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**Interview Transcript Title Page**

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<b>Interviewee Surname:</b>	Willman
<b>Forename:</b>	Eve
<b>Interviewee Sex:</b>	Female
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<b>Interviewee POB:</b>	Vienna, Austria

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## REFUGEE VOICES

**Interview No.** RV198  
**NAME:** Eve Willman  
**DATE:** 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
**LOCATION:** London, UK  
**INTERVIEWER:** Dr. Bea Lewkowicz

### [Part One]

[0:00:00]

*Today is the 20th of December 2016. We're conducting an interview with Eve Willman. My name is Bea Lewkowicz, and we are in London.*

*What is your name please?*

Eve Willman.

*And when were you born?*

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 1933.

*And where were you born?*

In Vienna.

*Thank you very much for having agreed to be interviewed for the Refugee Voices Project. Could you please tell us something about your family background?*

Well, my family background in Vienna, I think we were quite assimilated. My father had a, a- practice in the centre of, of Vienna, in the- in the showbiz district, and so you know

obviously he met different types of people. And my mother had been... a conv- My mother was a convert. And so obviously, you know, we weren't observant at all.

*And where- which area? You said he had a practice. Where was it?*

In the 4th district of Vienna. It was in the same street as one of the famous cathedrals: Karlskirche.

*And where did you live?*

We lived on the premises.

*Aha. Can you describe it a little bit for us? What...?*

**[0:01:50]**

Well, I went back... This time actually- I, I went and I looked, and it was just, you know, a block of flats. But I didn't go into the flats. But I believe there's still a doctor having a practice in the same place. But it was, you know, a very lovely district of Vienna.

*And do you know- can you tell us a little bit about your parents' background and the grandparents?*

My, my grandfather - sorry - my great-grandfather came from Hungary as a poor shoe- shoe-maker. And he must've being quite ambitious for his children, because my grandfather... as, as a Jew, went to- studied engineering at- at the University of Vienna. And paid his way to- to get a profession. My grandfather then had four sons, and each of them went into a different profession.

*What did they do?*

Well, the oldest became- studied Semitic languages and then became a rabbi. My uncle became- the second- and became an accountant. My father a doctor and also the youngest became an accountant as well.

*And what about your mother?*

My mother's family- they lived outside of Vienna and I think they had a small... sort of- not a farm, but, you know, ... like that. And... my mother- everybody told me- you can probably see from the photo, was a very beautiful woman. And she became a dancer. And she- at the theatre where she was dancing, she met one of my cousins who was a comedian. And she needed a doctor, and so he'd- that's how my mother and father met.

*What theatre? What was it- do you know the name of the theatre?*

I think it was Theater an der Wien. You know, it was... was sort of a comedy. That sort of theatre.

**[0:04:45]**

*A cabaret?*

Cabaret, yes. Yes.

*And when- do you know when- so when was she dancing there? When did she work in that...?*

I don't know. I don't really know much about it, because although I did visit... my grandparents and it- and my German wasn't so good then so, you know, we didn't have that much contact. But they did give me some photos of her, you know, when she was a dancer.

*Was that something they talked about, or not talked about? How did they...?*

No, no, no. They- you know when I went there, I was sort of a teenager. And you know as a teenager you feel an ugly duckling anyway. And everybody said to me, "Oh!" you know, "You know your mother was beautiful." And you know especially you know the family- the family there. That... They did make it slightly better, because when I went back, probably the last time, they said... instead of, "Your mother's beautiful" they said, "*Evie ist Frau Doktor*" [Evie has a PhD]. So, I redeemed myself in some way.

*Yes... yes. And so, you said they met because she came to...*

Yes.

*And when- when did they get married?*

I'm not sure of the year. You know, I have all the details but you know, not- if you'd have told me beforehand, I would have looked up some dates.

*Doesn't matter. And how did they- you said that your mother converted?*

Yes.

*And how- do you know how- the family- your father's family. How did they take that?*

Well, my uncle although he was a rabbi, he... he went to a community where I- I think, you know on the continent they were already... leaning more towards, you know, which I think you know, is now the Masorti. So, you know he was very understanding. You know, he didn't condemn... his brother at all. And we- we were always brought up on the principle you know to- to not condemn and take people as they were.

*Yeah. And what are your earliest memories of- of growing up in Vienna?*

**[0:07:21]**

I don't really have, you know I- I can't remember- anything really. Only things that people have told me.

*You can't remember anything?*

Maybe sort of I have a fleeting memory of running across one of the rooms in the- in the flats but... Nothing really... I mean I've seen photos of- of my parents. And I've seen my father anyway. But you know, I've no sort of living memory at all.

*So, all you know about Vienna is- you had to recreate it?*

Yes.

*From other people's stories, or from...?*

Yes.

*Because how old were you when you left?*

Five, nearly, you know...

*So, very young.*

Well, I think was just such a traumatic experience because not only was I my parents' only child, but at that point no one else in the Willman family had any children at all. So, I- you know, I was probably spoiled and cossetted and so. It was... a big wrench somehow to land in the first foster family who were so different.

*Yeah. So, you were- by then, your father's brothers they didn't have families of their own?*

No, not at that point. No. ...They... They were sort of older and I think two- one of my uncles, you know, had divorced and then remarried. And similarly, the other one- no he wasn't divorced; his wife died.

*Yes, so you were the only child?*

Yes.

*Were the grandparents still there when you...?*

Yeah, my grandmother. My- the Willman grandfather died before I was born. But the... I don't know whether I really remember her, or whether- you know, I've got a picture of her there.

*Yes. What are your associations then with- about her, or...? And what was her name, the grandmother?*

She was called Ernestine, because this, you know, the girl there on the photo. Her- she's named- her second name is after that grandma.

*And you- or you were too young. You didn't go to school...*

**[0:10:15]**

No.

*...in Vienna? No. So you would have lived in the flat with your parents...*

Yes.

*Your father working. Your mother probably stopped working...*

Yes.

*...when she married.*

And I know we visited... you know, my uncle, who- you know, where he was rabbi in Nikolsburg [Mikulov, Czech Republic], it was called. ...And probably I visited my other grandparents as well in- in Vösendorf, but I have no sort of real memories at all.

*No... no. And where was, what was his name, the rabbi, your uncle?*

Yes. Alfred.

*Alfred Willman.*

Yes.

*Yes. So- and the grandparents in the farm, you must have visited.*

Yes.

*And did he get on-did your father get on with those with those grandparents?*

Yes. Yes.

*Which was important for later.*

Yes. I think my father actually, you know, he could stay. They weren't so well off. I think he was very good to them.

*So, what are your first memories...actually? Wherever they are... and, where are they?*

Well, I think it must've been... You know, after I came to England when I- I went to live with the first family. Because I remember the- I don't remember much about him, but she was very strict. You know, she hadn't- hadn't had any children. And I remember she made me make the beds with you know, proper corners, you know like they used to do in hospitals and...



Everything was sort of very sort of austere. I must- I must have felt the contrast although, you know, I couldn't remember what I had had. But I, you know, I knew that the present wasn't so good.

*And probably at that time, you could remember it.*

Yes

*At the time.*

Yes. I remember... My parents- it must've been at the beginning of the war when they- you know, you could write. And I remember... a card arrived. And I remember rushing down the stairs and... I then I think I was very emotional when I saw the card. And I sort of know where it was from. Actually, I do remember that.

**[0:13:12]**

*Yes. So, you- at the time, you knew that you left them behind?*

Yes.

*Yeah.... So, what could you reconstruct then? When- when were you sent out from Vienna?*

Well, I only know from the- the... person I came with. Gerti was her name. She said- she told me that I held her hand all the way, on the journey. And I remember stopping. It must have been at the border. And people came, and they gave a- a sweet drink. And then we carried on. And when we got to Liverpool Street, my uncle- my- an older brother of my father's, he- he was waiting at Liverpool Street for us. And we spent the night in London. He had been able to come to England on a visa as a waiter. And he was a waiter at one of the Lyons Corner Houses. And... while he was a waiter there, and probably because of the war, they had a girl band. And... He- he became very friendly with the violinist. And I think we stayed at her house overnight. And then the following morning, my uncle took Gerti and me to Hinckley.

*Who was Gerti?*

**[0:15:10]**

She- we- we weren't related- blood related, but we were related through our grandparents. And so obviously she knew the family well.

*And was she a bit older than you?*

Yes, she was about- she was five or six years older than me.

*So, she- she remembered the Kindertransport?*

Oh, she remembers, yes, she remembers everything.

*And what does she say? Were you scared? Were you...?*

Well, she said I just clung to her the whole time, and that even when they wanted me to give me a bath and put it to bed, you know, I still wanted her to come with me. But then you know we were separated.

*Immediately, or...?*

Well, the following day. I think she went to her foster parents in Hinckley.

*And you went to...?*

And I went- and stayed with mine.

*So, who did you end up? Who was your first foster family?*

He was called The Reverend Price-Jones. And I've since learnt that a lot of Unitarian ministers helped and took in children from the Kindertransport. Because when I did the interview on *Newsnight*, one of the other Unitarian ministers got in touch with me and they wanted to know you know, who- who I'd stayed with and... And they then told me sort of details of what had happened to him.

*But you said they were a couple, and they hadn't had children before...*

No.

*So what ages were they? How old were they when you...?*

**[0:16:56]**

Well, it's hard to tell when you're young you know how old they are... They were probably in their sort of forties, I would say. But I vaguely remember that you know having to go to church and Sunday school. And putting on my bests on- on a Sunday, you know, with bonnets, I think children wore. I remember that.

*Yeah...*

But then, you know, when he lost his job, I had to move on.

*He lost his job, but you also said he was a pacifist, you think?*

Yes. Because... Because he was a pacifist, he, you know, he couldn't continue to... work as a clergyman.

*Was he an outspoken pacifist?*

I think he must have been. Yes... yes.

*And that means that they couldn't afford to keep you, or...?*

No, they couldn't then keep me. So, The Refugee Committee then moved me to the first place in Cambridge. And... It- they were a lovely family. I think the husband eventually went to war but... It- it was really, you know, I was really happy there. They- they had a beautiful house. Beautiful dog. And the boy, their son, was the same age as I was, and I was very happy there.

*What were they called, please? What were their names?*

Rutter. The- we tried to trace the families that I went to in Cambridge, because... I went to speak to- Mike Levy arranged for me to speak to the group in Cambridge. And he was very interested that I'd been with these two families in Cambridge. And he wanted to trace them, but he, he couldn't trace them.

**[0:19:17]**

*And why were you moved to Cambridge?*

I don't know... what the reasoning was of The Refugee Committee.

*Was it The Refugee Committee in London?*

Yes. They... I have a whole, you know, if you'd told me beforehand, I would have had dates and things. They, you know how they painstakingly have written everything down. You know, where I went, when I went and...

*So, it's their whole file on you?*

Yes.

*Did you get that file?*

Yes.

*From the- is it World Jewish Relief?*

From World Jewish Relief, yes.

*And what does it say? Because that's interesting. How did they keep track of you, for example so how...?*

I don't know. I mean, you know, it just...

*Are there comments in there?*

There are comments, you know, when that... You know, they didn't like the uncle interfering. Because my uncle knew then that I wasn't having any religious instruction, and he- he was afraid I'd lose my Jewish identity. So... I think he visited me once or twice there. And I don't think they could find a Jewish family for me to live in Cambridge. And so, they moved me to a second family. They were called Norrington. And again, they lived in this magnificent house. They had, I think, three children of their own. And... They had a horrible Afghan dog, who used to sort of come behind and nip, you know... And after having such a loving home, it was- she was Scottish, and you know quite strict. Not only with me, with her own children as well. But it was then... that she decided, you know, I was a good pair of hands to do

housework that... The Refugee Committee - I don't know how they knew but - they knew that I was doing too much housework. And so, they then moved me to this place in Berkhamsted.

*Before we get to Berkhamsted the- the first family in Cambridge. By then, tell us how your uncle had come over. This is the rabbi- who was a rabbi.*

**[0:21:41]**

Yes. He... had to go- he moved for a Nikolsburg to Brno. And in Brno, he had to go to the Gestapo every day and sign in. And one day, when he and my aunt- when he went to sign in, they saw a copy of the “*Stürmer*”, which again I haven't been able to trace, but- that it had on it, “*Der Teufelsrabbiner von Nikolsburg*”. So, they managed to get a copy and somehow send it to London. And my uncle who was here, he managed to get a visa for them. And they got out just before the war broke out. And I think they stayed in London for a while and then they moved up north to... West Hartlepool. I think it's just called ‘Hartlepool’ now, they’ve, you know, they've merged the two.

*And that's when he traced you; he managed to find out where you were?*

Yes. And he you know, they desperately wanted to have me. Even though you know, they weren't well-off at all. But they- they wanted to have me. They had one child by then. Anyway, The Refugee Committee wouldn't allow me. So, they sent me to Berkhamsted. And... although I went to a good school and I had good schooling, it was a very sort of disorganised place and children... young people of different ages. It, it was not really conducive. You know, there were- you know, the teenagers were sort of talking about things and it- I just wasn't happy there. And so, one of the... It's sort of a digression. I don't know about this. My uncle, who lived in Nikolsburg, before he was married, they- there were two orphans in the Community. The parents had... committed suicide and these two children were left without parents. So, my uncle, although he was- he wasn't married, he took in these two orphans. And with his- and brought them up with his mother. And the- there was a boy and a girl. The boy was actually taken... and adopted by another family. But the girl stayed with him. And she came to visit me in Berkhamsted and she saw how unhappy I was and how the- it wasn't really a very conducive place to live in. And so, she made a big fuss. And so, by then The Refugee Committee decided I could go and live with him.

*So, they really wouldn't let you live with him before?*

Yes, because they- you know, they thought you know, they weren't so well off and, you know they had a child as well.

*So, your aunt- your uncle, sorry, that story with the parents-*

Yes.

*That was pre-war, or...? Or the parents committed suicide because of the war?*

**[0:25:28]**

I don't know, you know, why... you know. No. No, it was long before the war. You know they- you know he took them in as youngish children – well, teenagers I think they were.

*So, from your perspective, it must have been very difficult to move away from the first Cambridge family?*

Yes.

*Was it done in agreement with you at all, or what did they...?*

No, I, I, I was very unhappy because I... They moved me to the second family and then I had to go back to the- to the other family I think, you know, to collect something and I remember crying and crying and, you know, not really wanting to leave but... you know. I suppose one carries on.

*And did they- were they in touch with your uncle? Did your uncle try to tell them they should do more...?*

Yes.

*Allow you a Jewish education, or...?*

Yes. I mean they- they just- you know, it was very hard in Cambridge you know to get, you know, a proper Jewish education. And I suppose during the war and that. And it was a pity

really that a Jewish family couldn't have taken me in. But...I don't know...I think, I don't know.

*And what does it say in the file? That they didn't like the interference?*

Yes.

*It wasn't a question- they- because they probably wanted to keep you.*

Yes. And I think that's what it said in the notes - something like that.

*They wanted to adopt you?*

I think so. I'm not sure.

*What- did you keep in touch with them at all, or...?*

No. You know, I think once I moved on, I moved on.

**[0:27:21]**

*Yeah. How old were you- when you were with them- in Cambridge?*

Well, I must- if I- there is sort of, - I came over I was six, seven. I must have been eight – eight or nine.

*You were still very little.*

Yes. Yes.

*Yeah. And once you moved then to Berkhamsted...*

Yes.

*Tell us a little bit about that family. Who...?*

I think they were a continental family. I don't know much about their background. I remember, they, you know, they had a big Seder there. It was the first time I'd sort of seen ...anything like that. But... Otherwise I think they left, you know, the children more or less to

themselves because they were all you know all different ages. I just went to school and got on with it. I mean I- I did very well at school. I...

*Were there other refugee children?*

Yeah, there was one other. She and I, we were always top of the class. [laughs mildly]

*This was South Hampstead school?*

Yes.

*You were evacuated?*

Yes. They- I think they shared the premises with Berkhamsted School. So, I think we went Sundays. And I remember at the South Hampstead... School they had Jewish prayers... Once a week. And so, you know I was more aware of my Jewish identity then. Because up to then, you know my fondest memories of you know, the first family in Cambridge, was waking up on Christmas Day with the, you know, the presents at the bottom of the bed and all that. So, I don't think I was so aware I was Jewish then.

*Yes. Because what did it mean actually to you to be Jewish?*

Nothing really, no.

*And also, the knowledge about your parents must have come later.*

Yes.

*Not at that time, or...*

No, I think I only knew more about my parents, once I went to live with my uncle.

**[0:29:43]**

*Yes... yeah. So, you went to Jewish assembly, but you knew you had to go there.*

Yes.

*You were told to do that.*



Yes. I knew that. And then, I think in Berkhamsted, because there were more Jewish children, we must have you know - discussed it.

*But you said you were not happy...?*

No.

*Because it sounds like there was nobody to take care of you.*

Yeah, there was- that's right. There was, you know- perhaps the older children looked after the younger ones. But there was- I was used to having sort of a parental care, however bad. You know, it was- it was there.

*And what does it say in the minutes, or in the comments? Does it say anything?*

It doesn't say a lot about that. It just- you know, then that they moved me to... to live with my uncle.

*I guess The Refugee Committee felt he...*

He was ready then. And my... The other uncle, the one who met us at Liverpool Street, Uncle Otto- he... He emigrated to America. He you know his visa was sort of on to England on the way to America. And because he didn't have any children of his own - he hadn't remarried then - he always played a very active part, you know, to help his brother because, you know, obviously on a teacher's salary he, you know, he... By then there was three of us.

*So, he was involved?*

**[0:31:18]**

Yes.

*And do you know at all whether- what were your parents' plans? Did they try to emigrate at all, or did your father- because his brothers were here?*

Yes. Well, I think probably they didn't feel such an urgency, because of my mother's... religion – you know - original religion. I know they must've had it vaguely in the back of their mind, because I think my mother went to train as a hairdresser, so that you know she

would have something to do once they- they left. But... I think you know they just settled down to it then. Or, or it was too late. I don't know.

*And did you find out- until when did your father practice? Or did he-could he continue to work?*

Yeah. He worked it at...at the- there was a Jewish old-age home. He worked there.

*Until when, or...?*

I don't know exactly when.

*And the last contact with your parents... would have been early on.*

Yes. I'm sorry.

*We can take a break.*

[pause]

*Yes, you were saying it was a different situation for your uncles.*

For my two other uncles...

*Yes.*

... because they were taken into- I think it was concentration camp, but they- they eventually got out. Because my mother and my uncle's wife, they- they went and took food in for them. But eventually they were released and then, you know, they felt the urgency to emigrate. Because the- the one I've already told you about, he came to England, to America whereas the other uncle went straight to America.

*Aha...*

**[0:33:32]**

To see- they went to a place outside of New York called 'The Eden Project'. I don't know whether you've heard about it.

*I have heard about it. Yes. What was it? What is it?*

It was like a farming commune that they set up for... refugees who came.

*And that's where he went? So, all the brothers managed to leave...*

Yes. Apart from my father.

*And went to America... to- to England.*

Yes.

*And then eventually on- America?*

Yes.

*But they must have been arrested either at the Anschluss or Kristallnacht, or... Do you know?*

Yes. I don't know exactly when, but I- you know that was the... stimulus that made them go.

And I- I know... from my aunt... who was in America- she told me, you know, what had happened.

*And whether your father thought that he would- he could survive because he was married to...*

Yes. He was quite a laid-back sort of man, I think.

*Yeah... Because also when you left, you must have witnessed the Anschluss and Kristallnacht. Do you have any memories of...?*

The only memory...

[audio pause]

It must have been... when Hitler marched in. Because I can remember the commotion. And I remember my mother rushing to the window. But I didn't know, you know, what the commotion was about. But I- in retrospect I think it must have been at that time.

**[0:35:32]**

*Yeah. ...That- Yeah. OK, let's come back to the situation from when you left Berkhamsted. So were you happy to find out you could then re-join your uncle?*

Yes.

*Is that what you wanted?*

Yes. Because before I went to live with my uncle, they, The Refugee Committee decided I had to test the situation. So, I went there for a holiday. And... It's- I'm always emotional at that point because you know, my aunt was such a charming, lovely woman. And my uncle as well. And they made me feel so welcome. And I- I remember you know, I cried that I had to go back. And my aunt said, you know, "Don't cry... You're- you're going back now, but when you come back, it will be forever." And, you know, so it was.

*So how long did you have to go back for, before you could really...?*

It must have been you know to finish a school term and then start the new term.

*So how old were you when you...?*

I was eleven then, because I had to- ...because I'd been to private schools, I'd never been coached to do the 11 Plus. So, I- when I came to West Hartlepool, I had to do the 11 Plus. Of course, I failed miserably and so... I had to go to-...well to, you know, a secondary modern school. And after, my aunt was- she was a very, you know, determined sort of person and you know, if she wanted to do something, she did it. And she arranged for the Education Committee that I could go to the, to the high school. Because... You know when I was at the secondary modern school it was outstanding. It was ridiculous, this split it into education. It could- you know, that's how it was.

*Yes, so it must have been 1944...*

Yes.

*... when you joined them. I mean it seems such a – not a strange thing, but that The Refugee Committee kept you from your...*

Yes.

*... real... blood relatives.*

**[0:38:15]**

I know.

*In hindsight.*

No, because I always say to them, you know, I know it sounds so virtuous, to the younger members of the family that, you know I lived in mansions in Cambridge, but when I went to live with my uncle, and they were in these... rented rooms with... gaslights, it was, then. And it was heaven!

*Yeah. Yeah... Well, it's interesting that they thought the education is more important or... I mean somebody must have thought- because you were at South Hampstead School, so that was a good thing.*

Yes. Someone always paid for my....

*Yes. Who paid for the tuition?*

Yes. I think... Lord Goring was it? Lord someone like that, always paid for the education.

*So, they must have thought they're doing a good thing...*

Yes.

*...that they were even paying for your education.*

Yes. A ridiculous situation really. I mean it all turned out. That's why, you know after, when I went to live with my uncle at eleven... I just felt like a normal child again and you know, that's why I didn't sort of feel any need to contact you know, any Kindertransport or AJR or anything.

*Because you felt you had a family?*

Yes...

*Your family?*

Yes. Of course, we were different. Small town... continental Jewish parents. [laughs]

**[0:39:55]**

*So, did they treat you like a child? Like their child?*

Yes... yes.

*And how old was your- was it- their daughter?*

Well, in 1945, Hannah was just born... But George was born in 1940. He was born just before the war. And... you know, we sort of grew up together as siblings.

*And how did they manage? So, you said he was a rabbi...*

Yes.

*When they arrived, how did they manage to settle down?*

Well... My aunt was one of those people who- she always made the best of things. You know, he... it's interesting. The two things I remember my uncle when he was sixty, he wrote a letter. Because he thought- you know, like a will, like- and what he said about her, that she had a happy heart. She was one of those people you know, who... who could make the best of anything. And so, you know, she made the best of... what they had. She- she was very dexterous, and she made soft toys, which were in short supply during the war. And she took them down to a- one of the shops and she sold them. And they couldn't have enough of them. You know they were so nicely made and everything, and... You know she- she made the house of the best of whatever there was.

*And your uncle became a teacher?*

Yes. But he was always- he was always a rabbi, you know, he was always... very observant. But he- he was the most wonderful man, you know, he was so erudite. And so- his belief was so strong. He, you know, no one in the family had- had ever been observant before. But when- when he became a rabbi in Vienna... he- apparently, he went on a trip with his- with

my grandfather and you know, some of the family. And you know, they were so assimilated, and he wanted to put his tefillin on, on the boat, or whatever trip they were. And you know, they said, "No, no. You can't!" And he said that, "If you don't let me do what I want, I'll throw myself in the water." So that was how strong his feeling was about...being observant and Judaism.

**[0:42:45]**

*So suddenly were you in an observant household?*

Yes.

*And how was that for you?*

Well, it was just so lovely, and so loving you know it- it was a small thing to do.

*Yeah. It didn't bother you.*

No.

*And his wife, was she also religious?*

Yes, she came from a religious- a more religious- well she actually came from a religious family, so you know she knew what was what, sort of.

*So, there you had Shabbat and...*

Yes

*...a kosher household.*

Yes.

*Everything. Yeah. And were there other Jews nearby?*

Yes, there was a small Community. Yes.

*And why did- how did they end up there, actually?*

I've no idea. I- I was sure I always wanted to ask, and I never got around to it.

*Yes. And did they stay there?*

Yes, until my uncle retired, and then he- he actually became a rabbi in Norwich.

*Aha. So eventually he did become a rabbi?*

Yes...yes.

*And then they moved to Norwich?*

Yes. But... we've- we'd all graduated and were working by then, so- I mean Hannah lived in Norwich for a bit. She went to finish off school there, but... George and I, you know, we'd already qualified and were working in London. But my uncle died in Norwich and he is actually buried in the cemetery there.

*But for how many years did they live in Hartlepool?*

Well... Must've been from.... 1940 to... when did he retire? 1990... Well, for... terrible, I can't think... Yes, it must have been... sixteen years at least. Yes. I'm working out from Hannah you know, when she...

**[0:45:23]**

*Yes. Quite a long time.*

Yes.

*And then when you came to them, that's when they told you about your parents? Your uncle and aunt, basically?*

Well, no, I- in West Hartlepool- yeah, they told me about you know, my parents. And then my father came to West Hartlepool.

*Yes. So, can you tell us a little bit what happened to your parents in the war time?*



Yes. Well, my father continued practicing when he could. In- partly in the old age home and then partly in- there weren't many doctors left; they were all at the front. But when things got difficult, my mother's family hid him in Vösendorf. My mother worked in- in a factory. So, they- you know, they must have still lived in Vienna. I think it was at a different address from... some research that I did afterwards. But... And then you know she was killed in a bombing raid. But my father then stayed in Vienna. He- he couldn't really leave Vienna. Well, he wouldn't want to leave Vienna at that point. So, he came to visit me, and he thought eventually I would come back to Vienna. But... a year after he came, he had a massive heart attack. And I think he was forty-eight, forty-nine, and died. So, I never got to know him really. Trying to get to know him was very difficult, because after all my comings and goings, I was sort of settled with my uncle, and he was like a new father to me. And so, it was sort of like an intrusion in some ways. But you know I was prepared to go.

*And did he speak English at all, your father?*

Very little. It was very difficult communicating. Because I actually forgot all my German. I could understand quite a bit, but I certainly couldn't speak German.

*Which language did your uncle and aunt- what did they speak?*

**[0:48:00]**

They spoke German.

*Yes.*

Yes. Amongst themselves you know.

*But not with the children?*

No, you know, we always used to answer in English. You know, you could understand.

*Yeah.*

I only really learned to speak German again when... my aunt had a sister who lived in Israel. And they couldn't speak any English they could just speak German. And so, you know I started speaking German her and it sort of came back. I think you know it must have been-

the understanding was there at the back of my mind, because one of the things as part of my degree in biochemistry, was that you had to translate one passage in a scientific French and one scientific German.

And the poor Englishman who had to mark my scientific German, he said to me, you know, "Have you got any connections? I've never had anyone do so, you know, complete the whole... passage." So, you know, I think that it didn't leave me.

*Yes. It stayed with you.*

Yes.

*And what do you know exactly about the hiding? You said your father was hidden, which was- must have been a great risk ...for the grandparents.*

Yes.

*What exactly...?*

Well, I think you know he just stayed with them, and I think they... my grandmother, his mother, was still alive who lived even deeper in the country. So, I think you know when things got really bad, he went there. But... it wasn't taken kindly that they hid a Jew and so they were ostracised. When the bombing took place, they didn't want them to go into the shelter.

*The community ostracised them?*

Yes. Because I think Vösendorf you know, was quite a small place.

*But nobody- didn't denounce them?*

No.

*So, he managed to survive there.*

Yes.

*And how long do you think he was in hiding for? Do you know?*

I don't know. I think you know, different periods of time. He... He didn't actually talk a lot about it.

*How did you find out the information you have got?*

Well, I think he must have told his brother that and you know, my uncle must have told me.

**[0:50:48]**

*Mnn. So, you also had grandparents in- in Austria?*

Yes.

*Yes, and you said you did see them?*

Yes. I... It was- that was quite difficult as well you know sort of coming out then, now, from an observant Jewish family, suddenly to go to a- you know, to a Christian family who... Especially you know my grandmother, she was- because my mother had done so well for herself you know, much better than the other sisters. And... she- she felt so bitter that you know, my mother had been killed in the war. And on top of that, arrives you know, an observant Jewish girl sort of, you know. It was quite difficult but I- I had- immediately had a rapport with my grandfather. It was it was sort of interesting you know. I felt great love for him somehow, although I didn't know him.

*When did you go back- When did you go to see them?*

It must have been in the 60s.

*Oh, so a bit later.*

Yes, I was quite grown-up... you know, mature.

*So, in the 50s you actually didn't see them? So...*

No.

*...it wasn't a contact.*

No. Not until the 60s anyway. Yes.

*And you felt a connection to him?*

Yes.

*And what were your feelings? I mean, it must- it's very complex on the one hand to come to Austria in the first place, but to also to have family... there.*

I know. And I think in the 1960s, Austria was still very anti-Semitic. I somehow didn't feel happy in the streets. It looked of sort of the remnants of Nazis. And at that point I really didn't know much about the history of Austria. It was only.... last year when the welcoming-the Jewish Welcome Committee invited me, that you know, I really investigated the Jewish Austria. And I- I just couldn't believe how the Austrians had behaved. I mean, not only in the- in the Second World War but you know, a long time ago. ...It really, you know, put me off completely. It was that- you know I always said I'd never go to Germany but... You know the Austrians were even more, really.

*But did you manage to have a relationship with the grandparents after that, or...?*

No, I- I only saw the- the grandparents once. By the time I- I went to second time, they weren't alive anymore. But I did have a relationship with one of my cousins. You know we corresponded for a while. But- and suddenly it stopped. And the Austrian Embassy told me that she'd died. And I- I can't get in touch with any of my other cousins. Because they're all siblings of aunts. And I don't know you know, who they married.

*So, you actually have cousins in Austria?*

Yes.

**[0:54:38]**

*Yes.*

Well, second cousins now, yes. Yes.

*And do you remember when you went back, were you- what did you feel when you went? The first time you went...back to Austria?*

Well, nothing, really. You know, it's is a foreign country.

*Because you had no memories at that point?*

No.

*So, tell us a little bit about your own life, post-war- I mean, post-school. What happened once you finished school? What did you want to do?*

Well... It was you know, sort of complicated because I was sort of - what's the word? - to be a doctor. You know that was my aim. And I did actually get into medical school. And... I then failed the anatomy. So, at that point you know you couldn't repeat it. So... That- the medicine was finished. So, then I applied to Edinburgh to read biochemistry. And that went very well. And so, I graduated in '58. And... then, I worked in clinical biochemistry for a year. But then I- you know, it was time to leave Edinburgh. You know, there was not much of a Jewish Community there, really. It was quite small. So, I got a job at... the Wellcome Foundation in Berkhamsted.

**[0:56:38]**

*Oh, so you went back to Berkhamsted in a different capacity...?*

Yes... yes. No, it's not Berkhamsted, it was... No, sorry, it's not Berkhamsted. Where was the...? It'll come back to me anyway. I'm just terrible.

*Not in London?*

No. It was outside of London. And I worked there for I think four years and then I came to London to live. And I had various research jobs at... different departments of London University. Nearly- the research jobs are all these four-year grants. And so eventually, after the- I had worked at the- last obstetrics and gynaecology department in- at King's College Hospital. I'd completed my PhD then eventually, you know, I didn't do it the proper way. And I decided I would teach. I'd had enough of four-year... And so, I'd started teaching at a crammer? There was a crammer in Holborn. Davises I don't know whether you... No.

Anyway... And I was really good at the teaching. You know at- at ...at the point when I graduated, the teaching profession was thought of as- not as a low air? but you know what I mean. It was a lowly paid, and not appreciated.

*Yes.*

So, you know it didn't occur to me. Anyway, I- after the one-to-one Davises... closed down. And I got a job at- to teach biology at St Helen's in Northwood. And I just loved it. It was the best work that I- you know, of my whole life. So, in retrospect, you know...[laughs]

*Yes. You enjoy that.*

Yes. I really enjoyed it.

*And what was your PhD about?*

It's about a substance called prostaglandins...

*Yeah...*

...which are found in various parts of the body, but I'd studied it in the female reproductive tract. And prostaglandins are now- are used to induce pregnancy- induce, you know, pregnancy and also abortion. I think one of the pills that people take if they want to have an abortion, is one of the prostaglandins.

*Yes. And that was your...?*

Well, it wasn't due to my- to what I did. But that was you know the usefulness of it, but it was quite new when I started working on it. And... it was very interesting.

**[1:00:06]**

*And do you feel, Eve, that gender played a role as a...? Do you think things would have been different- I don't know, at university or- or for those jobs, if you are a man or in terms of your career? Do you think it mattered, that you are a woman?*

Yes. It was very difficult in those times. You had to be- you know either a battle axe and if you weren't, you know, the men took advantage.

*In which way?*

You know everybody in research, they're always trying, you know, to publish, and you know people would put their names on what you'd publish and things like it. And talk about, you know, what's the word now that people are always suing- not sexual recrim- discrimination. You know, when men put their arms around you...

*Yes. Harassment.*

Harassment.

*Yes.*

I could write a novel about that. I could have made a fortune anyway. But, you know, people do. So- but I mean, it's improved a lot, hasn't it?

*Yes. But...*

But you know if you're a woman working in a man's field it's... It's not easy.

*No... no. And... What happened then to you? So, the children of your uncle...*

*Yes.*

*What did they- what did they do or...?*

Well, George read maths at Oxford and then became an actuary. And he sort of, worked his way through Confederation Life Insurance Company and became the Chief Executive. But unfortunately, he had a very virulent colon cancer, and he died in 2001. And... he had three children. And I sort of- we grew up very close to them, you know, I sort of- I mean they're not my biological children, but, you know, I'm in- very in close contact with them.

*Where are they? In London?*

Yeah, they're in London. And George's wife, she still lives in- in Wembley. She lives quite close by. And the oldest boy - those are his two children. And... The... The daughter she's just had a little girl as well. I think she's on there. Hannah...She had three children as well. She

has three children. And I'm like a- she very kindly allowed me to share her oldest grandchild. So- where is she now? [Looks for photograph] Oh, she's on there.

*Yes.*

And so, you know, I see her every week. I go, you know, and collect her... from school with Hannah.

*Also- does Hannah live nearby?*

Yes. She lives in Pinner.

*Right.*

**[1:03:48]**

And we're- we're in close contact.

*Yeah... And how do you feel your experiences- your early separation has impacted on your life?*

Well, I- I mean I suppose most people do, but I'm very- any change, stresses- I get very upset at, you know, any changes. And... you know I hate any separation of any sort- you know, a saying goodbye or packing suitcases and... I... I feel I- I don't really want to get so close to, to people because I, you know, everyone that you get close to you know you- seems to you know, you- has to go, in some way or another.

*So, you think it was easier to keep your distance in a way?*

Yes. Yes.

*Distance?*

Yes.

*Did you ever have any counselling or...?*

No, one didn't in those days. No.



**[1:05:06]**

*And do you feel- do you feel upset, for example, with The Refugee Committee or other ...agencies involved? How they...?*

Do I what?

*Do you feel upset for example with The Refugee Committee that they kept you from...?*

No.

*...family?*

No... no... no.

*You accepted that was...?*

You know, I accepted you know, that was... the way it worked. You know, I think all the love that I had from the age of eleven, and... You know, I couldn't have had better parents. And I don't know how one feels towards one's real mother and father. But I couldn't have, you know- feel any- any more, I don't think. And you know my- I looked after my aunt, you know, when she- when she was ailing. And you know, we were very - very close.

**[1:06:16]**

*How- how different do you think your life would have been if... if Hitler hadn't come?*

Very, wouldn't it? ...Very.

*Yeah... Do you sometimes think about that in...?*

I, I don't know, I... You know there are a lot of things I feel I should have done differently my life. But that was sort of beyond... anything I could have done. So... It was just you know, the war happened. I wasn't the only one that was affected. I mean, the- the person I came with, she had a really bad deal. And so, you know, it makes me realize how lucky I was.

*What happened to Gerti?*

Yes.

*What happened to her?*

Well, she... Of course, she was the age where she- you know, was there to help in the- in the house. And because one left school at fourteen, she had very little schooling. She- she came from a very cultured family in Vienna. I think her father was a graphic designer and... She had a, you know, a really good family. And she went to this - I know this sounds snobbish, you know, quite a primitive family. And they didn't give her any love at all. And they just, you know, she did the housework. She left school at fourteen and went into a- I think a stocking factory, to work. I mean she married later and she you know she has a lovely daughter. But it has never left her, you know, she's... you know she well, actually I don't have contact with her now because her, her memory is gone completely. I don't know whether that was, you know, because of what she went through but... You know you can't have a conversation with her anymore. But when we used to talk, she used to like to talk to me because you know we had something in common to talk about. And... I think she felt very bitter that you know she had such a bad deal. I think for her, it was that it saved her life – but... nothing more.

**[1:08:55]**

*Yeah...yeah. So, do you think that's partly the reason why you didn't- you said you didn't go to the Kindertransport reunions first, the first ones.*

Yes.

*That you looked for- you didn't see yourself quite as a... Kindertransportee, or...?*

That's right. No, I didn't. You know I just felt I was... a normal child. But it was actually after my aunt died, I thought you know, I must...do something. And... I think I started- I went to one of the groups. And... It was very interesting talking to other people then. In fact that wasn't how I started. I...By coincidence, I was in Brent Cross at Fenwick's in the café, and there were two ladies talking. And they were talking about the Kindertransport. And you know, I spoke to them. And then it suddenly... clicked, you know, maybe I should do something about it. And you know, I'm quite pleased that I've- I've been now. And you know, I enjoy the Kindertransport.

*So, is that when your aunt passed away that you joined the AJR, or was that...?*

No, how it- how it started was... someone I met at the Pinner group, he- he said to me, “We need people on the Austrian Holocaust... Committee.” You know the... Austrian Holocaust Survivors... something Help Committee [Austrian Holocaust Survivor Emergency Assistance program] – AHSEC it is. So, I started going there, to the meetings. And... Erich Reich was on the committee as well. And he, you know, he was talking about organising the 70th anniversary, so I said to him you know, I'd- I'd very much like to help. And so that's how I got involved with... the Kindertransport.

*And today you're on the committee?*

Yes.

*Yeah... And did you see yourself at all as a refugee? Because your parents, I mean your uncle and aunt... They were refugees.*

Yes. Yes.

*Or did you see- did you not see yourself as a refugee?*

Well, you know if you're Jewish sort of, you're different anyway, aren't you? I mean you know, the Jewish part of being different, has outweighed the... the refugee.

**[1:12:03]**

*Yes. Did you experience ever any anti-Semitism here in England?*

Well, quite a few anti-Semitic remarks. ...The- in Hartlepool the MP for Hartlepool was then Manny Shinwell. And there were a lot of you know, anti-Jewish remarks about him. And... And then when I was a King's, the- the professor's secretary she was very... sort of English and that. And my colleague had gone to Israel on a- to a conference. And I was having lunch with her and she said, “How is Bill getting on in that place, you know, where you come from?” So, I- I said, “Wembley?” [both laugh] You know, I dragged it out.

*And how would you describe yourself in terms of your identity?... Today?*

Well, I suppose I- I'm English- Jewish sort of. No, I feel... I don't feel sort of Austrian at all, really. You know, I wouldn't want an Austrian passport or anything like that. But... Yes, I suppose I feel British, as far as one can feel anything.

*And do you- do you feel you have any connection to Austria, or...?*

Not really. No.

**[1:13:53]**

*No. And how do you feel towards the Austrians or the Germans today?*

Well, I still feel I - I wouldn't want to go to Germany. But the... The young lady that came from German television, she almost made me change my mind about Germans, because she was one of these people who- who are completely universal. She's just the most amazing person I've met for a long time. I mean I- I kept- she- when she came to England again, we met and- I mean she's taken it to an even further extreme is that she and her husband can't have any children. And she only wanted to adopt a black baby. And it very hard in Germany to adopt one. But she was seconded to Washington D.C. And she's- she's now got you know the baby she wanted. She was just- somehow, she felt the guilt of Germany on her shoulders that she wanted to be...universal. And for example, because I, I said the, one of the happiest moments was of waking up on Christmas Day with the... The- in the December after we met, she sent me a, you know, a big Christmas stocking with nuts and fruit and everything. So... You know. It's possible, isn't it to, to be universal?

*Yeah.*

But... I don't know what I think of my grandmother – if, I'll should show you the picture afterwards - being trans- you know; such an unworldly woman being transported to Auschwitz. You know, you can't help feeling bitter in some ways, you know, for what people have done. Not that people are any better now.

**[1:16:36]**

*When was she transported? What did you find out? What happened to her? This was your father's mother...*

Yes. My- my aunt's sister, she stayed in... Czechoslovakia, hidden, during the war. And she knew what had happened to the- the two- her mother, her mother and my grandmother. And they were both transported together.

*And you found that on your- somebody found the date? Of the deportation?*

Yes – yes. Yes.

*And did you talk about your experiences at all, with your- the nieces and nephews?*

Well two of them are particularly interested. My brother's middle child, you know, I've taken him to one of two events and that. And, you know, he- he wanted to know in detail. Oh, and his father said that he could never be angry with me, because of what I'd been through. So, I think, you know, Adam's a very sensitive sort of boy and he you know, he wanted to know all about it. And he wants me to write down my experiences. But you know, now you've recorded it, I don't need to. [laughs]

*Yeah...*

And- but my sister's youngest she is you know, very interested in it. And I think they're the two most emotional of the- of the family and so, you know, they sort of want to know. And I think my sister would be very annoyed if she heard me say it, but she's... She's not interested in the whole affair. You know it's- I think it's, you know, a typical second-generation response that she has. But...She would be very annoyed if I said- if she heard me say it.

**[1:19:00]**

*And what aspects, when you talk to them from your own story, what is important for you to convey, or...?*

I don't know, it's just, you know the fact that you know, you've gone through something like that. The- Susan, Hannah's youngest, she said she just can't believe it. You know, and she looks at me, that I've been through all that. And that, you know, you... But I think children- it's very interesting with children. They adapt in some ways, don't they? I think an adult couldn't, because an adult you know, would be reasoning: why that and other...? But I think

children in some ways they're quite trusting. And that... you know, it's happened- you know, I can't do anything about it.

*Yeah. To accept it.*

Yes. Or maybe children now they know more, and you know might run away or something. But you know it never occurred to me to- to make a fuss, really.

*And in hindsight, what do you think, because there is this issue or question you know about the religion and the foster parents. You know if your- if your uncle hadn't interfered...*

Yes.

*You would have stayed there.*

Yes.

*In your own mind, you know, do you think- what- is the religion? What is so important or is it- do you see what I mean? I mean...*

Look it's very- very difficult for me to be objective. If I want to be subjective, I'm a scientist. If I want- if I want to be emotional. You know having been with my uncle... you know, it's just - that's how it is. And it's interesting. I've just been... away with... with my friend from university, and she's not Jewish. And... Somehow this time you know she keeps asking me, you know, why do things? And we both came to the same conclusion, because she was dominated by her mother, and she did something because of her mother, which was completely emotional. So, I said to her, "Well that's me and the religion."

*Can you explain that please? What do you mean?*

I mean that I do it, first of all, for the love of my uncle. Because it meant something to him. Maybe I'm too weak to break out. Now I do it because half the family are very observant. [laughing] And so, you know, I have to fall in with that. You know I'm not so observant. I mean I don't- I don't match up to the observant part of the family. But I'm not quite like the other side. I'm sort of in the middle.

**[1:22:32]**

*So, you- so religion is- is it important for you today, or...?*

I suppose in a- more as a way of life, rather than you know, is there a God or not a God.

*Not in terms of belief?*

Pardon?

*Not in terms of belief?*

No.

*No. Because you know, the whole issue is interesting in particular about the Kindertransport. Obviously that some people are quite upset that there were no Jewish- they couldn't find Jewish foster parents. Then kids were given away. And whether, you know, what one could learn in a way, a lesson from this... you know... And from instruction - Jewish... [audio break]*

*Yes, we were talking about the in Kindertransport. And I was saying that some people are quite upset that... the kids were given to non-Jewish families, and some lost to Judaism in some way.*

Yes.

*You know, I don't know whether you have any views about that?*

Well, you know, if they're happy... does it matter? I mean, it's better than forcing something on to someone. I mean I probably you know, would have been perfectly happy... being if I hadn't, you know, gone to my uncle, being... not Jewish.

*Yeah. Yeah...*

I suppose it's because I, I, you know, I tend to be ruled by my heart rather than in my head you know, I... I don't feel enough about the religion, you know, either way, you know, to...

**[1:25:00]**

*Yeah, I understand. And do you feel, when you meet other Kindertransportees, that you've got something in common?*

Yes. I do. I- I always feel happier in, in company you know, that have either been through the Kindertransport or come from- who are refugees. You know, you feel immediately more comfortable, because you don't have to explain anything, or you know, they've been through the same thing as you have. Because sometimes it's quite difficult to explain to people, you know, what you do, and why you do it and... you know... what's happened.

*And do you have any view now- in the AJR also the Kindertransport, there is more emphasis on education and thinking of the future. Have you got any ideas or visions of what you think- how this education should develop, or...?*

In what way?

*I don't know- what messages are really important, to be learned?*

Well, I think it's important that... people know about it. In fact, you know, I said I haven't done much, but when I have spoken to children, I'm amazed how interested they are. And you know, how they, you know, they want to know! Because... I went to the Anne Frank Society; they - they had something. It must have been two years ago, at Arsenal. And they invited schools from the region... around there. And it just- you know, I am amazed! You know, children of every creed, you know, black, white, brown... and who haven't been through the war and yet they- they want to know.

*Yeah.*

Don't you?

*Yeah...yeah. And what do you think of the current refugee crisis? Do you think Britain should take children in, more children in, or...? You think it's... Have you got any point of view?*

Well of course if they're in danger, Britain should take people in. But the only slight thing I feel is you know if it- if something happens to a child, like happened to Gerti... Whether it isn't better for it just to try and stay with its own people. But to save a life, of course.

*Yes, because it was a complicated... decision.*

Yes



*I mean some people ask the question though is it... better to save let's say 10,000 children or should they save 5,000 children and their parents?*

Yes.

*It's a question to be asked.*

Well, you know, that's what I feel because you know to just take a child and put it into a home which is so alien from its own. That can't be good either.

*No. It's quite complex.*

And the- you know- the- the Jewish community and... did so much to collect- you know, to get money and to sponsor people. I don't think enough of that is being done here, do you? You know, from say, the Syrian community. They- they must be very wealthy people over here, you know, that could do more.

*Yeah. Eve, is there anything - we've discussed many things - we haven't discussed, and you'd like to add? I think we found out about your uncles, what happened to your grandmother. You said your second uncle also emigrated to America.*

**[1:29:26]**

Yes

*Yes. Where did he go to?*

Oh, he's the one that went to the Eden Project, yes. Yes. No, I only found out about that with one of my nephews. He went online and he- he put in the name. And he then found my aunt's name on- on the internet. Because she- she used to sculpt, and you know, she was and- he then found the Eden Project. And so, he alerted me to it. So, I read the Eden- about it. And I, I, I sent a- an e-mail to the person who had written the article about the project.

*How long did it go on actually? I don't know the...*

I don't- I don't know what it finished, but I know my uncle and aunt had to leave, because my uncle was... gored by a- a cow or something. And so, he- they went back to city life again. It's

interesting that the person that wrote the article about the Eden Project said that, she always thought that Jews were only doctors or lawyers. And she was amazed to find somewhere in America where Jews were famers.

*Is there anything else, Eve, you think we should add, or...?*

I don't think so. I can't think of anything off hand.

*Is there any message you have for anyone who might watch this interview? Based on your experiences?*

I don't think so.

*You said before you might have done a few things different in your life, or you think...?*

Well, I, that doesn't have anything to do with – no.

*Anything about the future? Maybe the future of the- how do you think the future of the Kindertransport? How long do you think is that going to go on for?*

Oh, we're actually very worried about it. We're advertising in the "Kindertransport Journal" for people of the second and third generation to come forward and join the committee. Because... I mean Erich's the same age as I am, roughly. But Rolf is ninety-six, I think. And I think the other person is well in his eighties, so... You know. [laughs]

*So, it's open now; you're opening it up.*

Yes. We want to open it up so that... But they were still talking here on the last committee meeting about having an eightieth anniversary. Although I - I think it's a bit ambitious.

*Well, it's quite soon.*

I know how many people...? [laughs] I mean very few are eighty, more are in their nineties, aren't there?

*Yeah. Let's hope there will be something for the eightieth...*

Yes.

For the eightieth anniversary. OK. Well, thank you very much for sharing your story with us. And we're going to look now at your photographs and documents.

Right. Thank you very- Thank you.

[1:33:33]

[End of interview]

[Start of photographs and documents]

[1:33:53]

Photo 1

This is a picture taken in- in Nikolsburg [Mikulov, Czech Republic] of my uncle who was Rabbi there, with Hansi and Gerti, whom he adopted. My mother, my grandmother and me.

I'm not sure what the date is there.

*You look about a year old.*

Yes. So, it must have been in 1934 I would imagine.

Photo 2

Yes, this is a picture of my grandmother, Ernestine Willman with me, aged one in Nikolsburg, I think it must be, cause it's Czech. I don't know. 1934.

Photo 3.

This is me, aged 5. In Vienna.

Photo 4.

These are my parents taken in 1939. Their names: Fritz Willmann and Wilhelmina Willmann

Photo 5.

This was taken in 1944 of me and my cousin George. Shall I say cousin? Yeah. In West Hartlepool.

Photo 6.

This is my uncle taken in 1954. Alfred William, in West, yes, West Hartlepool.

Photo 7.

This is my aunt. Taken in 1960. Gabrielle Willman.

Document 1.

This is my passport issued in 1939.

Document 2.

This is this is my photo in the passport.

Document 3.

This shows my arrival via the Hoek of Holland.

Document 4.

This is the visa that allows me to come into England as a student.

*As a child?*

Pardon?

*As a child? I mean you were very – you were a child.*

I know, but that's what it says – “only to come for studies”.

*Yes.*

Yes. Is there anything to say about this? No.

**[1:37:41]**

Document 5.

This is a document of my time... Since I came to England.

*And where did you- how did you get it?*

Obtained from World Jewish Relief.

*So, this is a page of many pages.*

Oh, sorry shall I start again?

This is the first page of many pages of the account of my time with foster parents, issued by World Jewish Relief.

Document 6

This shows how my uncle was afraid I would lose my Jewish identity. And that Mrs. Rutter was unwilling to compromise.

Document 7

This shows the detailed account of what was going on during such a short time.

Object 1.

This is Bärli, my teddy bear, kept in Vienna during the war, and brought by my father in 1946.

*And when he brought the bear, did you remember the bear? Did you remember- when he brought it?*

Yeah, I think so. Yes.

*Thank you very much Eve, again, for sharing your story with us.*

Thank you for spending so much time with me, you know.

*And showing us this – Bärli. Thank you. [pause] Eve, just tell us a little bit about this bear.*

Well, my father brought him in a very cold winter in 1946. And unfortunately, our relationships was almost as cold, to start off with. But it warmed during the visit.

*And were you pleased that he brought the bear?*

Yes... yes.

*And have you kept this bear ever since?*

Yes. Ever since.

*Thank you again.*

Thank you very much for spending so much time with me.

It was a privilege.

**[1:40:44]**

**[End of photographs and documents]**