 1949. My husband wasn't allowed to go. I will never understand why. He was not allowed to go. So I went by boat with the two children. One was two and the other was four. God, how did I do it? It was April and it was a very stormy night, and when we got to the other side, the landing stage had broken and we couldn't hook up the boat. Eventually, we got off, and we lost all-. My aunt, who had this hotel in Karlsruhe, she was waiting for us, to greet us. It was 'Fasching' at the time, you know, April. And we lost our connection to Paris, so we had to go, I don't know how we got to Paris, on a train of some sort, and when we got to Paris, I remember we were dumped and I was going to be met by some official, who was going to see us to the other train, I don't remember who they were or what they were doing, perhaps something to do with refugees, I'm not sure, or was it perhaps somebody we bought the tickets from? But, anyway, it all went wrong, because we didn't come in time, so when we got to Paris there was nobody there to greet us. So I had to sit with the two children, and all the refugees, because there were a lot of refugees going somewhere. And they wanted a drink of water, and I daren't leave them, and I had to go somewhere to get them a drink of water, and I did eventually, had to sit them on the cases. We eventually got back on the train, and it was all wooden benches, all the way to Karlsruhe, it took hours. And we arrived. Apparently, my aunt had come to the train to meet us, and of course we weren't on it. And so I had no money, and when we got to Karlsruhe eventually, I had cigarettes, I never thought of that, giving them to that woman - I had to get someone to help me with the luggage, to get me off the train, to get to my aunt, so I just went and I said to her, "I haven't got any money". So she just dumped the suitcases down on the ground, and I had to drag them and the kids, and we got a taxi, and I said to the man, 'Look, I have no money, but will you take me to the hotel? And you'll get paid when we get there', and he did, and it was in the middle of the night. My aunt, we had to wake her up, we were waiting there to meet my parents, eventually the next day they were coming from Munich. And it was horrendous, that journey.

**Tape 2: 28 minutes 43 seconds**

AG: What was Karlsruhe like?

RS: I can't remember much about it because we only stayed one night and then we met my parents and my sister on the way up and we went to Munich to stay with them. I found a letter the other day where my mother said, 'Were the children better behaved?', or something.

AG: What do you remember of seeing your parents and your sister?

RS: Oh, unbelievable, unbelievable, that was. Yes. I went to Munich and, of course, there were still people walking around in SS boots in '49. There was still this feeling of Nazism. I don't know what it was. Anyway, I stayed, I think we were going to stay three weeks, me and the children, and after a fortnight I was so home-sick for England, I came home.

AG: What were your feelings on going back to Karlsruhe, which had been your home-city for sixteen years?

RS: I don't remember. I think I was too busy with the children to think about it. I don't think it rang any bells at all. I can't remember.

**Tape 2: 29 minutes 57 seconds**

AG: Can you describe the scene when you met your parents?

RS: Well, unbelievable.

AG: And where did you meet them?

RS: I think half-way to Munich, I think, we got out of cars. They were being taken by my father, my father drove. I don't remember much about it, being so busy, and having worries about the children, and it was all, oh, getting on top of you. But it was wonderful. But all I wanted is to get back again. Really. Well, my husband, he wrote a letter when we had our fiftieth anniversary to say I was more British than the British.

AG: In what way?

RS: I got him to read it out. I don't know which way he meant. I don't know. Well, you ought to listen to the tape.

AG: What are your feelings towards this country?

RS: I think it has given me a home, it has given me refuge, and I tried to do my bit, to pay it back for taking me in, and I think I have done, without being big-headed.

AG: Tell me about some of the activities you have done.

RS: Well, too many. Mostly in Stock. Because, when I came here, I started the art class; I am the founder member of a choir; I became a bowling champion, I won cups at the bowling club; I've been a member of the WI for about twenty odd years, the Treasurer some time; I was a trustee of the Alms Houses, which is next door, for eleven years; I helped with the reading at the school for about thirteen years; I got the pedestrian crossing, which is the pièce de résistance; I was on the parish council for 20 years; I was a rural district councillor for one year, and then I went to Africa and that's why I gave it up, I think. And then at the village halls, I lived opposite the village hall when I came first, and I became the janitor and looked after it on the committee, and then I helped to raise money for a better hall, because it was terrible, and then after, that was supposed to last for about five years and it stayed to nearly ten or fifteen, and I started kicking up a row and said we need another new village hall, and so I was instrumental in getting that, and I opened it in 2000. They asked me to open it, the new village hall, and we just heard that the debt's been paid off in three years. I've got some papers on it. The first village hall was in 1924 and it cost about £500, the second cost about £3500, and this new one is nearly £500,000. Anyway, somebody was very keen to donate some money. We have a new spa at the end of the village now, a big house, which has been turned into a spa, and they gave a dinner the other night, you had to pay £20, and I went, and I was invited, I paid my own ticket, mind you, I told them as well. And they've given all the money towards it. And I heard two days ago that they paid off the debt, which is wonderful. So I sang in a choir and, as I said, I did my fair bit.

AG: Is there a plaque, to mark the-?

RS: Oh, no, don't say that, because the other day I said, when the pedestrian crossing-. There's a very grumpy old chap, who's been on the council for years with me, he's just coming off, I came off about four years ago, and we stood by the pedestrian crossing and it was very busy. And I said to him, 'When I go, I hope somebody puts a plaque up there and call it Sellers' crossing'. 'Oh, whatever next!' he said. No, I've done it, and I've enjoyed it. And I write for the local magazine, and I get the odd letter in the newspaper. And they've been once; I've got papers, when they've interviewed me here about my coming to England and things like that. Without showing off, I feel I've done quite a bit, and I think people appreciate it, I hope.

**Tape 2: 34 minutes 57 seconds**

AG: What about your feelings towards your former homeland, Germany?

RS: I've been back a few times. After 1949, we used to go and visit my parents every two years, my husband as well, you know, and we loved it. And I don't know, I haven't got much contact now, because my favourite aunt and everyone is gone. And I missed the - which I'm, well, not annoyed about - but Hirschberg, and all that, I'll show you the books afterwards - in 1988 they invited - if my cousin had been fair, he would have given my name, he died now - they invited all the people, who had to leave Karlsruhe, because of Hitler, they asked them back to Karlsruhe for a week's holiday, everything paid. And I just happened to be there in '88, and I looked in the newspaper, and I stayed with my aunt, and I said, 'Look what's going on, whatever's happening? Why didn't let me know?' Well, I think they didn't let me know because it's all about Karlsruhe people, and of course my parents moved to Munich. By the time, they'd written this book. My uncle is in there and various people are in there. But, anyway, I just said, 'Gosh!'. So I wrote to the Bürgermeister when I got home, and I said I was amazed to see why we were not invited, my sister and I, because we lived there for so long, and I gave him a description of our life and so on, and I said I'm coming back again, you know, I'd love to meet you, and my aunt is 90, and I'm coming again soon. And I had a letter back from the Bürgermeister to say that they had a committee meeting and they decided that because we were missed out, we were invited when we come and see my aunt for a week's holiday at 50 Marks for a day each or something, and we had free things. So I accepted, and we did, we went along and, when I was there, there was an exhibition about all sorts of things. So I never understand why my cousin, who was the son of the footballer, why he didn't give my name, I never understand that. He's dead now. He was involved, he went to the meeting, and when this book was - it was quite well known, he knew about it. They have a travel bureau there, he and his sons, he's dead now, but his sons are running it, it's called Hirschreise. I never know why he didn't give an inkling about us. Anyway, we went, and my sister and I we met at the hotel, and we had a week there, and my sister, she came from Canada, and, yeah, funny that.

AG: How do you feel at the moment about events like that, more recently?

RS: I haven't been for many years now; I haven't been for four, five years.

AG: How do you feel about it?

RS: It always feels like Karlsruhe is my hometown. But otherwise I have not much sentiment, not really. My grandparents have got a huge grave there, which also has a notice of my uncle who died in the war, that's my father's parents, and I remember taking my husband to the

Jewish Cemetery a few years ago, and I couldn't find the graves and I said to my sister, 'What? I can't find the graves!' And she said, 'Look for the biggest'. So, when we went there the next time, we looked for the biggest. A huge monument! And my uncle, two uncles are buried as well, the one who went to Columbia, and another uncle, and my grandparents are there, a huge monument! Who's looking after it now, I think the Jewish Society, Jewish people. When I went there last with my sister, we went to the synagogue, which is there no more, which I saw burnt, and there was a little garden of remembrance there, terribly kept. And so we went to see the Bürgermeister, and said, 'We've come all this way, and look at this miserable pit you've got there'. So, anyway, they tidied it up. But she goes back, she went back last year, she hates it. She doesn't like going back at all. Because she had so much more trauma than I had. She doesn't like it. And she's got a friend there, a girlfriend, whose birthday it is next month, I'll write to her. And she saw our furniture being moved out of our flat. And I wrote to the AJR and said, 'Look, I've got a witness who's still alive. Is there any way I can get any restitution?' But anyway, no, they said no. It's too long ago; it had to be claimed in fifty-something. But I never thought, I never had any connection with the AJR or anything. So I now belong to it, and I pay for it, although I'm not Jewish, well, I'm Jewish, I can't stop that, there's something there. Well, God will forgive me, I'm sure. It's something I can't come to terms with. I have a slight guilt complex, but I don't think I should have it really, about having gone out of the Jewish-.

**Tape 2: 40 minutes 29 seconds**

RS: But, as I say, I hadn't got much contact when I came, nobody bothered very much about us, and then the fear of the children suffering because I'm Jewish, that decided me. But it doesn't matter, as far as me and him are concerned, you know, I'm not worried. It's sad, but anyway, there you are. And now the nice thing, which happened, a few years ago, when the AJR thing met, you know, in 1999.

AG: The Kindertransport?

RS: The Kindertransport thing, yes. From the Chelmsford Jewish School, somebody listened to Esther Rantzen talking to someone there, one of the girls there, and this chap said, 'Well, we understand that Kindertransport children are in this area', and he rang the BBC and they couldn't help him much, but somehow, when an article was published about me in the newspaper, and he read it and he said, 'Oh, this is the one we're after'. So he rang me up and he said, 'We're trying to find a girl from the Kindertransport', and I said, 'I'm one', but he said, 'I think she came from Czechoslovakia'. It was about the Winton thing. I said, 'No, it's not me, but I know who she is'. And he said, 'Can you help me?' And I said, 'Yes, I can help you'. And he said, 'I'll tell you what, we'll all meet up, in Stock' - him, this girl he's after, and me, and the Secretary of the Jewish Communication in Chelmsford. He said, 'Shall we meet?' you see, and I said, 'Yes, I live in Stock; I'd like to see him'. Anyway, we went across to the church, we got out, and we got on like a house on fire, the four of us. And one is Mariette Madjewski, and she's the one from Czechoslovakia, and she's one of the Winton children, and we've been friends ever since, and they have adopted the two of us. So we go to Pesach, they don't worry us about their Jewish things, but Pesach we go along and I've just been there and got this cold. And so it's rather nice. And then we meet, we treat them, now and then we take them out for a meal, and we have become good friends. And they only live in Margaretting and Hanningfield, which is just down the road. So, we have contact, and when they have a special do on, in the garden or something, which the woman has, we are invited. So there is a contact there, and that's it, they leave us alone, and we leave them alone,

and we do meet. And Marion Madjevski, the Czech one, we are quite friends, she comes to my birthday parties and things like that, so it's a contact, which I greatly appreciate. And they wrote a letter about us not long ago, and they posted it in their magazine, about meeting us, and that's nice. And that's the only connection I have really.

**Tape 2: 43 minutes 45 seconds**

AG: You said that much, much earlier, when you decided that you were unwilling to continue in the Jewish tradition, that this was because of your fear of what might happen to your children. Was there anything, any concrete or actual incident, that had given rise to this fear?

RS: No. I think it's probably the fear I had when I was being attacked, which sticks with you forever, doesn't it? And my sister having to go through this dreadful time in Theresienstadt. I think it's just that-. It's something. But it doesn't make any difference. To me, it's one God, and that's it. I can't change that. And, you know, my husband wasn't very religious, he was a humanist, he called himself. To take me on was just nice. Actually, he had quite a fight when he said he was marrying a Jewish. I don't know. I got on with the parents, and when his mother died, we lived down in Liddeston Hall, we had his father living with us for about a year, two years, and then he went in a home, and then he got run over. So, I've done my bit and they've done their bit.

**Tape 2: 45 minutes 8 seconds**

AG: I'd like now to pick up some of the chronological strings, as it were, of your life that we left out. About your parents, and how they got to Canada. You left them in Munich?

RS: Yes, they were in Munich, and my sister-.

AG: And they had a business?

RS: That's right, they had a business, and it didn't work, and anyway, my sister wanted to leave Germany. She went out there, and she went in '53, I think, and she worked very hard, she got a job in the Hilton Hotels.

AG: In which city?

RS: In Montreal. And she got a job and she worked herself up from a waitress, right up to one of the management, one of the high-ups, and at that time my mother, they went out to see her, and they had to work - she looked after the children, they had two children, and my parents looked after the children, when she went out to work. And my mother died in 1954, which was very bad, and my father lived with them at that time and he went, two old ladies took him in, in the end. And he died in 1968 in Montreal. They're both buried there, both Jewish graves. I think they didn't have a lot of money when my mother died, and she had to be buried in the poor end, and my children went out, my son went out, we all went out, and when my father had this, when he died, we had this grave-stone, so they're both in different things, but they're both there, in Baron Von Hirsch Cemetery, I think.

AG: What did your sister do in Canada?

RS: She worked in the Hilton Hotels, and she's got her own business, she's got to work hard. In a hotel business. And she had a partner, her husband died five years ago, six years ago.

AG: Was her husband someone she met in Canada?

**Tape 2: 47 minutes 14 seconds**

RS: She met him in Germany, he was in the army. He was Jewish. One side was Jewish, the other was Catholic.

AG: Which army was he in?

RS: He was in the American Army, yes, when she met him. And they married and he went into business when my father went, but I don't think they got on very well somehow. So eventually they emigrated and my parents followed them. They came via England, when they went out there.

**Tape 2: 47 minutes 52 seconds**

AG: Had you met her husband before?

RS: No, I hadn't.

AG: What was it like meeting him?

RS: I met him in Germany. Did I meet him in Germany? Yes, of course, I must have met him in Germany. He was alright. They had two daughters. And he died in Montreal.

AG: You said they came via England?

RS: My parents came via England, yes. They went by boat.

AG: Did you go and meet them?

RS: They stayed in London with my in-laws, and had a night there, and they came to Leeds, where we lived. And then they went from Liverpool.

AG: And how did they get on with the in-laws?

RS: They seemed alright. My mother was very clean and German, and I don't think my mother-in-law, she was very untidy and Scottish, I don't think she was allowed to go in the kitchen. So they stayed, they didn't stay the night, and then we picked them up, and then they came to us in Leeds, and they stayed, oh just for a little while, and then they went, we took them on to Liverpool Street, and then they went off. My mother only lasted one year. I think she had gallstones or something, I don't know what happened.

AG: I haven't asked you anything yet about Leeds, what your husband did.

RS: Oh, it was the same sort of thing, it was always to do with veterinary, you know, the service.

AG: Where did he work? Was it the university or a research station?

RS: A research station, yes.

AG: Where did you live in Leeds?

RS: Adel. Just outside Adel, we had a house there, and the children, as I say, started school in Leeds.

AG: Which sort of school did he go to?

RS: He went to grammar school. And then he came here and he transferred to the Chelmsford Grammar School here. And my husband became a governor of the grammar school and he was quite keen on education and so on. And he did a lot in the village, as well as me.

AG: How long were you in Leeds for?

RS: For about four or five years, I think. We came here in '54, I think. Four or five years.

AG: Did you have any contact with the Jewish community in Leeds?

RS: No.

AG: Jewish refugees?

RS: No. Nothing. The first time really was with the AJR in 1999. Even when I came to England, I don't know why. Don't know. There's only one in the village, we have a Jewish man in the village, a doctor, but he keeps to himself, he's alright, but-. She's working in the hospital. I think they came before the war, well before the war.

AG: How did you join the AJR?

RS: Well, I heard about the Kindertransport, you see, and I thought, 'Well, I'll go'. And then, if I needed some backing up of some sort, I thought they might help me. But I paid my sub, and I met Leverton, and so I'm not really worried. And then, as I say, there were one or two names I knew, who are members, Hirschberger, you see, but I don't think he knows me. I had one or two letters from somebody who was in Karlsruhe. I think he came on the same boat. I've kept them all. What my children will do when they have to sort it all out, heaven knows! I've tried to keep it, I kept it, but it's so much stuff.

AG: What was Leeds like in the early 1950s?

RS: I can't remember. I think I was busy with the children. John was born in '49, he was six, I can't remember much about it.

AG: Did you have any help in the house at all?

RS: No, in Leeds, no. I had help here, when I came here. I had a woman. In Leeds, I just coped, I think.

AG: How did you find life in Britain after the war?

RS: Well, I just settled in. As my husband said, 'More British than the British'. I had no difficulties at all. I never had any abuse. I get a bit of trouble now with my postman, I shouldn't really say that, he was in the war, he's a farmer, and he does the post now, and we're quite friendly. He won't talk about the refugees, and he said to me the other day about 'these black people' and I said, 'Well, I'm a refugee', and he said, 'Oh no, you're different'. See? I think I have to teach him a few lessons, but I don't think he'd listen. I mean, when I was in Nigeria, I did my bit, I helped deaf children, and helped there, so I, touch wood, I've been able to do it.

AG: Do you feel there are parallels with your situation in 1939 and what's happening with refugees here now?

**Tape 2: 53 minutes 22 seconds**

RS: Not really. In a way, but I don't know how much the pressure is for these people having to leave their home. I don't know much about it. I went and I didn't know where I was going, did I? And I didn't know what was happening to me, and I was sixteen. Perhaps you can take it when you have a family, I don't know.

AG: What about the way in which refugees behave towards British society now, do you find it's similar to yours, or different? You say you became more British than the British.

RS: I don't know whether it's different or not. Because I was younger, I was only sixteen, wasn't I? I mean I ran away from a certain thing, didn't I? I was able to get away from a certain threat, wasn't I? I don't quite know why they're coming. Is it because they want more out of life, or is it because they're being persecuted? I don't know. I think mine is slightly different. I was younger, and there was this terrible threat, wasn't there? Of being persecuted, being killed, been gassed. And I know if I had not come out, I would have been the first to have been gassed, because I couldn't have kept my mouth shut. I had lots of rows. I mean I fought back, I wasn't just being beaten up by these boys, I fought back, and that's why my father – we were also worried about my father, when he said, 'I'll go catch them and I'll get rid of them'. It would have been the most stupid thing. He used to threaten, we used to have to hold him, and then, in the end, I didn't say any more.

AG: You say you fought back?

RS: Oh yes, I didn't just take it as it was. And the more you did, the more they got other boys onto you, you know, they got other things onto you. I remembered just the other day, I remember when the war finished, I got a letter from my old schoolteacher, Fräulein Schmidt, and she asked me to send them pencils, for the school. Very odd. I wish I'd kept that letter.

**Tape 2: 55 minutes 44 seconds**

AG: Did you reply to that letter?

RS: I can't remember whether I did or not. I think it was a sort of feeling of 'Hm'. Although she didn't ill-treat me, I don't think she did. They had to do as they were told. And I think the

school is burnt down, I read the other day, the Gutenbergschule, I've got a new book on Karlsruhe, somebody sent it to me or I bought it, or my cousin gave it to me, that's right. A thing that worries me at the moment: I have a cousin, who is my mother's side - my mother's sister, she was ever so good, and the kids met her and knew him - and he was made a priest in Mainz, a Catholic. And we were good friends, good cousins, all those years, and suddenly, in the last two years, he will not write to me, I don't know why. I sent him birthday cards, he used to send me birthday cards. He was ill, he's no longer a priest. But he is friendly with a cousin, a second and third cousin of mine, she rang me the other day and said he might be coming for Christmas and I never heard any more. And he's just stopped contact, and I'm very upset about that.

AG: Do you have any suspicions?

RS: No idea. No idea. And that I would really like to find out. And, unless I go there, I don't really want to travel much more, I don't know, I have to try to ask my cousin and see if she can find a way of doing it. Strange.

AG: Let me take you back. You spent these few years in Leeds and then came down here in 1954?

RS: The Animal Health Trust opened a station and my husband had a job as director. And the Duke of Edinburgh came and opened it in '54-'55. Lord Perry had a big house there and he gave the land at Peppercorn Range to the Animal Health Trust, which is part of Newmarket, you know Newmarket where they train the horses? And he was chosen to come and be the director here, so that's why we came to Stock.

AG: It's quite an honour.

RS: It was an honour, yes, and I've got photos of my husband and the Duke together, looking at sheep and things like that. So I've got a lot of memories, a lot of pictures there, haven't I? And he was here until '71.

AG: We need to stop here because the tape is coming to an end.

**Tape 2: 58 minutes 47 seconds**

END OF TAPE 2

**TAPE 3**

**Tape 3: 0 minute 6 seconds**

AG: You had just arrived with your husband and family in Stock. What was Stock like in the fifties?

RS: Oh, quiet, not so much traffic, much more quiet than it is now. But it was good fun. My husband did quite a lot himself here, he started an investment club, he started a wine society, that was really when he was not very well, in the last few years of his life, the wine society and things like that. The investment club was first, and golf, he started the golf society when we were there, that was earlier on, and later on, when he wasn't so well, he was difficult to live with, and I pushed him round in a wheelchair for quite a few years. But talking about the

traffic in Stock, in those days, I was able to do it, but now, it's awful. But I've enjoyed my life here.

AG: How did you fit in, in a small English village?

RS: I don't know, it just happened, I don't know, I didn't push myself or anything, just things happened and I said yes, and everything I've done I've enjoyed.

AG: And your children, did they go to school here?

RS: Yes, when we came here John went to the grammar school, my husband became Governor there, in Chelmsford, you know, King Edward VI Grammar School. And we got quite friendly with the headmaster, who married an Austrian girl, an Austrian woman, and he's now retired. And the other son, he was ready for, he went to the local school until he was-. He got into grammar school. They all got their eleven pluses, I think one had a bit of a struggle, but they all got there. The youngest one went to a private school, because the school was run down a bit, and he went to a single sex, but they all ended up in King Edward VI School. I have still contact there. One of the friends of my son is a doctor, he lives in America now, he's got horses, and he buys them, and does horseracing, buys the horse, takes them out. And the Chelmsfordian, they had a party about two years ago, which I didn't know about. Anyway, he took him, he took his father, and he invited me as well, to go to the evening dinner at the grammar school, which was wonderful. And the person who played the music is a member of the Jewish Chelmsford community and he and his son played the music. And we went there and, when I went in, I thought, 'Well, I don't know, I can't see any women, it's odd'. And I said to one of the waitresses, 'Well, what's happened to all the women?' He said, 'There are only three women tonight', which I was one of. He said, 'It's the old Chelmsfordians' party!' So I went in, I met the headmaster, who was thrilled to see me. And there were three women in there, that's all of us. We were special guests and that was rather lovely. So, he's in America now, he's been there for years. The headmaster, he lives not far away.

### **Tape 3: 3 minutes 38 seconds**

AG: Did you get to know people through having children in the same school, that sort of thing?

RS: Not an awful lot. I think mostly just village affairs. Well, I was just asked, and I said yes, and that was it. I've never refused anything, and I've usually been very successful, I raised a lot of money for various occasions, I ran a bingo, that was quite successful, and always tried, it's the Jewish bit in me, the money-making. But it's all been enjoyable. Now it's getting very difficult because the women are all getting a lot older and we're all getting a bit nasty to each other. And I don't want to take on any more. I've been a member of the WI, our president is ill now, she's dying of cancer, and I cannot see anyone taking over. We have two WIs in the village, one older one, and a younger one, they were young then but they're all getting older, we're now all in our seventies and eighties. And I think it's going to be very difficult to find someone to take it on. We're keeping it going while she's there, while she's still alive, it's a shame, she's very brave. She's had five different sorts of cancers in the last ten years, and she's just kept going, but now it's caught up with her, which is rather sad.

### **Tape 3: 5 minutes 28 seconds**

AG: This voluntary work with the Women's Institute has been a significant part of your life?

RS: Not so much the Women's Institute as the Village Hall, I've been more involved in the Village Hall. It was rather an honour to be asked to open it, to cut the cake with a young girl. The oldest and the youngest, well, they said the oldest, I wasn't quite the oldest. And it was rather nice, you know. I've always been involved, it was rather nice to be asked, I didn't expect it.

AG: You must be well-known in the village.

RS: I think I am, yes. I went to the camera club yesterday. They had an exhibition and last year I suggested to them, I said it would be rather nice to know the people who take the films, who take the pictures, because sometimes, from outside, you know their faces but you don't know their names. So they've taken my advice and everybody has their photograph underneath their photograph.

AG: Do they react in any way to the fact that you are-?

RS: A foreigner? No, I don't so, I don't think I've had any-. When I had the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, some people didn't know that I was, you know, my life.

AG: What did they say when they found out?

RS: Well, they were very nice and I got these big write-ups in the papers, and the other day I had a funny thing, there's someone in the local paper, a chap called Daryl Weber, and he said he had-. When this ship came, yes, I came on the 'Amsterdam', and in the local paper, about two years ago, I think they said that a ship called the 'Amsterdam' was doing cruises. And I thought that rings a bell, so I wrote in the paper, saying that rings a bell, because I arrived as a refugee on the 'Amsterdam'. So about a year, it must be 8 months ago, I had a phone-call from this chap, Daryl Weber, and he said, 'I've just been going through my papers and I see about the 'Amsterdam', you wrote about it, could I come and interview you some time?' And I said, 'Yes if you like'. He said, 'Well, I'm going on holiday'. Anyway, it went on and on and on. And he rang me up one day and then he couldn't make it and I couldn't make it and it has been left. So I wrote in our local paper the other day-. Oh, I know what happened! I said to him, 'When you come, I've got so much stuff, you better bring a sleeping bag. And that was the end of that'. So, anyway, I wrote in our local paper the other day, I had this conversation with Daryl Weber, and when I told him to bring his sleeping bag I haven't heard from him anymore. Of course that caused a lot of laughter. And I haven't bothered with him since. And then you came in the middle. I don't know whether he'll get in touch. I don't know. I don't really know. But I write the odd bit in the paper. I wrote the other day in the paper. I went to see 'The Pianist'. Have you seen it?

AG: No.

### **Tape 3: 8 minutes 37 seconds**

RS: Oh, it touched a few raw points. And I met somebody out of the blue, somebody who came from Leeds, and he sat next to me, and he was going to the Hanningfield Reservoir, something to do with the reservoir, and the students didn't turn up and so he went to the

pictures. So we sat next to each other and had a conversation. But I found it very, very loud. Because they have this all-round, in our cinemas, so I wrote to the paper and complained. And a fortnight later somebody agree with me, so that's rather nice. But it was, with the action, it was so loud, it was so disturbing. I thought you go to the cinema to relax, even it is horrible. I find it strange. The youngsters need the noise, don't they? I don't know. But that's a picture, which is, you know, if you'd seen it, you'd know what I mean.

AG: What did you find particularly moving about it?

RS: Oh, it just brought back memories, you know? It's not so much, it didn't happen to me, but it's just all terrible that it happened at all. And now, with the war in Iraq, you wonder, you know, if they had come earlier with Germany, perhaps, I don't know if it would have stopped anything, this makes me think.

AG: Going back to you and your family, could you tell me a bit about your children, how they developed after school? Did they go on and study?

RS: Yes. They all went to university. One went to, which one did he go to? I can't remember. Not the one I wanted him to go to. He's the one, who is now looking for a job, the IT one. Was it Birmingham? Yes, Birmingham, I think. The other one went to the Royal Free Hospital in London. And the eldest went to Loughborough. They all did very well. The one who died, he was a financial wizard, sort of thing, you know, he was good, but then, as I say, the cancer caught up with him, four years. I never even thought about it. So the other two are having regular tests now. One is alright. Just the other doctor is having his tests now, just to keep-. They've got two, one's got two children, two boys, one is a teacher, the other is an engineer, the younger one. And the other one, they're still at college. One's at Warwick, she's going to be an actress, I think, or something, and the other one is doing studies, either European Studies or something. They speak French as well, and she speaks Spanish, or Italian, that's right, the girl, the eldest daughter. The younger one, she's fourteen, she's still in school.

AG: And what about your eldest-?

RS: The other one, the eldest one, she's at the BBC in London, she's in the Arts Department, she's very keen on art.

### **Tape 3: 12 minutes 2 seconds**

AG: And did any of your sons marry Jewish girls?

RS: No.

AG: All English?

RS: No. French. The doctor has got a French wife and the other one, her father was in the air force, for years she lived abroad, but she's British, English. None of them go to church. I don't know. Anyway, it's nothing to do with me.

AG: And your husband's career? I mean, he was director here. He had really nowhere higher to go?

RS: No, he couldn't. And of course it was sort of a private arrangement at the beginning, you see, and the farmers didn't support, and it just closed down, in '71. And they said, 'Goodbye. You've had it!' That's it, no handshake, no pension.

AG: And he was then how old?

RS: Fifty-something. He was 78 when he died, 1915 he was born. So that was a big shock.

AG: And what did he do?

RS: Well, he applied for Nigeria. They wanted a Professor of Pathology, of Veterinary Pathology, in Ibadan, in Nigeria. And he applied, and he got it. And he said, 'Right, well'. He always wanted to go abroad and do things for other people, and he said, 'This is my chance'. So he went in '71 and I followed him in '72, and we were out there five years, four years, and we came back in '77.

AG: That must have been quite something. What was Nigeria like?

RS: Very strange. I had never been to such a country before. I'd been travelling and so on, I'd been to Turkey, and I've got relations in Turkey and so on, but Nigeria was quite different. It was difficult, they had a lot of riots, there's always trouble in Nigeria, but he enjoyed it.

AG: What was Ibadan like?

RS: It's a university town. And we lived inside the university campus. It was very difficult to begin with, the heat, and to get used to it, and having servants, but we had a nice place, and we got on fine.

AG: Did any of your children come with you?

RS: No. They didn't come with us. They were at university here. And they came to see us. And my youngest son came out with his wife, and William came out with his wife, no, he came on his own, that's right, he wasn't married then, and they spent a few weeks with us, so that was rather nice.

AG: What was life like for you in Ibadan?

RS: Fun.

AG: What did you do to make it fun?

RS: I just enjoyed it. I helped a lot with the deaf children, and then, when my husband was made a chief in the Urua.

AG: A chief!

RS: Yes. The bringer of good things, he was called. 'The Akoreide'.

AG: How did that come about?

RS: Well, they just thought, they were giving five chiefs, four chiefs, and they thought he'd done his job in veterinary science and they honoured him.

AG: Who was this?

**Tape 3: 15 minutes 21 seconds**

RS: The 'Akoreide of Urua': 'The Bringer of Good Things'. That's the translation. And I went to the ceremony. And this little girl who was in Switzerland, you know, I told you about this Swiss friend, who was here as an au-pair? Did I tell you about her?

AG: No.

RS: She was here as an au-pair, and we sort of, not adopted her. And she got married in Switzerland, and she came out as well, and one or two Germans, we used to have a lot of people coming out from England and from Germany, and we were the sort of centre for when they came. And they had lunch with us, and, having three servants, it was good fun. The first time we were just hardly there in the place and we had a knock on the front door and a boy came and he had avocado pears, lovely avocado pears, and he sold them to us, you see? They were from our tree in the back. So you learn. The worrying thing sometimes was that, when you went to the market, you found Oxfam bags all over the place. But it was interesting. Firstly, it was difficult to get used to the heat, and I was taken ill. But you had that slight feeling that the blacks were pushed down and the whites were, you know, when you went to the doctor. We were going in the room and we sat comfortably, we saw the doctor, and blacks were outside and the children on the grass. It just made you feel a bit guilty. Perhaps it's my upbringing, I don't know.

**Tape 3: 16 minutes 58 seconds**

AG: How did you get on with the-?

RS: Fine, fine. I've still got one or two friends, who've come back to England. The one in Cambridge, we're still in contact, white, she was married to a Nigerian, and he died now, and we're still in contact. And one or two people, who were with us out there, we still write to each other at birthdays. One is in Munich, the other in London, so I have some contact with some of them, still. But it was a nice time, for four, five years. We had our ups and downs. They were locked up in the campus one day, the lecturers, by the students, they wouldn't let them out. You didn't know what was going to happen. Anyway, but there was always this thing between the North and the different tribes. And there we went to the ceremony, it was terrific, all sitting out on the-.

AG: And who organised this, was this a tribe?

RS: The local university, the university, yes.

AG: Was this because he had done great things for their livestock?

RS: Well, he went out to the country and helped out a little bit and it was just his thing. And there he was in his glory, I've got all his clothes still upstairs, the little Fez and the hat, and he had a special - what do you call it? Leaves, special leaves, they're still up there, and they've

all fallen off the stalk. And they treated me very well. I used to raise money for the deaf children, and it was OK, but there's always just that little-, I won't say it. But no, I got on very well with them, and when we left-. When I got in first in the country, I went to the customs, and I had my tape recorder, and it was, 'Ah well, Madam, I'm afraid you will have to pay money for this, or you have to leave it behind'. I said, 'Come on, I'm a musician', I said, 'and I rely on music. I have to have my tape recorder', and they let me go. And when we finally left, we waited at the port, we came back by boat. And the chaps came and took our luggage onto the ship. My husband had his beer, he loved his beer. And I went with them, and then we went and put it in the cabin, and they all stood round, about three of them, you see, waiting. And I said, 'What are you waiting for?' They said, 'Oh, Madam, we must have our dash'. I said, 'Sometimes in this life, you have to do something for nothing because you like the person you are doing it for'. And they laughed their heads off and went. It was how I got by in Nigeria, the funny side, and you were alright.

**Tape 3: 20 minutes 7 seconds**

AG: Did you sense that they resented you at all?

RS: No, I don't think so. There were a lot of English people out there, you see, and Irish people, professors from the forestry and things like that. They were all, they were a pretty good mixture.

AG: And what were the material conditions there?

RS: Fine. There was no problem. When it was hot and rainy, it was a bit dull. And my stewards, they got married and had babies, and we were there at the ceremonies, we were invited. We were accepted. Yes, it was quite a good time. But it was nice to get back.

AG: You came back when?

RS: We came back. Yes, we left this house. I'd got this house before we went, in '71, you see. And my son, one of the doctor sons, lived here, and he's mad on motorcars, so he used to his motorcars. So we just left this. And the boy lived here and he went to London, to university. So that was fine. I came back in '76 and then I started all these various, well, I had started before, when I came in '68, I was on the parish council and, you know, did other bits and pieces.

AG: Do you have to be elected on to that?

RS: I had to, but not now, I went to a meeting the other night and they're going to have a heck of a time. And there's one lady there, who's always against everything, and she's a member there. They're seven ladies and two men. Good luck! We had elections there, I've still got my form where we had to be elected, and now you can just walk in because nobody wants the job. They're all walking in without elections, it's terrible.

AG: You said you served on the Rural District Council for a year; did you have to be elected for that?

RS: Yes.

AG: Did you have to stand for a political party?

RS: No, no party. No party involved in those days. No, the lady next door she died, and then I took her place, there were three of us standing, and one elderly man, who was a historian, who should have really got it, and then the wife of the ex-Parish Councillor, and he wanted her to stand against me. So, anyway, I got it and I was there a year and thoroughly enjoyed it, but then of course we went to Africa. And I asked for leave of absence from them for a year, and I got it, because I wasn't sure if I'd stay, I only went out as an experiment, the whole thing. And they gave me leave of absence and then the Parish Council, there was a big headline, 'Councillor defies-', oh I don't know, I've got it all here, because I wouldn't resign from the local Parish Council. They said, 'There's no-one to represent us', but the boss of the thing, Mr Edis, he was with me. And I said, 'Look, I'm not giving it up, I fought for this place and I'm not giving it up'. It was all big headlines, but the funny thing was, when I got to Africa, somebody said to me, 'Good Lord, you've made your fame already!' Somebody in a Nigerian paper had picked up the article, and so it followed me up before I went. It was a horrible letter. A horrible thing they said. I found the letter the other day. Five people sent a letter and they're all dead, so I was rather, 'It serves them right'.

**Tape 3: 23 minutes 20 seconds**

AG: What were your duties on the District Council?

RS: Well, it was if you have road problems or things like that. As I say, I hardly got my foot in the door. We used to meet, if somebody wanted a building, they get special permission, so the Parish Council was more-. It's now changed, not there anymore.

AG: How did your life develop after you'd come back from Nigeria? Did your husband retire?

RS: Well, after we came back, what did he do? When did we come back? '78? Yes, I think he retired. Yes, he had no job. He was alright, he did odd jobs, his brother is a veterinary surgeon as well, and they had contact. No. He just played golf, and enjoyed life, made a nuisance of himself, and then he became ill, in '93, yes. We went to Canada, to see my children in nineteen eighty-, and he started having lung trouble, or things like that. He didn't have cancer, but I think his lungs, something went wrong. I pushed him around for about four or five years and he was not a terribly happy man, because he was very intellectual, a very clever man, and he found it more difficult. The doctor used to come here and I'd follow him out and apologise for his behaviour. Anyway, the doctor and I are good friends. Very difficult for him to give in. But he started a lot of things while he was not working, he started this wine society and it's still going strongly. And he started petanque, and an indoor bowling club. Petanque is now going out because they're selling the land, but indoor bowling he started, that's still going strong, that's why I get invited to the odd thing here and there. So, that's it.

AG: Something I didn't ask you, when did you acquire a British passport?

**Tape 3: 25 minutes 50 seconds**

RS: I got it when I got married. And I don't know where it is. It's probably in Cambridge. I used to have to report, we got married in Girton, in Cambridge. I can't find it, I don't know where it is. I've got a big 'J' in it, a big 'J', 'Jude'.

AG: Not the British passport?

RS: No, not the British passport, I've got those. I've got four or five in there, because we travelled quite a lot. My husband, you know, he took us. I've got a Turkish second aunt, and she's 94 and she's still alive, and her son came over here to England, he stayed with us for quite a while, and we went to Germany, and, you know, we travelled quite a lot, Austria, we had a good trip, so we had quite a good time.

**Tape 3: 26 minutes 43 seconds**

AG: Perhaps I could ask you in a more general way about your sense of identity? Do you feel yourself British or German or Jewish? Which mixture of the three? How do you see yourself?

RS: I don't feel German. Jewish is there, somehow, and the British is just I've been here 65 years, I just blended in somehow, I think. I'm sure people have been rude about me, but I think I've done my bit, I don't feel ashamed, and I have quite a few friends. Of course, a lot of them are dying off now, that's the trouble, you see.

AG: Do you mix at all with refugees, either those that you met in earlier years or perhaps through the Kindertransport?

RS: Well, only Marietta. And I have someone on the telephone and one or two in America now. One is not very well at all. She came to this meeting in Germany and she wrote to me on my birthday and she said she's not very well, so I don't know. She lives in New York. And we get together, some of us, every now and then. Otherwise, I haven't got much, I keep in touch with the AJR, I keep up with things, I thought you never know if you need it, if I need help. I don't know whether they would bother now, because I'm not Jewish at all.

AG: I'm sure they would.

RS: Anyway, my husband was in the Marines, and there's a home, because a friend of mine, her daughter wanted her to go to Kent, she lives in Kent, and she's in Essex, and they won't let her go in a home in Kent. And I suddenly thought, 'Well, you never know'. She wants to be with friends, but if you haven't got a car - I haven't got a car anymore - it's very difficult to go and visit people. And I thought, well, I don't know, this home is there, my husband was there for a recuperation, Banstead, near Epsom, and I thought, 'Well, I don't know, I don't want to live with the children', and I said to my son the other day, 'If anything happens to me, will you look after me?' He said, 'No'. I said, 'Right, thank you very much'. No, it was only a joke, no, I couldn't, it just wouldn't be fair, and I thought, 'Well, I'll find out about this home, see whether I can get in there', and I went to see the people in Chelmsford, and they said, 'Look, they're all locked up, these army and navy things. They let me in. And I said, 'Look I've got this piece of paper, because my husband was there, and he had a holiday there and there's a hospital in the same place. Is it still going? Is there a chance for me to go in if I have to?' So he gave me a name and an address, which I have to get in contact with in Chelmsford, and I said, when I got out, 'Have I got to salute?' He said, 'No', so at least that's something! You know, I thought while I'm still with it, I mean my memory is going, well, my memory's not going, but I write a letter now and I forget the letter in between. What's this a sign of? But my daughter-in-law, the one who lost her husband, she lives next door in Galleywood, she comes, they were always a little separate, they were happy, and I didn't mix up, but they were

always a bit separate from the other two boys, they didn't mix all that much, but she comes. And I said to her, 'My door is open, day and night, come whenever you like', so she does. She has her parents down the road, who are not very well at the moment, and she finds it very difficult to cope without her husband, and she comes and talks to me about it, and I feel just as bad, but what can you do? You've got to just try your best. So, she's got a daughter, and she got married two years ago, this girl, so I'm hoping they have a baby.

AG: This is the one in the BBC?

**Tape 3: 30 minutes 54 seconds**

RS: The one in the BBC, yes. Oh, I must tell you that: my husband was in The Archers once! And I'm trying to find a photocopy, a listening. There must be somewhere I can get hold of it, mustn't there? He was the sheep expert, he was still working here, and I always remember, he went to them, and it was, 'Oh, hello, Dr. Sellers', and they had a chat. And he said, 'Would you like a cup of tea?' 'Oh, that would be most welcome.' When he came in the pub that evening, they greeted him, 'That would be most welcome!' I tried to get hold of the tape. I have to get my grand-daughter to do it.

AG: Did you tend to meet up with people in pubs and other sorts of places?

RS: Oh yes, we had a good, yes, he liked his drink, and there used to be our local, but it's changed now. Yes, we used to meet in there and the men drank and the wives went shopping and things like that, yes it has been a good atmosphere here. He was a bit of a snob, I think, my husband, somebody said the other day.

**Tape 3: 31 minutes 57 seconds**

I don't think he was. He was very clever and he didn't suffer fools gladly. He wrote a lot of papers and books. I got rid of some of them but I've got one here, so. He was a good man but it was difficult, the last few years. I found my diary the other day, when he wasn't well, and I've torn it up, didn't want to see it.

AG: I don't know if there's anything else that you'd like to tell me about?

RS: I think I must be drying up, surely, boring you stiff.

AG: Not at all. If there isn't, perhaps I could just ask you, if your grandchildren, say, or anybody else that might watch the video, if you had any particular message, or anything-?

RS: To them? Yes, I just hope they read, perhaps they listen to this, and know I love them. That's it.

AG: Well, in that case-.

RS: Thank you very much for coming.

AG: Well, thank you very much for doing the interview.

RS: Thank you both.

**Tape 3: 33 minutes 15 seconds**

Wide-shot.

**Tape 3: 33 minutes 28 seconds****PHOTOS**

1. RS: Both my grandparents, my father and mother in the back. Left, and then the middle one is my mother's parents, my grandfather, my grandmother had died by then. Taken: in our dining room, in the flat, which we had to leave. In Karlsruhe, in 1932.
2. RS: Ruth and mother, 1923, in Karlsruhe.
3. RS: Ruth, Bat Mitzvah, back row, second from the left, 1936, in Karlsruhe. With Dr Schiff, who was the Rabbi.
4. RS: Bertoldt Hirsch, his birthday, family group, my father is back row, on the left, Max. 1918.
5. RS: 1939, at the Yarrells, near Bournemouth, before going to Cambridge.
6. RS: 1941, domestic science course in Cambridge.
7. RS: Land Army registration card, 1941.
8. RS: Cambridge, Parker's Piece, Land Army, 1941.
9. RS: Animal Research Centre, near Girton, inspecting horses, 1942.
10. RS: Ruth and Ken at their wedding on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, 1944. Ken was Royal Marine Commando.
11. RS: My mother and father, Silver Wedding, 1946, Munich.
12. RS: Family Sellers, 1958, and dogs, London.
13. RS: John and Susan's wedding. Left, William, John, unfortunately he passed away, and Thomas, 1968.
14. RS: Queen's Jubilee, 2002. Left are Lewis and Andrew, standing up, Thomas, me sitting down, my French daughter-in-law, Dominique, Margot, Susan at the back, on the right-hand side, William, my grandson, Daniel and my grand-daughter, Charlotte.
15. RS: Dominique at the back, taken in Australia. William, Charlotte, Philippa and Max.
16. RS: Catherine and Charles, married 2<sup>nd</sup> December, in London, 2000.