

IMPORTANT

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Interview Transcript Title Page

Collection title:	AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive
Ref. no:	51

Interviewee Surname:	Goldberg
Forename:	Gertrude
Interviewee Sex:	Female
Interviewee DOB:	18 September 1930
Interviewee POB:	Vienna, Austria

Date of Interview:	18 March 2004
Location of Interview:	Leeds
Name of Interviewer:	Rosalyn Livshin
Total Duration (HH:MM):	2 hours and 26 minutes

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

INTERVIEW: 51

NAME: GERTRUDE GOLDBERG

DATE: 18 MARCH 2004

LOCATION: LEEDS

INTERVIEWER: ROSALYN LIVSHIN

TAPE 1

RL: I'm interviewing Gertrude Goldberg and today's date is Thursday 18th March 2004. The interview is taking place in Leeds, Yorkshire and I am Rosalyn Livshin. If you could tell me first your name

RL: If you could tell me first your name.

GG: Well my full name, my married name is Gertrude Goldberg but everybody knows me as Trudy.

RL: And what was your name at birth?

GG: That was Gertrude Schiffmann.

RL: And did you have any other names, any nicknames?

GG: No I was, uh, called Trudy.

RL: Did you have a Hebrew name?

GG: Gittel

RL: And when were you born?

GG: The 18th September 1930.

RL: So what does that make you now?

GG: This year I shall be 74.

RL: And where were you born?

Tape 1: 1 minute 28 seconds

GG: I was born in Vienna.

RL: If you could tell me your parents' names and where they were born.

GG: My mother was called Rosa. Her single name was Windholz and she was born in Vienna. And my father's name was David Majer Schiffmann and I'm not quite sure where he was born because I have some documentation and give some various names of where he was born and I'm not quite sure. I think it was somewhere called Bolszowce is there any Bolszowce? Is there a place called Bolszowce? Would that be in Austria or...? I don't know. Anyway...

RL: Right, so starting first with your father's family, what can you tell me about his background and his parents and his family?

GG: Well I can't tell you much about them because they didn't live in Vienna and as far as I know they lived in Poland and they lived in the, uh, old fashioned shtetl similar to *Fiddler on the Roof* - that type - and I never went but my sister went, younger sister went with my father and when she came back she told us it was just like, they lived in a village and uh there were farmers that kept animals. Just like *Fiddler on the Roof*. I was supposed to go but my younger sister was the same size as me and as my father was going I refused to go and she just took my case and went. So I never saw them. I believe there were seven brothers, but I never saw them.

RL: And where were these other brothers?

GG: Well before the problem, the trouble, as far as I know they lived in Poland. But then they scattered after the war. We heard one went to Paris and one went to Israel. And I believe we have some relatives in Australia, the, uh, Buber end of the family. And that's all I can tell you about my father's family.

RL: Was he the only one to go to Austria?

GG: Yes he came to Vienna. I think he was a bit of a rebel and he left, he wanted to better himself, and that's as far as I know. And of course they were very very orthodox, extremely orthodox, and of course when he came to Vienna although my mother was obviously she was Jewish but not extremely like my father and they were, as far as I know, his family was very upset. That he married someone not like them. And, uh, but he did make peace with them - that's when he took my sister to see them. That's as far as I know the background. And I only learned of this through my sister who lives in Israel. And she met an uncle who was in Israel just by chance and he told her all this. Because of course I was only 8 so I didn't know anything about it.

Tape 1: 5 minutes 13 seconds

RL: Do you know what your grandfather did for a living?

GG: No, well they were farmers, I think. Oh and my grandfather, you have a photograph of him, I believe he wrote commentaries to the, is it the Talmud, is it the Talmud where the commentaries ...? Yes, I believe they were published but we've never seen them.

RL: What was his name?

GG: I don't know his first name.

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

GG: I have no idea whatsoever, but well no I tell a lie I didn't know, but I believe he came to Vienna and he just did any.. He went to work in a factory but then when he met my mother they opened a delicatessen shop. And that's.. they had a shop right till the trouble started. And, um, we lived across the road; I believe the shop is still there.

RL: Did it have a name?

GG: Uh I don't know, I think it was called Schiffmanns and it was on Holland Strasse which I thought was a big main road but it was, uh, looking back I think it was like Chapeltown Road, and we lived across the road.

RL: Can you tell me a little bit about your mother's family?

GG: Right now, my mother's family, yes, I remember them because she had, I think she was one of 6 or 7 and her father was a furrier. And I remember going to the factory or workroom and I remember it distinctly. And she had, I don't know how many brothers she had, but one of them went to Israel on Hachsharah and in 1932 my father went. And he was living, he was one of the pioneers, and he started, he was on a Moshav, Rishon Letzion, and when he was there there was nothing, they had to, the water had to come up from Jerusalem and every drop of water was precious to them and they could hardly wash and so when my father, and they lived in a tent, and when my father saw the conditions, he said, I can't bring my wife and two, they only had two, myself and my elder sister then, I can't bring my wife and children here. Although we weren't wealthy in Vienna we had a standard of living and we had a business so he didn't, he came back and that's why I'm here now.

RL So you were telling me about your mother's family.

GG: Well I can't, uh, what is it, what can I tell you? I remember

Tape 1: 8 minutes 34 seconds

my grandfather and I remember he used to ride a horse. And that's how he got killed. He got killed, a horse kicked him, and, uh, I must have been six or seven. And I think then the brothers just.. I remember one brother used to ask, he got married, we were bridesmaids, I've got the photograph, I forgot to show it to you, perhaps you want to take it, and um as I say, I was a child, all I knew about going to school and coming home and um my mother always worked. She worked in the shop. And we always had someone sort of, a nanny type, I mean that sounds posh, but she used to look after us three girls and um and then they had another baby, a little boy, and um and then when we came to England in 1938, end of 1938, she was expecting another baby but we never saw her. It was a little girl.

RL: Coming back to your mother first of all, do you know what sort of education she had?

GG: No idea.

RL: What kind of...

GG: I know she got married when she was very young. And I think she used to look after the family, she was the eldest in the family. And uh I know her brothers used to come and um but I can't really remember. I remember going to the, well it couldn't have been a factory it was a workroom, a long workroom, I remember seeing the furs, the... He made us, well my sister and myself, a little fur coat,

and we were wearing them when we came to England. And muffs and things so.. Well that was my brothers uh my uncle because my father, my grandfather had died.

RL: Did you know your grandmother?

GG: No, uh no I never knew my grandmother. Don't know what happened to her. You know when you're a youngster you can't remember that..

RL: What kind of religious upbringing had your mother had?

GG: Um well it was orthodox but fairly orthodox. Not ultra orthodox. And I remember, um, well not exactly arguments but, I mean we weren't very wealthy and there were three girls that wanted education and we went to the Jewish school which had to paid for and because on the continent the schools were open on the Saturday and of course my father wouldn't let us go, so we had to pay for the school so obviously my mother wasn't as orthodox as my father.. But eventually she did because then she wore the sheitel but she didn't originally so uh she must have turned.. Well not turned you know

Tape 1: 12 minutes 7 seconds

RL: Which was the school that you went to?

GG: I can't remember the name; I cannot remember the name at all.

RL: Whereabouts was it?

GG: It was, well it wasn't far from where we lived because, uh, I think we were taken there but it was, we could have walked there on our own. I think so.

RL: What district of Vienna were you living in?

GG: Um, pardon?

RL: What district of Vienna?

GG: Vienna two.

RL: What kind of area was it?

GG: Well it was, uh, I think it was a shopping area, um, we lived, there were shops and the flats on top of the shops, and our shop was on one side of the road. We lived on the other side of the road and I remember there was a um a material shop underneath, I remember that, and our flat was above the material shop. We lived in a flat. It was only a small flat how we all lived I don't know.

RL: Can you describe it, what it was like?

GG: Well, um, I remember, uh well there wasn't a lift, went up the stairs and um turned right and there was a uh wash basin or something outside and then we went into the flat and there was a kitchen and living room and the bedrooms and the maid or nanny whatever she was living in - I don't know where she slept - and um then we didn't, I remember there was a veranda but it wasn't in the

flat it was before you got to the flat there was a veranda and the toilet was in the veranda. We had to come out of the flat I remember that distinctly. As far as I know. You know its so many years ago and we had such a traumatic time that you wonder whether you do remember these things or but I feel pretty sure that's how it was and what I do remember is in the living room we had a stove, a coke stove, and it heated the whole flat. I don't think there was any heating in the bedroom but the flat was always warm.

RL: How many bedrooms were there?

GG: I think there was only.. Well my sister shared one.. I think there were only two bedrooms. There must have been three because the maid or nanny whatever she was she lived in. And I sometimes

Tape 1: 15 minutes 4 seconds

wonder did she live in an alcove in the kitchen, I don't know I really don't know. You know you take things for granted when you're a youngster and then so many things happened that uh..

RL: What do you remember about family life at home?

GG: Um, not a lot. I mean I was always with my sisters, there were three girls, and apparently my elder sister tells me that we were well known - the three Schiffmann girls - because my mother always used to sort of dress us more or less alike. My younger sister and I were always dressed alike. My elder sister she was dressed differently. And I remember I always wanted to be dressed like my elder sister and I remember having tantrums about that. And I remember you know my mother used to go to the shop, we used to see her go, and we always had somebody in the flat. And, uh, I remember I used to love Shabbos because we were all together. And my father he was, um, a Chazan. Just amateur, he never got paid for it. And that's another argument I remember, you know, mother wanted him to get paid for what he did and he wouldn't. Never get paid, no. And he used to blow the shofar and he used to practice blowing it. And I remember I think it was the year, Austria had been already overrun, and yet life went on just the same and he was supposed to blow the shofar. So he had to practice and we used to have to go outside in the street to see if anybody was coming and we used to have to wave and tell him not to practice and just those little things that I remember..

RL: Where did he used to daven where did he used to be Chazan, which shul?

GG: Oh it was a steibel it wasn't, as far as I know, it was just a minyan but Yomtov there was a shul not far and uh we never went it must have been too far to walk and then I remember behind the flats there was a shul and I remember that being burnt down. But I don't think, I remember a wedding, one of my mothers brothers was in that shul and it was more like the United Synagogue would be here and, but it wasn't the type of shul that my father davened in. Where you'd understand coming from Manchester.

RL: So did you never attend a shul. Did you never go to a shul?

GG: Do you know I can't remember, I cannot remember going to shul on the shabbos. All I remember is going to this shul when my uncle got married but I presume we must have done. And I just can't remember. So there's lots of things I wish I could. I sometimes when I was a youngster I wanted to get hypnotised so I could remember these things but never mind..

RL: The flat that you lived in how many floors were in the block?

Tape 1: 19 minutes 7 seconds

GG: I think there was just, uh, the shops and then the flat on top. I can't remember anybody.. No there was just one floor. I'm sure there weren't any more steps.

RL: And how Jewish a neighbourhood was it?

GG: Well I presume it must have been very Jewish. Although we did have non-Jewish neighbours. I remember that.

RL: And how did you get on with them?

GG: Well I think we were very friendly as children cos I think I can more or less, I remember playing with them and then we weren't allowed. As far as I remember. But it was obviously a Jewish neighbourhood. A very Jewish neighbourhood. It must have been all Jewish shops. I think the material shop, that was Jewish-owned. I sort of vaguely remember the people that ran it.

RL: Did you parents belong to any organisations or societies?

GG: Well I think my father must have done because we had a, not everybody had radios until about 1930, well before your time, but we had one, and I remember that in the shop we had a room at the back, and I remember men coming and sitting round listening to it. And then when the problem started, well I don't know do you want to know what happened, or are you asking me now?

RL: Well, I mean yeah I will want to...

GG: Yes well I don't know what organisation he belonged to but I think it was sort of an underground organisation because what happened when Austria was being overrun, when Vienna.. I mean Hitler was welcomed into Vienna, I remember seeing Hitler, 'cos we lived on a fairly main road and I remember him coming on his uh army truck and everybody cheering him. He didn't actually go past the flat but there was a corner and cross roads, and he went up the cross roads and we did see him. Anyway eventually, it was quite a while after, and my father was still running his business and then one day somebody came in and told him that the shop was going to be raided and he better get away so he managed to come back into the flat and what exactly happened I don't know but I remember that night, some men came, and he went with them - Jewish men - and apparently he got as far as France. Vichy France I think and we had a letter fro him - how we got it from the Red Cross I don't know - when I was in England. And, um, but then he was taken.. So he must have belonged to some organisation to take him. But I don't think my mother belonged to any organisation. I mean she was too busy she had I mean she had four children and working and.. so..

Tape 1: 23 minutes 2 seconds

RL: So coming back to when you were a child before Germany came in, what did you do as a family for entertainment, in your spare time?

GG: Well uh such as.. Well I used to play with my sisters and I remember one day my mother taking us to the cinema and I remember seeing Shirley Temple. And I remember that distinctly but I only remember going once and also there was the news program and I remember it was King Edward was abdicating and I remember seeing that on the news because when we came to England it somehow

came through to my mind. But otherwise I mean what does one do when one's a child. Played with my sisters and we didn't in those days we didn't have many toys but what we had we played with. We made our own entertainment.

RL: Did you go on holiday at all?

GG: Yes, my uncle had a place up in the mountains somewhere, one of my uncles, and we used to go there in the summer. And it was like, oh what was that film, climb every mountain, what was the name..?

RL: Sound of Music

GG: That's right, yes, and I just remembered, when I saw that film it brought so many memories back. Because I remember the sort of chateau or whatever it was, and we all went it was a big place. I think we all slept in one room. You know, there were two rooms and as far as I remember ..I think.. the sanitation was at the bottom somewhere and I remember this room had a big bench and there were all different size holes to sit on. And it had been an earth closet you know. I remember that distinctly. And that's all.. I can't, I don't know how we got there. But I remember being there. We didn't have a car. I think maybe my uncle did, I don't know.

RL: Do you have any idea how your parents actually met?

GG: No idea. No idea at all. I don't know how they met.

RL: When did they marry?

GG: I don't know. Um..

RL: When was your older sister born?

GG: I was born 1930, she's two years older than me, so she must have been 1927. Because two years three months.. My birthday is September and her birthday is in February.

RL: 1928

Tape 1: 26 minutes 18 seconds

GG: 1928...no 1927 I think so obviously probably 1926 something like that.

RL: So what's your older sister's name?

GG: Ilse

RL: And your younger sister?

GG: Ruth

RL: And then you said there was a brother after that?

GG: Yes, that was Michael.

RL: And then the baby...

GG: The baby, Charlotte. But we never.. What happened when we left my mother got as far as Belgium because she had a brother-in-law lived in Belgium and ..but she had no papers and when Belgium was overrun and she'd had the baby - I think the baby was about 3 months - and they were just taken away. And my uncle in Israel, well one of my uncles in Israel, my mother's brother in Israel went to it was Antwerp and he saw the house she was taken away from, because he came to England once and he told us he'd been there and he said Kadash there.

RL: What's your uncle's name?

GG: Max. Max Windholz. And he died recently. He was nearly a hundred. But he's the one who went to Rishon Letzion and started a Moshav there.

RL: And you say your father had actually gone to..

GG: Yes he had and he'd come back yes. It had to be. I mean he could've stayed, he could've come back and taken us and.. But I can understand I mean they were living in tenets and had no water. And I remember my uncle he had a thing about having baths. He used to have baths two or three times.. it was psychological. When he came he stayed with us, we lived in a house then in Leeds, and every morning, every night he had a bath and he said he just can't it was a thing because they were so short of water that every drop of water was for the plants. And because they used to come up from the, by tanker the water but eventually, I've only been to Israel three times, but whenever I went to Rishon Letzion he came to see us. But then my father's brother who lives in Tel Aviv I've never met him because when we were in Israel we didn't know he was there. It was only by coincidence that my sister bumped into him sort of

Tape 1: 29 minutes 30 seconds

at a wedding I don't know... started talking and that's how..

RL: Coming back to your childhood in Vienna, if you can tell me a little bit about the school you went to. Can you remember who the headmaster was?

GG: No I can't remember any names, I can't. But years.. long time ago now , when my sister got married this was a whole community of refugees and girls came up to me and remembered me and I couldn't remember them at all and I can't remember.. I can remember the classroom. I can just picture it, I could draw a picture of it, but I can't remember anything about it. I just can't. I wish I could.

RL: Was it a mixed girls and boys school?

GG: No, no, girls.

RL: Just girls?

GG: It was a girl's school. It was only a small school.

RL: How many pupils?

GG: No idea. No idea.

RL: Do you remember any kind of subjects that you learnt?

GG: No, I'm sorry, I can't help you with that at all. It's just like a blank. I think it's because when we came over it was traumatic that we just made a... it just sort of disappeared. The memories disappeared. And my sister, my younger sister that I'm quite close to, she says the same. We wish we could remember. I think my elder sister she remembers, well she does she remembers everything, but she doesn't want to talk about anything and I don't see much of her, well I used to when my husband was alive, we used to go down to all the weddings every other week there was wedding or barmizvah, but you know since my husband died for me to go to London I just can't cope with it. But when we went she just wouldn't want to discuss it.

RL: How aware were you of what was going, you know politically, when you were in Austria?

GG: Well not until the German occupied Austria. I never even thought anything about anything. I shouldn't think my parents discussed anything. In those days parents didn't discuss anything with the children. But once it was overrun and then schools closed you know I just remember being scared. I remember being scared to go out, which we had to go out. And um and of course my mother was

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with us all the time because we couldn't, we didn't have any money, we couldn't have any money, the shop was closed, everything was taken off us and, you know, it must have been...I just can't remember it's like a blank.

RL: And what did you do once the school's closed?

GG: Well we just had to stay indoors. We just had to be in. And I suppose amused ourselves. We were four of us, baby brother.. I remember we used to go visiting. I remember family we used to visit. And, I think my mother's brothers.. we used to visit.. or he used to come and see us.. and I remember he had twins who were just born and he was taken away and the children, the twins.. and I just remember being, what shall I say? I think we were traumatised all the time. I remember being hungry because I wouldn't.. well we had no money.. I mean I tell my children about it. I don't know how we lived. I think we had um charity, some charity sent money by.. I remember my mother opening a letter, a postal order or something. Don't know where they came from. And uh but there was a soup kitchen the end of the street where I think you could get our meals, which my mother did, but I wouldn't eat it, I was very awkward. And I don't know, well we must have had food from somewhere when this money came..

RL: How soon after Germany overran Austria did your father leave?

GG: Um not for a while. I would think.. well it was after the Yomtov.. It was,.. I think Germany overran Austria in about March, wasn't it? April? Well it was after October because I remember having Yomtov because I remember that incident with the shofar so it was after that. So it must have been October, end of October and then - have you heard Doctor Schonfeld - well we were one of the first.. My mother must have found out about it and realised that our only hope was to go on this train and that's when we left. And she managed to get to Belgium..

RL: So your father... When did the shop actually close?

GG: well it didn't close until the.. It was the storm troopers it wasn't the SS, cos we saw it cos we just lived across the road. And they just came in, got out of the truck - just like you see on the films, that's how it was. When they show you these films that's exactly how it was. - You just saw these troops coming out and smash everything up. And I remember we had loads of charity boxes as one does and they emptied all the money out and just threw it and everything was smashed. Everything. I remember we used to sell.. We never sold any meat, it was all fish, fresh water fish, and we used to plate it all.. And I think that you could eat in, there were two or three tables, and but our speciality was potato

Tape 1: 37 minutes 12 seconds

pudding. He used to grate it, ... at the back, put it in big trays - I thought they were big trays but on reflection they weren't really - and he used to take them to the oven, communal oven, and bring it back the next day. And they used to.. Queue used to form. And everybody wanted the squares, he uh corner pieces, so that's why they used to queue for it. And I remember the arguments because you know beggars used to queue up as well and my father wouldn't take any money from - well they didn't have any money - and sometimes he gave them the square bits. We used to play war with him about it. You know these little unimportant things that you remember and the important things I can't.. I don't. And I remember the taste of that potato pudding. One of the things my sister did say, my elder sister, I said "how is it, it doesn't matter how I make it, I can't make it like that.." She says "because it was a coal oven.." And baking in a coal.. a *coal* oven there's just something about it. It's the same with bread, if you bake it in a coal oven, I haven't had any I don't think, it tastes so much better. I don't know what else can I tell you.

RL: So did you actually witness the storm troopers coming?

GG: Oh yes. Yes, yes. And I remember my father coming in the flat and I remember him being petrified and the thing was they never came, they must have known where we lived, and yet they never came. They never came for my father. But I remember the flats, along the landing there were two or three flats, and one day they came, the storm troopers came to the flats. And I remember them coming and.. but they never came into our flat because although I think, well obviously we had a Mezuzah on the door and I don't know whether they just passed it. But my brother and I, I remember we were standing, and I had very fair hair, and my brother he had white hair and he was dressed.. mother put him in lederhosen which she shouldn't have done cos Jewish children weren't allowed to wear them officially.. And they just passed the flat. They obviously didn't think we were Jewish. And whoever was in the flats were taken away and we weren't. It was just.. But my father had already left then but they weren't supposed to know.. But why they never came, that day when they did the shop, they obviously must have known where we lived, but its one of those things.

RL: When was the shop smashed, was that the same time as Kristallnacht?

GG: Um, no I think it was after cos I remember Kristallnacht.. Vienna, we didn't have Kristallnacht. But I remember a stream of refugees coming along and I remember the pushing prams and things - they were obviously made homeless - and where they went I don't know. I think it was after that. But it wasn't part of Kristallnacht. I think Kristallnacht was I think just in Germany

Tape 1: 41 minutes 15 seconds

and.. Although I mean the windows in Vienna that were smashed, but I don't think it was a special.. It was just done haphazardly. I think so. I wouldn't like to say for sure.

RL: You mentioned that one of the little shuls was burnt?

GG: yes I remember that.

RL: Can you tell me about that?

RL: Well, all I remember is we looked out on the balcony because it was the back of the flat, and we could see all the flames, and I just remember being petrified, scared, we were scared all the time. And uh I think we were too scared to cry - I can't remember crying, I just remember being petrified. And I think that's why a lot of things have gone off.. Psychological.

RL: Up till then how had you and your parents got on with the non-Jews around you?

GG: Well as I say we were very friendly with.. I remember this non-Jewish family very well and we were very friendly with them. I uh don't think my father had non-Jewish friends although, I wouldn't say anglicized, the same ones say anglicized the same way as in Germany. I remember one day a friend of my fathers coming and um there was curfew - we weren't allowed out at night - and he went, he came, and my father said 'well stay, you can't go out now.' And he had a row of medals, he says apparently he fought for Germany in the First World War, he said they won't touch me. I remember we never saw him again. He left. So these things, life went on just the same and then things happened.. but I mean you got up in the morning, and got dressed, got washed, but I mean you had to go out, you had to go and buy, get your food from the soup kitchen..

RL: Did you experience personally any incidents or any anti-Semitism?

GG: No. You mean in Vienna? No not apart from the fact we couldn't go to school. And then we stayed in the flat more or less. We went to get our dinners and uh.. because then we didn't mix. I remember not.. they said they couldn't play with us.. But it's only this one family that I remember in the flats. And I mean obviously the majority of our friends must have been Jewish so.. we went to a Jewish school so.. Didn't come across it.

RL: You said your mother had heard about Schonfeld's train, how aware were you of what arrangements were being made?

GG: Well I knew there was something going on, though we didn't

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realise what it was.. I don't .. my elder sister must have done. Mother must have just told us. They knew we were going and.. But we were so petrified that we would have done anything and uh you know I mean never thinking that we wouldn't see my mother again, you know.. She already said well we'll come and.. we'll come and get you as soon as I can and uh I can't.. I remember, you know, sorting out what we could take. We could only take a little case. We could only take what we could carry and in those days there weren't backpacks. You know nowadays kids put things.. I had a little case and we could take very little.. Well what can an eight year old carry? I don't think.. Just took a change of clothing and uh I can't .. I think we took drawing books and pencils. That's the only thing we took . I can't remember taking a doll. And um I can't.. I remember people coming to the house so

obviously they must have been the ones .. And a lot of talking going on and they must have been the ones that arranged it all. And, uh, but I think ninety percent, the majority, of Dr Schonfeld's children went into Jewish homes. I mean a lot of the kindertransport children didn't. They were only too pleased to find homes for them.

RL: What did you know about England?

GG: Nothing. Didn't know anything. We didn't know where we were going or what we were going to do. I think we were just too traumatised. All I remember of England was the abdication of King Edward - seeing it on the film.

RL: So can you tell me about the day of departure?

GG: The departure? Well that I'll never forget. I remember it was night-time. I remember leaving the flat and walking down to the station and we were told to be very quiet - although the authorities knew we were going they didn't want to cause any problems. Must have closed their eyes to a lot of things. And I remember the quiet, how quiet the station and none of us were crying. I can't remember.. we weren't. I think we were just, we didn't know what was happening and I remember the train journey and people looking after us. But when we got to the border the people who looked after us had to go back because, I think, you could only be a certain age to go. And then other people came on who couldn't speak the language and I mean they were very good and we went to Holland. And from Holland got a boat. And apparently we were given sea sickness tablets and things because we were all being sick. But I can't remember that. I remember the train, getting on to the train to go to London. And then apparently we spent time in London, about a week. But I can't remember that either. All I remember getting to Newcastle and being picked up from there.

RL: Now first of all departing from Vienna, who came to see you

Tape 1: 49 minutes 9 seconds

off?

GG: Just my mother. And I remember walking down. And the station must have.. well Holland Strasse where we lived.. the bottom there was.. That was the Danube. There was a little bridge, I remember going over the bridge. And just being very very quiet. And getting to the station and um.. must have been on a train before because I think we probably went by train on holiday in the mountains. And I remember sitting on the train..

RL: Were you with your two sisters?

GG: Yes. Stayed with my.. We were together until we went to London. And then I stayed with my younger sister but my elder sister went off somewhere else. She went on a train to Manchester. And my younger sister and I we both went to Newcastle. And then to Sunderland.

RL: How big a group travelled from Vienna with you?

GG: Well there was a train. I think there were about three hundred. I don't know. There were a lot of children. But there was... Twenty came to Sunderland.

RL: And did you know in advance you were going to go to Sunderland?

GG: No. I mean we didn't know where we were going we did not.. I mean.. we just.. I suppose a child goes where they are told to go. And we couldn't understand anything anybody was saying. So um... We just did as we were told.

RL: And what happened when you arrived in Sunderland?

GG: Well I can't exactly... Well what I do remember is it was Max, Max Shapero - did you know Max? No, anyway I think we went to the Shul hall, Ryhope Rd Shul Hall and we were just picked. It was lottery. And people just picked us, I don't know how they.. Apparently there'd been a meeting and they asked.. And it was only going to be temporary. Who was to know? I mean the whole thing was temporary. England wasn't at war then. And uh and then I remember everything being so strange. There was bitter cold. And I'd never been in a house before. We'd lived in a flat and friends lived in a flat. And the house when we went on holiday, this chateau or whatever, was ore of a bungalow. Never been in a house. And all I remember is being so cold. Because well in those days nobody had any heating in the bedroom. It was a bitter cold winter And never slept in a bed with blankets. We all had feather beds. Like the duvets now. Which I mean its such a little thing but when you're a

Tape 1: 52 minutes 38 seconds

child its strange. I remember being bitter cold.. And then I started crying. And I think I cried for a week. They didn't know what to do with me. I remember crying for a Taschentuch. Do you know what a Taschentuch is? It's a handkerchief. Course there were no paper handkerchiefs in those days. . And the more I wanted a taschentuch the more I needed one. But we survived.

RL: So who took you home, which family was it?

GG: The Shaperos. Well there was Mr Shapero. Cos they had a little boy. I don't know, did you know the..? No you were younger than Gerald, did you know Gerald Shapero? Well you know Joe, Joseph, Joe Goodman, it was his cousin. Anyway they had a little boy so she stayed there. It was all very very strange.

RL: Were you taken with your sister?

GG: No. No we were in different homes. Where did your sister go? Well my younger sister went to a home in Sunderland.

RL: Whose home?

GG: Um somebody called Miller. Do you remember the.. Do you remember the Markson family? No. There were a few of them and she went there. And they had a girl but she was very unhappy there. I mean I wasn't happy.. well obviously we weren't happy.. But eventually when she was about sixteen, no fourteen, she left. She went to London. To my elder sister and what happened.. We went to intensive.. We went to learn English. Also in the cheder rooms. Do you remember them? And for about three months and we lost, most of us lost our language. We weren't allowed to speak.. We used to get slapped if we spoke to each other in German. And so we did learn English very very quickly. And then we went to ordinary school.

RL: So who taught you English?

GG: I don't know who it was. It was somebody..

RL: Was it the twenty of you that had come? That learnt together or..?

GG: I think we all went yes, we all went to this. And then there was a hostel. Some children went to a hostel. There was a hostel in Sunderland. Then it closed down, I don't know..

RL: Was that for boys or girls?

GG: I think it was for both.

Tape 1: 55 minutes 47 seconds

RL: Where was that?

GG: I think so.

RL: Whereabouts was that? Where was it?

GG: In Sunderand. I don't know. I think it was somewhere near Grey.. Is it Grey Road? Where was the Beth Hamedrash in Sunderland?

RL: Mowbray Road.

GG: pardon?

RL: Mowbray Road.

GG: Mowbray Road. Yes I think it was round there somewhere. One of the big terraced houses. I think so. And I remember going to school - that was traumatic. I mean from going to a little Jewish all-girls school to a big elementary school, boys and girls, and.. did you know Commercial Road? Commercial Road school and it was you know a little bit down market. And oh that was traumatic. I couldn't.

RL: What happened?

GG: Well I don't know.. Everybody.. I think I was surrounded, you know, I was still wearing my continental clothes I think.. Well I had my little fur coat well which child wore a fur coat? And boots. Although it was winter you know, continental boots.. the clothing was different. But I settled down very quickly. And I did alright.. I went to Bede I passed my eleven plus..

RL: We'll just stop here because the tape's running out

Tape 1: 57 minutes 35 seconds

TAPE 2

RL: So this is the interview with Gertrude Goldberg and this is tape 2. The date that you came over to England, what was the exact date of departure.

GG: the departure in Vienna? I don't know. But arrived in Newcastle New Years Eve 1938. The next day was New Years day 1939.

RL: You said you went to live with the Shapiros family. Where did they live? What was their address?

GG: The lived 111, Ryhope Road, Sunderland.

Tape 2: 0 minute 50 seconds

RL You mentioned a group of twenty children

GG: oh don't take. I think there were approximately twenty

RL Do you remember other children who were in that group?

GG: Um well I remember there was myself, my sister, a girl called Dina Schwartz, and she went to live with Ethel Shapiro's sister Mini Goodman and she was older than me. And I remember a girl called Frederica, I can't remember her second name, she went to a family we called Shochet, Shochet, do you remember the Shochat family? I can't remember anybody.. Oh yes I think there's somebody, no he went to a family Greenwald.. I can't remember, no I can't remember his name..

RL: And he went to which family?

GG: pardon?

RL: He went to which family this..?

GG: Greenwalds. Do you remember them they had a milk business, sold cottage kaise in those days

RL: Did you see these other children at all?

GG: We used to see them at Cheder and Shul.

RL: Was that when you were learning English or did you go for Cheder lessons as well.?

GG: oh we went to Cheder yes, everyday except Wednesday. Oh and then during the war I think we went Shabbos afternoon and Sunday morning because we couldn't go in the evening.

RL: Who taught in Cheder?

GG: There was a Reverend Burland. You wouldn't remember Reverend Burland. I remember him. I don't know who else. Well he taught us but I mean Cheder in those days and like Cheder today... We didn't learn anything. You know we just learnt to read. We didn't know what we were reading about. And it's entirely different nowadays.

RL: Had you learnt to read in Vienna?

GG: oh yes, yes. I remember my father showing me off because I could read fluently.

RL: So did they not teach you anything else in cheder?

Tape 2: 3 minutes 22 seconds

GG: I can't remember learning translation. I think we must have done and we must have learnt a bit about the holidays, the Yomtovs, but it was mainly just reading and messing about.

RL: You were just telling me as the last tape ended about going to school and going to Commercial Road school and how you felt going to this school..

GG: oh yes, most unhappy. At first - then we got used to it. Now you asked me had I come across any anti-Semitism well I remember children coming up to me and saying I know why you don't believe in Jesus because you killed him. You know and I didn't know what they were talking about because you know we led a very sheltered life. I don't think I knew anything about Jesus. I didn't know what they were talking about. That was traumatic. You see it was a very small Jewish community and I think there were only about four or five of us in Commercial Road. My sister went to a different school. She went to a small private school. I can't remember the name.

RL: So of the four or five of you in Commercial Road were you all refugees or were you the only refugee?

GG: Um, well, I remember you asked me if.. There was a girl called Paula and I think a sister Hannah and she was on the transport. And she went to Commercial Road and those are the only children I remember. I can't remember being friendly with anyone that hadn't come.. But later on my guardian, the Shapero boy went to Commercial Road when he was five.

RL: Did you make any friends in Commercial Road school?

GG: Um I think there was one girl Marjory Oxley, I remember her name, who didn't live far. And that's all.. I can't really.. And then I was friendly with my sister, she didn't live far, and the girl that she went to Mrs Miller, Sorrel Miller and then yes there were quite a crowd of us. There was Harold Davies, you know Harold Davies, Gerald Grantham, one or two.. I can't really.. You know it's so many years, forty-seven years since I lived in Sunderland.

RL: So how many years were you in Commercial Road school?

GG: Till I was eleven. And then I went to West Park. And then I went, transferred, to Bede.

RL: What was it like at West Park?

GG: Well that's.. I don't know what kind of a school that was but if you didn't actually pass your scholarship, it was more than an elementary school, it was just in-between. And then I must have

Tape 2: 7 minutes 14 seconds

been top or something and I was transferred to Bede. That was the grammar school.

RL: How did you get on there?

GG: Yes I think I got on alright, and then when I left I took the commercial course. And I went to work for my guardian Max in Newcastle. In his office.

RL: So at Bede, what was that like?

GG: Well that was a grammar school and I think I enjoyed being in that school but I can't remember making any close friends cos I think .. I think I only had Jewish friends really when I went to Bede. And there was, well one of my friends, she lives in Leeds well I'm friendly with her now, um Reni, Reni Epstein and she lived round the corner. Her grandparents lived round the corner to us and when I got married Stan next door neighbour asked if I knew anybody and we made a shidduch, made two actually.. And do you remember Valerie, Valerie, um, Minkovitch. I introduced her to Harold, her husband. And we've always kept friendly. Cos Harold was a friend of Stan's. So that.. But I can't remember having any non-Jewish friends although it was such a small community.

RL: How did the teacher's treat you at the school?

GG: Well I don't think they were anti-Semitic. I don't think so. I didn't feel any anti-Semitism. But the thing was my guardian always went to work, so after school I went straight home, because the son would come home from school and we'd be on our own. Make the tea and light the fire and things like that. Generally helpful.

RL: How did you feel in this family, how did you get on with them?

GG: With?

RL: With the Shaperos?

GG: Oh alright. I mean what shall I say? It wasn't a loving relationship. Because.. I don't know the reason why. She always went out to work, and she always had help in the house.. and I don't think.. I mean we were always.. I mean I'm not complaining at all but I never remember her putting her arm round me. Or hugging me or anything like that but I don't know whether I missed it or not. I just took it for granted. That's how it was.

RL: Did you receive letters from your parents?

GG: Pardon?

Tape 2: 10 minutes 43 seconds

RL: Did you receive letters from your parents?

GG: Well yes up to my mother being taken away. I remember getting one from Belgium, two, maybe two or three.. But I had them and what happened, when we moved I lost a box of all sorts. I remember we got a letter from our father - how he got our address I don't know - that's from Vichy France, before he was taken away. And that's.. Well we must have mother's address because I remember reading one of her letters saying, answering me, whatever I said.. But it was only.. Well it was only, well it was till England.. No it was before England came to war because Germany overran Belgium before England went to war.

RL: Well war broke out here September '39, war broke out here

GG: Yeah,

RL: Were you evacuated at all?

GG: Well yes, um with the family, um, we went to Ingleton, do you know where Ingleton is? The Yorkshire moors.. They took a house, and oh it was a big house, there were twelve sisters of the Books there were oh one to about five of them, took this house and the children and one or two of the mothers stayed and the others went back. But we weren't there very long. And then when there was all the bombing we went to Bolton for a few months and then we went back to Sunderland. But really most of the war was spent in Sunderland. I think we were only in Ingleton about six months and then maybe three months in Bolton. And then when I went to Bolton, cos Ethel's sister lived in Bolton, I went to a Catholic school there and that was a bit traumatic. I was the only Jewish girl. Only Jewish, I think, girl they'd ever seen.. the nuns.. taught there.. And I remember once, one of the nuns, taking me into the office and asking me all sorts of questions, not abusive, but all sorts of questions but they were very good in as much as I was excused prayers. I had to go into assembly where prayers were but when... They came in said their prayers, lunch said their prayers, four times a day, and I was allowed just to sit. So I can't complain. But I remember being upset when this nun asked me questions... I can't remember now what she asked me, but I remember at the time being upset about it. But of course there were no Jews lived in Bolton I don't think.

RL: When in the war did you go to these different places ? When did you go to Ingleton.

GG: The day war broke out, the day war broke out. I remember one of the Books Fashions had a big lorry and we just.. there were about five of us sitting in the front and clothes and things at the back

Tape 2: 14 minutes 48 seconds

and we went to Ingleton. I think one of the brother-in-laws had taken this house in case war broke out. And the day war broke out, the morning war broke out, we went.

RL: So did you go to school while you were there?

GG: In Ingleton I don't think we did. I can't remember going to school in Ingleton. But there were a lot of children and you know the.. cousins.. somebody must have looked after us. We weren't there long. Maybe it wasn't six months. Maybe it was only three months.

RL: And then when did you go to Bolton?

GG: Um a while after, we had lot of bombing in Sunderland, so we went. But and then.. my guardian Ethel's sister had a gown shop and she worked there. And Max he had a job in the ship yard - he didn't go into the army - in Sunderland ship yards. So he stayed in Sunderland.

RL: What did Max work as?

GG: pardon?

RL: Before the war what was Max's job?

GG: Cabinet maker. I think he worked for Davies. You know.. Myer Davies.. Were they in the

furniture? I think so.

RL: So did the school not evacuate?

GG: Not as far as I know. Not as far as I know. They might have done.

RL: What did you do when there was an air raid?

GG: Our next door neighbour had an Anderson shelter in their house, and we went in there. And then one of the sisters, Ethel's sisters, Minnie, Minnie Goodman, she lived 123 Ryhope Road, and she had a proper shelter in the garden and we used to... When the sirens went we used to run to 123 and down the steps - and though we had an Anderson shelter in the garden but it was.. I don't think it was very, what shall I say, it didn't seem very safe. And this brick thing under the house seemed a lot safer. But can you imagine two, three o'clock in the morning running along the street..

RL: In your night clothes?

GG: We used to have siren suits on - do you know what a siren suit

Tape 2: 17 minutes 57 seconds

is? Um, well its made with thick material, padded and you just stepped in and put a zip up. It's what the, you see these policemen in their white overalls, you just step in.. have you not heard of siren suits? Well there you are you see.

RL: So you'd jump out of bed ad put this on?

GG: Yes, yes. And that's what happened when the sirens went. I mean there was a lot of damage in Sunderland.

RL: Were there any near misses?

GG: Yes yes. I remember Stratford Avenue, I remember there was a house struck there - I think that's when we went to Bolton. Remember Ryhope Road, although it wasn't on the seaside, you could see the sea. The docks were there you see. And the barrage balloons, you know barrage balloons, they were stationed on Ryhope Road. You had the soldiers with the.. 'Cos that was the main road.

RL: Did you know of anybody whose home was bombed?

GG: Yes. And they came to Leeds. Lewis they were called. Do you know, well, do you know Josephine Jackson? Yes well they were bombed out in Sunderland and they came to live in Leeds. And I was friendly with her sister Fay, this is coming back to me now you said have you got any friends.. And it's a small world because I was friendly with her when she was a youngster in Sunderland. She came to live in Leeds and she married Jackie Firman, who was friend of Stan's. And he's been best man at their wedding. That was before I met him. So we stayed friendly. We did for many years and then once you married you make your own friends, we moved in a different circle.

RL: Were there any out-of-school activities for you, during the war years, any clubs or..

GG: No I can't.. no.

RL: Any organisations? Did you belong to any groups at all?

GG: Um, yes, well, I remember I think I went to guides but not for long. And then I was in some group, a Jewish group, a Zionist group I think and we met in each other's houses. When we were youngsters. And then belonged to Newcastle Maccabee. And once a month we had, in Sunderland we had meetings, play readings.. And then we had dances in the shul hall - that's when I was older, seventeen, eighteen. We led a very quiet life, not like nowadays. Didn't go out much, listened to the radio.

Tape 2: 21 minutes 53 seconds

RL: Were you aware of what was happening in the war?

GG: Were there..?

RL: Were you aware of what was happening in the war?

GG: Yes, oh yes. Very much so I mean you lived by the news during the war, with the radio. And then you went to the cinema - oh we went to the pictures a lot. Twice a week. We had a local cinema, the Regent - its all closed now, it's all changed - and saw the news, Movietone news. Oh very much so.

RL: Did you know what was happening to the Jews?

GG: Oh yes, yes. Well I think you couldn't believe it really. It went.. You thought well it can't be. I think you tried to pretend that it didn't happen. And I mean everybody was talking..

RL: And this was during the war?

GG: During the war, yeah. And then after the war, well there was my sister, my elder sister, she found out, she got in touch with the Red Cross, and she found out what happened to my parents and.. They.. Well according to the papers they both ended up in Auschwitz and .. Nothing I can say. And we keep a Yahrzeit, the day after Rosh Hashonah because you remember that. It's the same date every year, it's not as if it's going to change. The English date doesn't matter because you know it's the day after Rosh Hashonah. My sister went to a Rabbi and he said that's what you should do. So that's what we do.

RL: Where had your sister gone in London, this was your older sister, what happened to her?

GG: She went to a couple in Manchester..

RL: Do you remember who it was?

GG: No, I don't. She wasn't there very long. And I remember when I was in Bolton I went to see her. But then we had some cousins, they found where she was or whatever, and she went to live with them. Because she was ultra orthodox and the couple she went to were just orthodox, not ultra orthodox, and she was one of the first, well she was the first of the kinder transport who got married. And Dr Schonfeld married her and I remember, you know, how he said, you know, this is the

beginning of many. And she catered the wedding herself. I mean we helped, I helped her. She was only eighteen.

Tape 2: 25 minutes 16 seconds

RL: When did she marry?

GG: Pardon?

RL: When did she marry?

GG: When she was eighteen. Uh.. Eighteen, I was sixteen, 1940.. Just after the war she got married..1947.

RL: And where did she marry?

GG: It was in Stamford Hill somewhere..it was outside, in some Shul grounds. In Machsikei Hadass. No that's in Manchester Machsikei Hadass.

RL: And who did she marry?

GG: Now she married, well obviously she was introduced, also a boy from Austria whose parents had been friendly with my parents. I mean he was a fantastic fellow, they've had a fantastic marriage really.

RL: What was his name?

GG: Schwartz. Menachem Schwartz. And, uh, fantastic chap. Cos my sister's stone-deaf now. She can't hear at all, and, um, she does everything on, is it the e-mail? I can't phone her, speak to.. But I'm not very close to her. I mean at one time we did see much of each other because there was always weddings and barmitzvahs and although my husband was out of place there we always went. And.. But since her husband died I just don't go. I see her in Manchester. When there's weddings and barmitzvahs but I'm not going anymore.

RL: What did her husband do for a living?

GG: He made shopping bags, he was a machinist. Worked very hard. And she used to work and they had four boys and I mean they had nothing really. I think there was a fund for refugees and .. Mind they've done very well..they've made..they've got a wonderful family and they've worked very hard. She was a dress maker and she was apprenticed to a court dress maker.. At golden hands and now what she does is, she helps these girls, if they buy a skirt, go to see her to make it, if the slits too big, or too low, she does that for them. It's something to do and something to help.

RL: How many children does she have?

GG: She had eight. Four boys and three.. She only had three girls.. Five boys and three girls. And untold grandchildren. One of her..

Tape 2: 28 minutes 29 seconds

eldest son had fourteen children and the others just six or seven. And one of her daughters, unfortunately, didn't have any children, but recently she's fostering a young boy. And they're very good. They took him to Israel. He was there for Yomtov. And she is the one in the family, she remembers all her nieces and nephews children birthdays.. Can you imagine? She must buy birthday cards wholesale. Well obviously, I mean how can you send presents to all the children? You can't can you. I don't know how they keep up with them.

RL: Coming back to you..

GG: Yes

RL: .. And Sunderland ..

GG: Yes

RL: .. So you've told me about little, the Maccabee and little meetings with friends, Zionist groups..how and when did you meet your husband?

GG: Right that's another story. I met him.. Well my guardian's sister, Ethel sister, Minnie who lived at 123 Ryhope Road, married a Leeds boy Nat Goodman, and Stan, that's my husband's mother lived next door, he lived next door. And when, his name was Nat Goodman, when his niece used to come to Sunderland we used to go out together , go to the pictures together. And when she became engaged she asked me to the engagement and Nat and Minnie brought me over and that's where I met him, at the engagement. And we got married a year later.

RL: When did you marry? What date?

GG: June 17th 1956.

RL: Now were you working by this time?

GG: Yes I worked for my guardian. He had, after the war he went into ladies fashion wholesale. And I worked in the office.

RL: Where was that?

GG: In Newcastle. But let me tell you, my mother-in-law is dead now, she was very unhappy, she said my son is not going to marry a refugee. I had a lot of heartache.. In the end she wanted help.. who did she call on? Cos she had two daughters and her husband was a twin.. and had a twin sister.. With another daughter and a son. But the girls didn't drive so if she wanted anything.. And I

Tape 2: 31 minutes 55 seconds

sometimes reminded her about that. Anyway.. In the end we became friends and.. Not that I forgave her.. But I forgot about it.

RL: So did she cause problems in the beginning?

GG: oh yes. Yes. But in the end she had to accept it and that's how it was.

RL: You know when you came over to England, to Sunderland, how did you find life at that time, how did you manage, you know, how did you fit in?

GG: How did I fit in? How can I remember I was eight. I was only eight years of age. I mean look at children of eight years of age. You accept. You do as you're told - well in those days you did as you were told. And just accepted everything and that's how it had to be and I can't think of.. You just take life.. And you thought it was only temporary.. It was only going to be.. You wondered how long it was going to last for and how long the war was going to last and..

RL: When did you realise that it wasn't temporary anymore? How long was it before ..

GG: You know I think it just came slowly to you because I remember you know when we went to Shul Yomtov and there was Yizkor I used to go out. As far as I was concerned my parents were still living. And I think, well obviously after the war, by the time we reached the age of fourteen, fifteen, you realised that was it, and you just accepted it. Just part of life. And I wasn't the only one, I mean there were a lot of us. And, that's how it was.

RL: Now you say you quickly stopped speaking German?

GG: Oh yes and unfortunately I've lost the language altogether now, unfortunately, we weren't allowed to speak it and it's um, I suppose years ago it would have come back but there was no one to converse with so um.. Lately, well, not lately, a while ago, I wanted to learn Yiddish, I can't speak Yiddish, I understand the odd word, but I wanted to learn it as a language and I went, there's a chap here who teaches Yiddish - but also conversation Yiddish - but, well, the meetings were at night and I don't like going out at night so I had to stop..

RL: So do you not understand German now at all?

GG: no, I think years ago when I used to go to my sister's, you see they both used to speak German, I didn't stay there long - say two or three days - by the time I was ready to leave I could sort of understand. But I would never talk, I wouldn't let her talk, and

Tape 2: 35 minutes 46 seconds

I'm sorry about that really. It's nice to be bilingual but.. There you are.

RL: Tell me about your husband, what kind of family did he come from?

GG: What kind of family.. Well he had a twin sister and a older sister and a older brother. And his father was a tailor, had his own business.. and he'd been in the army. When he came out of the army he went into the tailoring and he had a, he had a .. I think he went tailoring.. He took a tailoring..he went to commercial..uh not commercial..some kind of school to do tailoring and then he went to work for his father for a week..couldn't get on with him and then I think his father opened him a little shop in Wakefield. And he was.. Bespoke tailoring in those days.. and he always worked with his hands, always made a living, never made any money but we always managed.

RL: Where did you live after marriage?

GG: In Leeds, bought a semi. And then we've lived here five years.

RL: So where was the semi?

GG: In Moortown in the Talbots.

RL: And here, where is this now, where are we now?

GG: We're in Harewood Court, on Harrogate Road.

RL: And how did you find the Leeds community after coming from Sunderland.

GG: Oh, very different. Very different. I couldn't understand, when I first came to Leeds, meeting people, knowing that they were Jewish, and you didn't know them. Because in Sunderland you knew everybody. And I found them very cliquey, you know you had your own little circle, and you didn't know about the other circles. And it took me a long time because well my husband had a nice circle of friends but I think it was a while before I was accepted. But I went to work.. A nursery school, a Jewish nursery school had just started so I became a helper there. And then I left and I went to help my husband in the business. 'Cos it was a shop, front shop.

RL: What did you do?

GG: Tailoring... Oh what did I do? Yes I. do you know anything about tailoring? No. I sewed; I was in the shop, dogs body. But you know something, well it was a one man business so I didn't have a

Tape 2: 38 minutes 58 seconds

name. I was just a dogs body. But we worked together and yes we had a fairly nice.. No complaints.

RL: Did you belong to any..?

GG: Yes we belonged to the Jewish blind society. .And in fact my husband became the treasurer, and he, don't know if you noticed, he became, he got some honour or something, and we went to London and he got that honour. And he did something for Israel as well. When they asked for volunteers to go over after the.. was it the six day war.. Or the other war.. They needed uniforms or something and he did them for them.. And he got a very nice thank you for that.. And then, well the children came along, and I wanted to do something and I can't ask anyone for money, I just can't, asked to sell raffle tickets, it cost me a fortune... and then I saw this little advert about braillists wanted and I answered the advert. And I took lessons. It's voluntary.. And I've been a braillist ever since.

RL: So what do you do?

GG: I transcribe script into braille or vice-versa. At one time we were very, very busy, but now its fantastic you can get computers that you type in and it comes out braille. I've got the braille machine here if you want to see it later. And so that kept me busy.. To do something and now I just.. I'm on the committee.. In fact I've got a meeting here on Tuesday. It's mixed, well Josephine is the chairman..how do you know Josephine?

RL: This is Josephine..

GG: Jackson

RL: Jackson. Well it was relations in Sunderland

GG: Yes.. Do you ever have time to watch television? No? Because there was a programme on television about cleaning dirty houses.. Anyway one of the girls who does it is her niece. So in fact I taught her braille.. And she doesn't do much.. now we're getting older I can't do it, my eyesight's not so good. But I just keep my hand in it. And I'm on the Chevra Kadisha. I am sure someone will be phoning me.. Anyway.. And because I normally, if they need me, they know that they can call on me for Friday morning because I get my work done on a Thursday. So if they need me it would be later on today.. And what else am I? Oh I do meals on wheels for the Queenshill centre - do you know the Queenshill centre.. it's the centre for .. Its on the estate.. On the Jewish housing estate.. and they do.. they have a big kitchen there and a friend and myself we do the soups. We don't make the soups. We pack them. Have you

Tape 2: 43 minutes 0 second

seen these meals which come frozen? That's on a Wednesday morning. I keep very busy and my sister-in-law doesn't live far from here. And she's eighty four so I go round when I have a minute. And then I pick my grandson up from school four times a week, three or four times.

RL: So tell me about your children, before we go on to the grandchildren.. So what children did you have and when were they born?

GG: Yes well that's another story. Both my girls are adopted. We couldn't have any children, I adopted two. There's Rochelle. Her birthday's 1963, 12th June 1963. And Naomi is 20th.. 22nd September 1965. What else?

RL: So there's the two girls..

GG: Yes

RL: Right.. And where did they go to school?

GG: Well they went to school in Leeds. They went to the Brodetsky, the Jewish school, and then they went to the comprehensive. And Rochelle, although she was clever girl, she didn't want to stay on. And what did she do? She did different jobs and then she met her husband.. She also went into the family business but then they closed and now she's got a very good job at the university in the French department, Leeds University and she works part-time there.

RL: Who did she marry?

GG: She married a boy called Mark Harris . He's the leader of the Lib Dems in Leeds and five years ago he was Deputy Lord Mayor.. and of course Rochelle was Deputy Lady Mayoress - they had a wonderful year that year - and then my husband died. So he had a wonderful year because we kleibed a lot of nachas, as they say in Irish.

RL: What children did they have?

GG: She's got a boy and a girl. She's got Esther, who'll be 16 in April. And Joe who'll be 13 in December.

RL: And which schools did they go to?

GG: Esther went to Leeds Girls, well she goes to Leeds Girls. And Joe goes to.. oh I can't remember.. Some public school.. I can't remember the name. I should know.

RL: And Naomi, what did she do after school?

Tape 2: 46 minutes 20 seconds

GG: Now Naomi she took commercial course and she's.. she works in an office for a head-hunters.. She has a nice job and she has a little boy.

RL: Who did she marry?

GG: She married a boy called Mark Haase. And unfortunately they got divorced.

RL: Where was he from?

GG: Glasgow. Oh they lived in Leeds.. but Glasgow. The Haase family in Glasgow. And well it didn't work out.

RL: And what's their son called?

GG: Zachariah

RL: And what school does he..?

GG: The Brodetsky

RL: So do they both live in Leeds?

GG: Yes, they both live in Leeds.

RL: What level of religious observance did you follow when you married?

GG: Well orthodox. Well we belonged to Street Lane Gardens Shul and Naomi belongs there. She got married there. But Rochelle belongs to Reform. Because his mother was megayered in the Reform. But he's a fantastic boy, a fantastic husband. I've no.. I mean I'm sorry they weren't in the orthodox but really.. In fact it was his father who started the .. Well there was a big reform community in Bradford, but then Monty, his father, started the one in Leeds. Because his mother.. you know it's so difficult to become Megayered and in the end they had so many difficulties they left and got married in Reform in Bradford. And now his sister is the chairman of the reform and he's on the council and they're very much involved with the reform and as long as they're happy.. Well and happy .. As it happens he's not a well.. Well he is but fifteen years ago he had, what is it called? He's got a hole and he had a cancer and he speaks from his stomach. He's got a hole in his neck.. What are they called Laryng.. Laryngectomy and he's a fantastic.. I mean his whole life he's speaking and yet you know he has such difficulty speaking. I mean my daughter lip reads perfectly. And I.. People understand him but I find it difficult. But when he speaks.. public speaking he speaks through a microphone and through a microphone it

Tape 2: 49 minutes 57 seconds

doesn't sound so bad. But have you heard people speaking from .. You see its an effort to speak all the time. And when he's at home he doesn't.. its less trouble just to mouth with words. So we've had problems. We thought he was finished. And they gave him .. They didn't want to do this operation.. cos they said that if they did it he'd live three months and if they didn't he'd live three weeks. But he said he'd have the operation and he was going to live. And he did. And this was fifteen years ago. Everybody's got a story haven't they.

RL: How.. Do you.. What.. You mention going to Israel paying visits to Israel, when was your first visit to Israel?

GG: The first visit to Israel.. Question..when did we go? Um we went with Naomi.. It'd be about twenty years ago I think. See my sister went on Aliyah. She lived in Manchester, in Broom Lane, and she went on Aliyah.

RL: You'd better just fill me in between that because she was in Sunderland..

GG: Yes

RL: So what happened from there?

GG: Well what happened to her.. Well she wasn't happy. She went to London and I think at that time my elder sister lived in a big house. I think she was married, she lived in a flat in big house.. I don't know have you been to Stamford Hill, have you seen these big houses? Well she had one of these big houses and she rented a flat in those days and there was room and Ruth went.. had one room and.. I don't know how she came to meet her husband.. Must have been introduced.. And she was also married when she was nineteen, twenty.. And then they came to live in Leeds I think Jack was working for a firm and it had a branch in Leeds.. It also,by coincidence, made holdalls, manufactured holdalls. And then when the children got older they had to go to school in Manchester and so they moved to Manchester and he had to come to Leeds three or four times a week. Used to stay with me and then things weren't working out so they went to Israel.

RL: What was her husband called?

GG: Jack Davies.

RL: And where was he from?

GG: London.

Tape 2: 53 minutes 20 seconds

RL: When did they go on Aliyah?

GG: Where?

RL: When?

GG When? Oh.. Let me see, when they went to Manchester was about forty years ago and then they

didn't live in Manchester that long, maybe five or six years, and then they went on Aliyah.

RL: Where did they go to live?

GG: Ah that's.. well they went to.. where is it this absorption centre.. And.. First to learn the language or whatever. And then they bought a house somewhere and they got done.. They lost a lot of money and in the end , they had to end up.. They got a flat in Gilo. And they live in Gilo. Well she lives in Gilo now. And well two of her.. When they went on Aliyah, one of her sons was already married in Manchester and he stayed in Manchester and one son was in Gateshead Yeshivah and he stayed there and .. uh.. I think the daughter, yes, she must have been married before they went. And daughter lived in America..

RL: How many children did she have?

GG: Five.

RL: Did any go to Israel with her?

GG: Who went to Israel with her? There was Michael, there was Barry.. Oh there was only the two of them wasn't there.. Michael and Barry. Cos Rael was here. But then Rael went to Israel. When he qualified or whatever from Gateshead. So one, two she now has three children in Israel. One in Manchester and one in America. No there's another one, Michael. He's in America as well. Let me see.. There's David in Manchester, there's Michael in America, Rachel in America, Barry in Israel and Rael in Israel. Five isn't it?

RL: So she was already living there when you went to visit?

GG: Oh yes, yes, yes, yes.

RL: How did you find it when you went to Israel? What did you think of the place?

GG: Oh, it's wonderful to visit but I wouldn't like to live.. I couldn't live there. I couldn't stand the heat. I couldn't. I mean we didn't stay with Ruth. But when we stayed in Tel Aviv, we stayed a week the first time we went, we stayed a week in Jerusalem, a

Tape 2: 56 minutes 37 seconds

week in Tel Aviv.. Jerusalem wasn't bad - I coped with that - but stayed in Tel Aviv, stayed in the bedroom all the time. I couldn't stand the heat. Till about seven o'clock at night and then I went out. And I was freezing in the bedroom because the air conditioning and they couldn't organise it.. It was too cold in the bedroom and too hot out - I was not a happy lady. But it's a wonderful.. I wish I could afford to go again. I'd love to go for Pesach. This is not to be. Well I couldn't leave the children anyway.

RL: Were you involved in any Zionist activity in Leeds?

GG: Not Zionist no. I mean I'd go to the functions and pay my contributions to Wizo and every year it goes up. And ... No... I'm more with the welfare board, and the Chevra Kadisha and...

RL: How long have you worked with the Chevra Kadisha?

GG: Oh many years. More years.. every year I say I'm going to retire.

RL: This tape is just about to end and so we'll just stop here.

Tape 2: 58 minutes 6 seconds

TAPE 3

RL: Interview with Gertrude Goldberg and it's tape three. I was just wondering if you ever spoke to your daughters about your background and what had happened to your family.. Did they ever show an interest in that sort of thing?

GG: Uh when they were youngsters I found it very difficult to talk about my history, found it impossible really. And it's only really in recent years since we started this HSFA - that's the Holocaust Friendship Association - and people similar to myself, similar background and we get together and we talk, that we've manage to talk. And, you know, well as I've told you before I've made a tape for Spielberg, and showed it to them and they were a bit.. They said why didn't you ever tell us? And I said I couldn't. Now then I spoke to my grandchildren and I can speak to them - and I'm not very good at speaking - but I spoke to some children in Dewsbury. They had a .. In the museum they had an exhibition, believe it or not - I mean there's no Jews in Dewsbury - about the kindertransport. And they asked someone that, were about eight, nine when they came over to speak to the children of that age. And for some reason I said yes I would. I had nightmares, I couldn't sleep for weeks before. So I thought well.. I wrote something out, a headline, and I got my two younger grandchildren, sat them on the

Tape 3: 2 minutes 4 seconds

couch, and I said now sit down boys I want to tell you a story, a true story and.. I told them more or less what I said and both of them sat there for twenty minutes not moving and they were absolutely.. What shall I say? They were astounded. I wouldn't say they enjoyed it but they found it very, very interesting and when I sort of finished one said, come on tell us some more, tell us some more. And it was the first time they sat together for twenty minutes without fighting. And that's.. I could talk then but a few years ago I couldn't . Because you don't realise how traumatic it must have been. Well can you imagine, I mean you've children of your own.. when they were eight, just to send them away. I mean our mother saved our lives. If they hadn't done that we wouldn't be here. And just to leave everything and not even understand the language and the different way of life but.. We survived. We must have been strong.

RL: When did you start.. Was this group that was formed in Leeds the first refugee group that you belonged to, had you belonged to any other group?

GG: No, no. I didn't realise there were so many. There's about ninety of us in the.. in the group. And there's one in Manchester.

RL: Did you know any of these people before?

GG: Oh some of them yes. Not many. I didn't know.. I mean I knew some of them but I didn't know their history. I didn't know they came over. In fact there's a Jewish grocery that closed down , Modern Food, and I mean for years I used to go there I didn't realise she was one of us, as I might

say. And ... But there's quite few who haven't joined. They just .. They feel it's too traumatic. People still can't talk about it. I'm amazed that I'm talking about it as I am.

RL: So in what way do you feel that this group has sort of helped you?

GG: Uh, well you feel if you have something in common, I can't explain it, but even.. I know one of the members - I've known her for a while - but somehow we've become more.. I'm not saying we're close friends but we.. Can talk to them.. So you feel s if they're one of the big family. More so than someone who hasn't had this experience. I can't explain it. But we meet together and sometimes even if you don't feel like going.. you feel you have to .. And you know it.. You feel somehow better. And we meet five or six times a year and for my sins I'm on the committee, I'm on the catering committee so I have to go every time. And... But it's a good thing that.. We've got an area supervisor, well supervisor.. An area uh... She lives in Liverpool.. Susanne Susanne Green I think her name

Tape 3: 6 minutes 13 seconds

Do you know her? She's marvellous. She gets everything organised. She's organising a trip to the museum in July. Well of course she'd have been in touch with you. Cos I belong to the AJR - that's the Association of Jewish Refugees - but only through joining this.. I didn't even know there was such an organisation. Maybe in the background but I didn't know you could just belong. And we get a newsletter every month. And we've been down to London, made us very welcome, but I felt some of the .. not organisers, help, you know we had lunch there in the.. they seemed bit shteif.. I don't know. Maybe it was my imagination.

RL: What does that mean?

GG: Don't you know Yiddish? Don't understand Yiddish? It's one of those Yiddish words it's difficult to..seemed.. uppity. Don't you understand Yiddish?

RL: That's not a word I'm familiar with, no.

GG: A wonderful language, a wonderful language. And a lot of words you can't transcribe. If you transcribe them it's a different meaning. And in Yiddish it can be the same word but if you say it in a different way it means a different thing. Anyway we're transgressing aren't we?

RL: Do you feel that your experiences affected the way for instance that you brought up your children? Or affected you psychologically in any way ?

GG: Um, well I don't think.. Maybe I spoilt them. I know most mothers do. But I think it has affected my life because I feel as nothing's important really. You know things like.. You spill something on the carpet - so what? Your carpet will be there when you're not. I think, and I don't let, I find small things that upset people.. I remember meeting my mother-in-law first and G-d forbid you spilt something on the table cloth. What difference does it make? And possessions don't mean much to me. I like nice possessions but they're only things. I think it's affected me that way. And I won't have an argument with anybody. And I know the girls used to say to me, tell him, tell him.. You know, I'm not saying... I think we had a wonderful marriage but all marriages you have disagreements and daughters used to say why don't you tell him mum? And I'd say what difference does it make, let him do what he wants, you know.. I think it's affected me that way. Do you think it could have done? Or would I have been just the same?

RL: Did it affect you in terms of religious belief?

GG: Um, yes, you mean.. well I do lead orthodox.. I'm not like you

Tape 3: 9 minutes 55 seconds

but I try to be orthodox.. But just because that's how I've been brought up. I don't think it's that important. I mean I must say I was upset, though I've never told her, when Rochelle got married in the Reform, I'd have liked her to get married in the orthodox .. Um and .. But I don't think it's that important. I want her to be well. I want her to be happy. And I wouldn't have liked her to marry out of the faith, don't ask me why.. Because of the background. I think if you've got a similar background you have more chance of a happy marriage. You've been brought up orthodox, your partner's orthodox.. What.. Do you agree? And well when my younger daughter got married everybody said what lovely family, he comes from some well-known family in Glasgow, his father was a Rabb.. Oh no, his grandfather was a Rabbi and yet it didn't work out. He went off with somebody else. So there's no answer is there..

RL: I asked you a little bit about this before but when you came to Leeds did you find it a different sort of community to Sunderland?

GG: Yes, yes

RL: In what way was it different?

GG: It was different..well the Jewish community in Sunderland was orthodox. I couldn't understand people in town on Shabbos for coffee.. You know that sort of thing. But very few people went to shul on the Shabbos in Leeds. Now they do. And yeah I found it difficult at first but we made a nice circle of friends and I settle down now, I think, and it's, you know, you said had my experience made any difference in my religious belief - I don't know. I try and lead an orthodox life I try and talk to the children but and then sometimes I think, my father was so, so orthodox, and such a good man, he'd give his last penny away - well I told you about the potato pudding giving to the beggars that.. - and yet look what happened to him. Why.. I've never had a grave to mourn over and they say don't get, you don't get buried you get, um, ..what is it incinerated, not incinerated.. You either get buried or cremated. Well look at all the millions that got cremated.. So what's happened to them? I mean how.. I wouldn't like to be cremated, but why should it be sinful, when all these millions, and ninety percent of them - I'm not saying they were all good - the majority of them must have been, and they were all cremated as you might say, so what's the answer? There's no answer. You ask anywhere about, there's no answer. Now we've got a young rabbi, well he's in trouble, he's going, but we had ever such a nice one ...I don't know him.. And he says there's no answer. I mean there's a lot of questions, there's no answer. We have questions every now and again ask the rabbi, instead of a sermon, and one of the youngsters asked the rabbi, he said, tell me

Tape 3: 14 minutes 16 seconds

there was Adam and Eve and they had their sons, who did they marry, if they were the first where does everybody else come from? And you know what the Rabbi said? A very good question, next question please. You know, there's no answer.

RL: In terms of identity, first of all nationality, do you take out British nationality?

GG: Before I was married. Yes, when I was twenty -one.. oh before I was twenty-one. I think there was a special dispensation for people who came over during the war and you could get nationalised. It didn't cost you anything. And I did. Cos I was twenty four before I got married.

RL: Did you have to register with the police at all?

GG: No.

RL: In terms of nationality, how would you describe yourself?

GG: Well, British.

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

GG: I think I do with being Jewish. I think we are different. I don't care what anybody says, we are different. Good or bad, we're different. What do you think?

RL: Can you explain a little bit more what you mean by that?

GG: I don't know. I can't explain it. All I know is this, when we're in company, in strangers, and you meet someone with your background, you feel comfortable. You're not frightened, you say what you want. But when you're in mixed company.. And I don't..it shouldn't be, it's wrong. It shouldn't be like that. But it is.

RL: Do you think you have any kind of continental identity?

GG: I have any continental..?

RL: Identity.

GG: I never thought I had until I joined the HSFA and somehow I feel more, I feel there's an identity, which is ridiculous. I was only eight. The first eight years of your life, I mean the seventy, sixty four years I've been British. Lived British way of life.. So why do I feel an identity with someone that I only mixed with for eight years? I wish someone could explain that one to me. It's difficult isn't it?

Tape 3: 17 minutes 27 seconds

RL: Have you ever been back?

GG: No I haven't. I could.. I never wanted to. And funnily enough in my later years I feel as if I want to and I can't afford it now. And I can't speak the language anyway. We were.. Apparently we just found out recently that the Austrian government had invited people like myself, like Germany did, to come over but we didn't... Nobody in Leeds that I know from Austria, knew anything about it. And we're hoping maybe they'll have another trip which will be subsidised.

RL: Do you receive any restitution?

GG: Yes, I get a pension. I get a pension but I'm no better off. If I didn't get this pension I could ask for benefit. I'm no better off really. Cos my income is higher than so.. But if I didn't have this

income.. my income is low, I've only got low income.. I'm not complaining, I can cope but my income would be low enough to get this bene.. this new.. This pensioners tax thing. So I'm just as well off. I'm no better off. So

RL: How do you feel towards the Germans?

GG: How do I feel towards.. Well what can I say? The generation that caused all the problems well there's not many of them left. And the young generation, it's not their fault what their grandparents or their parents did. And I suppose they're no different.. Although they say there's a lot of anti-Semitism now in Germany and is they're ok..like everybody else..it's uh.. I don't feel any animosity to this present generation, um, unless they do anything wrong. With the anti- Semitism. I mean the, um, tape I did for Sunderland I can't remember his name, he came over from Sunderland, and he came.. Before he came he said do you mind the interviewer is a German girl. She's a student. I said no I don't mind. I said the fact she wants to do it. And she came over and she was such a sweet, such a nice girl and s far as she knows.. You know we had a chat.. She comes from the country, she says her parents didn't know anything about it. They didn't know anything what happened. She says they might've in the background, but they lived their life and so.. Why should I feel any animosity to her?

RL: How secure do you feel in this country?

GG: Secure in... 'cos I'm Jewish? Well I'm beginning to think that things could go bad. I don't want to think about it. I'm a bit of an ostrich. But I mean things all over the world are bad. Not only in this country. And I think the media has a lot to answer for when they start saying the terrorists are coming to London. You know they make people.. They worry people.. And they give terrorists

Tape 3: 21 minutes 44 seconds

ideas. It's a .. it's not .. It's a very worrying situation. I can't do anything, it's not in my time, but you wonder what your grandchildren what they're going to.. What they're going to put up with. It's.. I think it'll be like it says in the bible. It'll just blow up and start again. I don't want to think about it. I'm going to worry will my chicken soup be alright. I'm not going to worry about the world situation. I can't.

RL: Is there anything that we might not have covered or touched upon that you'd like to say? Is there anything we've missed out?

GG: Is there anything..

RL: ..that you'd like add to what we've already said.

GG: Well I think we've covered a lot. Not really, I'm just.. I sometimes wonder, and I used to think when I was a youngster, why was I saved? And I still sometimes think there must have been a reason but I haven't found out the reason yet. And I just try and live, try to be as helpful as I can, and I thank.. I sometimes wonder if I believe in G-d. But there must be something.. And there must be some reason why I was saved and somebody else wasn't.

RL: Is there any message you'd like to end with?

GG: message.. I don't know. I'm not very good with words.. Um.. Can't really think, I just hope that the future will be better than it is at present and I hope the type of life we're living now will improve

and not get worse because it is terrible, terrible worry how things are at the moment.

RL: Thank you very much.

GG: Right, right.

Tape 3: 24 minutes 16 seconds

GG: That's the photograph of my grandfather. My father's father. It was taken 1937 in Poland. His surname was Schiffmann. I don't know his first name.

Right this photograph was taken in Vienna, in our flat. It's my grandfather - my mother's father - and again I don't know his first name but his surname was Windholz. And the little one was me, one year old, and my elder sister Ilse. It was taken in 1931.

Now this photograph is from mother, father and brother, I presume it was taken in Vienna. There were two passport photographs that a friend of mine had made into the one. My mother who's called Rosa,

Tape 3: 25 minutes 33 seconds

Rosa Schiffmann, and my brother Michael Schiffmann and my father was Dovid Majer Schiffmann. And I presume it was taken in 1938 just before I came to England.

Right this photograph was taken in December 1938 just before we left on the kindertransport. It is of myself, my sister Ilse, my sister Ruth and my little brother Michael. It was taken in our flat. I remember this photograph being taken in our kitchen and our mother wanted it as a memento. In Vienna, in our flat, in the kitchen.

Right this photograph was taken at Newcastle station. It was taken on December 31st 1938 and it is a group of children that came on the kindertransport and ended up in Sunderland. I'm third on the right with the label. And my sister, my sister Ruth is next to me.

This photograph was taken at my wedding. Which was June 17th 1956. I'm here with my elder sister Ilse on my right and my younger sister Ruth on my left. It was taken in Sunderland at the Bay Hotel which was where the wedding reception was held.

This is a photograph of my wedding. It took place in Sunderland. The reception was at the Bay Hotel and the date was June 17th 1956. And my husband's name was Stanley Goldberg.

This is the letter I received from the CBF to enable me to get married in a synagogue as I didn't have my parents Ketuba.

This is a photograph of my daughter Rochelle Harris, my son-in-law Mark Harris, my granddaughter Esther Harris and my grandson Joseph Harris. It was taken in Leeds in their garden on the occasion of Esther's barmitzvah in May 2001.

This is a photograph of my daughter Naomi Haase. Her husband Mark Haase and their baby son Zacharia Israel Haase. It was taken on the occasion of his Pidyon Haben. It was taken in Leeds and Sheila and Mark Haase's veranda in May 1994.

Tape 3: 29 minutes 51 seconds