

IMPORTANT

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AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive

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Interview Transcript Title Page

Collection title:	AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive
Ref. no:	28

Interviewee Surname:	Jaques
Forename:	Broch
Interviewee Sex:	Male
Interviewee DOB:	4 July 1931
Interviewee POB:	Vienna, Austria

Date of Interview:	5 August 2003
Location of Interview:	Prestwich, Manchester
Name of Interviewer:	Rosalyn Livshin
Total Duration (HH:MM):	3 hours and 30 minutes

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

INTERVIEW: 28

NAME: JAQUES BROCH

DATE: TUESDAY 5th AUGUST 2003

LOCATION: PRESTWICH, MANCHESTER

INTERVIEWER: ROSALYN LIVSHIN

TAPE 1

RL: I am doing an interview with Jaques Broch and the interview is taking place in Manchester. The date is Tuesday the 5th of August 2003 and I am Rosalyn Livshin. If you can tell me first your name?

JB: Jaques Broch

RL: And what was your name at birth?

JB: Jaques Broch

RL: No middle name or nickname?

JB: No not at birth

RL: Later on?

JB: Later on yes. Every Jewish person under the German occupation was given a middle name, Yehuda I think, I would have to look in my passport actually, Jaques Yehuda and the ladies were given Hanna but I would be able to look in the passport to confirm and everybody was given that name. It was added in to your passport, it was added into your identity card, that middle name.

RL: What was your Hebrew Name?

JB: Yaacov ben Pinchas

RL: And where were you born?

JB: I was born in Vienna Austria on the 4th July, American Independence Day 1931.

RL: Were you named after anybody?

JB: I was named after my grandfather, Jacob, also Yaacov, yes.

RL: Whose father was he?

Tape 1: 2 minutes 22 seconds

JB: That was my father's father.

RL: And what was your father's name?

JB: Paul

RL: And your mother?

RB: Clare

RL: Where was your father born?

JB: My father was born in Vienna and my mother in Bratislava.

RL: Staying first with your father's family, can you tell me something about his family background, his parents, whatever you know

JB: Well I never met my paternal grandfather, in fact I never met my maternal grandfather either. I never knew any of my grandfathers but I knew both of my grandmothers but I do know that my father's father, he was born in about 1850 something or other and he died at a very young age, young compared to nowadays. He died at the beginning of the 20th Century around 1908 or 1912 and by that time he had had 6 or 7 children, of which my father was the eldest surviving at that time and with 2 uncles, 2 aunts, 3 aunts perhaps. That was on my father's side.

RL: What did your grandfather do for a living?

JB: I'm not quite sure but he was in the Austrian army. Whether he was a professional or not I don't quite know but he was a.... sergeant or even a bit higher but he was discharged in about 1900, some time at the beginning of the 20th century about 1900. In fact we have his discharge papers from the Austro-Hungarian Army. A beautiful discharge paper, which we can look at later and a beautiful certificate when he was discharged from the army. Whether he did anything else I am not quite certain. It was a long time before I was born. It is a shame but I never questioned it. That was my... on my mother's side they had a shop, wines and spirits shop in Poland at the time, where they lived, where they came from at the time. That is all I know.

RL: What was her maiden name?

JB: Her maiden name was Bien. B-I-E-N

RL: How many siblings did your mother have?

JB: My mother had quite a few, I think an uncle and about 5 or 6 sisters, none of whom are alive at the moment. In fact I only have one auntie alive at the moment,

who actually married to an uncle of mine, a brother of my father's and that's all she is the only survivor out of the whole family. When I say survivor I mean they did out of them all.

Tape 1: 6 minutes 10 seconds

RL: You say you had a ... Go on

JB: We did have a shop in Vienna and I am not sure whether that belonged to my grandmother, or aunt but we always seemed to be in the shop but that went with the occupation in 1938.

RL: I am just going to ask about whilst you were talking about your mother's family that she was from Poland

JB Yes

RL: Was she the only one who came to Vienna?

JB: No the whole family came so by the time I was born, by the time I knew them the whole family was there.

RL: Including your grandmother?

JB: My grandmother, yes my grandmother, my aunt, my uncle – they were all there.

RL: Your aunts and uncles, on your mother's side, what kind of things were they doing, what were they involved in?

JB: One was a tailor, one was a plumber and my aunts worked in shops as far as I can remember. They had different shops. One was at home with my grandmother looking after her. Nothing fantastic, ordinary life.

RL: What kind of education had your mother had?

JB: She must have had an education in Poland. I don't know what sort of education ladies had in those days, I don't know. I have my father's school reports, all his, but I don't have my mother's. I have never been asked that before.

RL: What kind of religious upbringing did she have?

JB: My mother had quite a fairly religious upbringing. My grandfather was very religious, so they all told me. As a matter of fact I think he must have died after I was born but I cannot remember him at all. I must have been very young. I think he died after I was born with a big beard.

RL: What was his name?

JB: His name was Yehuda. His name actually was Yehuda. That's right; one of my children is named after him.

RL: On your father's side, you say you have his school certificates.

Tape 1: 8 minutes 53 seconds

JB: I have all his school reports, boys school reports. In fact I even have one of his father's school reports dated 1871 and you may ask me how I come to have all of these? Well, my wife Hazel once said to my father, we tried to get all the information out of him. He was pretty modest and he had a very, very adventurous life It was quite incredible. But Hazel once said to him "Pop", we used to call him Pop "What would you do if you had to leave the country very suddenly, what would you take with you, would you take your goods, your chattels or clothes..." and without hesitation he said "you have to take papers, you have to take papers to show who you were, who you are and what you are," He said "That's number one because without papers you are literally nothing" and that is why he came to take all his, my grandfather's school report and his own school report and all his certificates. And he was in the Austrian army during the First World War and he was taken prisoner and he's got all those papers when he was taken prisoner. Where he was in the middle of Siberia in a place called Irkutz and when he returned home and he brought all that with him and the certificate he got later for what profession he was and in fact I have also got my mother's certificates for that as well. Because when you get to your new country you have got to show what you are and I think that is good advice to anybody really. So consequently, we don't throw any old papers out, we have always kept them and they are quite fascinating as well.

RL: Did your father tell you about his experiences in the First World War did you know?

JB: Yes he did actually. He used to tell us. It was a little like the Forsyth Saga. When he used to come to us on Fridays soon after my mother had died, and he used to come to us Friday night for dinner, my children used to probe him and he went on week by week he would tell a little bit more and more. He actually was one of those people who left school gave the wrong age and joined the army. He was due to do medicine. He was due to start there and he joined the army 19, I've forgotten the year he joined the army. I've got it in the paper. He was pretty high up. He worked up to be a colonel or Lt Colonel. He worked his way all the way up there and then they were taken prisoner in 1916, I think. 1916 they were taken prisoner and he was sent to a place called Irkutz, which is spot on in the middle of Siberia. Terribly, terribly cold in the winter and I think it is quite warm in the summer.

He was there when they had the Russian revolution. Being an officer he had a little more freedom and he could leave the camp and go down into the town and he saw quite a bit of the revolution actually happening in front of his very eyes. He saw this and he told me about it. I'm a bit funny about this and when my son was doing history at school and he came home one day and he said and my father said "what did you learn today" and he said "oh we are doing the Russian Revolution", so my father said "what on earth did you learn?" So he told him. So my father said "Well I want to tell you that is not correct". My son said "well that is what I was told" and my father said,

“well I was there and I saw it”. Actually towards the end of the revolution he was in Russia and he saw the reds and the whites fighting and they had to make us their minds who they were going to join but by that time they had escaped from the camp, they had actually escaped from the camp and they had to decide who they were going to join so he was telling my David. “That’s the way it was! I’m sorry I can’t help it. I

Tape 1: 13 minutes 17 seconds

saw it I was there” At that time my father was a very keen chess player and they actually made chess pieces out of stale bread and they made chess pieces and at that time they played in the camp. I think he befriended a station master’s daughter who he made a special friend and he said “we have got to get out of here and you’ve got to have something stamped”. So they befriended the station master’s daughter and one day they persuaded her to get a piece of paper stamped by her father or she would stamp it and once you had one of these stamped papers, and people weren’t very well educated, you could travel. You just showed them this and if it had an official stamp on it, you could travel, that is how they came to leave the camp. He actually finished up, I don’t know how he made a living there, but he spoke Russian extremely well, he had learnt it and he was a quite clever man. He had picked it up very, very quickly and spoke it like a native and they started off on a market. I remember him telling us this and he bought a pair of shoes for 2 roubles and sold them for 4. And that is how they started existing but he actually finished up training Red Army officers at a Red Army Officers school in Tashkent. My father had been in the cavalry and of course had been a colonel and he trained them in horsemanship. Funnily enough I was looking at a map down at Tashkent and he was there. Eventually after he had been there about 6 years he decided it was time to come home and he looked around and noted that the Austrian Ambassador or someone from the embassy was going to Moscow, so he went from Tashkent, he got permission to go to Moscow and he saw this person and that was when he eventually returned home. He had an inborn survival kit in himself really. He was quite fascinating and that was when he eventually came home and he met my mother, they got married.

RL: What did he do when he got back to Vienna, what did he go into?

JB: Oh all sorts of things. I think he had an uncle who had adopted the family, I think became guardian of the family when my grandfather died at an early age and I think this uncle had night clubs or clubs or something and he went to work for him and then he became a rep. and then he learned how to produce perfume and that’s about the only thing that I cannot find now. I remember he had this book at home.... with all the different formulas that he was using to make the perfumes and that is one of the few things I cannot find. I have looked for that book and cannot find it. It is just not around any more. He did that and then we had this shop which was not actually pharmaceutical but perfumery in the shop until Hitler came.

RL: So was your father in charge of the shop?

JB: I think he was on his own at the time selling the perfume. I don’t know whether he was working for the laboratory. I think he was working for some other laboratory or they were working together with him. He seemed to travel around a bit,

but he wasn't away for all that long. I can remember him being at home most of the time and not being away very much.

RL: What kind of religious upbringing did you father have?

JB: He didn't have a very religious upbringing. Not when he was away, I'm sure and not at home, no they didn't.

Tape 1: 17 minutes 40 seconds

RL: How did he meet your mother?

JB: Good question, extremely good question. They must have just met. I think they must have lived in the community. I don't know if it was a shidduch or what. I don't think it was a shidduch. I think they actually just met. Apart from that my father had 2 younger brothers and my mother had sisters and they might have been introduced that way. Good question because normally Hazel, my wife likes to ask people how they met and I don't think she asked my father. When she meets people "How did you actually meet?" and she never asked as far as I remember.

RL: When did they marry?

JB: They married in the 20's in Vienna.

RL: How many children did they have?

JB: Myself and 2 sisters. One who now lives in Canada and one who still lives in Vienna.

RL: What are they called?

JB: Sonia and Lola.

RL: Are they younger than you?

JB: They are both older than me, quite a bit older than me.

RL: When were they born?

JB: In the '20's.

RL: What is your earliest memory as a child?

JB: My earliest memory as a child, well my earliest memory after my mother, is my grandmother, my maternal grandmother, who lived very close to us, I was very close to her. I was a little bit spoilt because I was the youngest of a large family of cousins and I was the youngest. So being the youngest I was spoilt to a certain extent especially by my grandmother. I can remember her cooking, some of the things which she cooked. She used to cook like a large type of ravioli and potato fillings, I used to love that. I remember sleeping, going to sleep with her in her flat which

happened to be in the next building to us. My aunts of course, more the aunts from that side, who spoiled me more. Not that I had not a very nice relationship with my other grandmother and uncles there but I was closer to my mother's sisters and my grandmother there. I remember in Vienna going to the farm and they used to go out to a farm for two or three months and I used to go out and stay a few weeks with them. I remember my cousins, I remember my cousins, very well.

Tape 1: 20 minutes 32 seconds

RL: What farm was this?

JB: They probably took a house on a farm or a cottage, I don't know much, I know we went there. I was about 4 at the time. I know that. My grandmother who loved me very much gave me three eggs in one day and I loved eggs. I was never allowed to eat 3 eggs in one day. I can remember that. Some things, I was never allowed that. I had a very happy family life. My sisters were very close to their cousins and we used to go down swimming in the Donar Canal which is a tributary of the Danube, or the Danube itself. The little canal that comes off the Danube. I remember going down swimming there. Sometimes you remember things from your photographs, which build up in your memory. But those things I remember quite clearly

RL: Whereabouts in Vienna were you living?

JB: We lived in what they call the 20th District, zwanzigster bezirk. I hope I've got these two right and then later we had to move, we were forced to move away from there. We had to give up our home and we moved in with my, later on with my father's mother and that was in zweiter, 2nd district, zweiter bezirk.

RL: What street did you live in the 20th district?

JB: In the 20th district it was called the Wintergasse. I know you haven't asked me that but I shall just tell you a little story about that. It is always amazing how my memory is. I can remember exactly where the Wintergasse was. I have only been back to Vienna for one day. I have no wish to really go back. With a lot of trepidation, I went back but I found out a one day trip from our local airport in Leeds, for one day to Vienna. So Hazel wanted to see it so I said "ok if we can go for one day, I don't mind" and my daughter Estelle wanted to go with us so off we went. We were driving round there. I told you I had a sister living in Vienna. We met up with her. I have seen them since, and we met up with her and we were driving around and I said to my sister, they were taking us to the Wintergasse and I found I could remember when we drove past near the railway station, we should turn in there and we should turn right and I have a map of Vienna and I said "but it is not on the map, I cannot see it on the map but that's as far as I remember where it was" and she said "you are absolutely right but they have changed the name" and on the map it had the new name. She said "You are right" I could have found my way there and then when we had to move away from there we went to a street called Kastalletzgasse, which where I was forced, where we all had to go to school there, the Jewish school there. We had to leave the school where I was before and all the Jewish children had to go to, I think there were one or two, one high school and one Jewish school had to go to the Kastalletzgasse which was convenient in a way because we only lived across the

road and that incidentally, I said to somebody the other day , when we went to see this place as well and oh “ it is still a Jewish school” and they said no, “it is a Jewish school again”. It had not been a Jewish school the whole time. There is a Jewish school there now in the same place, in the same building but it had not been continuous since from the time I went in Kastalletzgasse.

Tape 1: 24 minutes 42 seconds

RL: Coming back to where you were living, can you describe the apartment and what it was like, where it was in the block?

JB: Well they had big tenement blocks in Vienna, a big gate at the bottom. I can describe it because I saw it so recently, about 5 years ago. The gates were still there, I did not go into the apartment. You walked in, living room, bedroom, I can't remember how many bedrooms we had, kitchen. There was nothing exceptional about it. That is as far as I can remember. There were some other apartments on the same floor.

RL: What floor were you on?

JB: I think we were on the fourth floor. Funnily enough that building and the one next to it is still standing in that street. All the other buildings have either been demolished or and only these two are still there.

RL: What was the address?

JB: 29 Wintergasse, 29 and 31. I think my grandmother lived at 29 and I think we lived at 31.

RL: Were there other Jewish families in the block?

JB: I think there must have been. There was a very large Jewish community around there and there was a Jewish club that I used to be taken to when I was younger, round the corner and there was the shul around the corner. I can't remember, I remember having some friends at the Jewish club but I cannot remember where they lived.

RL: What clubs did you go to?

JB: It was a Jewish centre. It's a shame because I have got a photograph of all the children there but it is at my home in Israel at the moment. It is a shame because somebody might see these photos and say oh that's my? I have never been in touch with anyone in the photographs. I remember the boy standing next to me. I was only seven at the time and he was just coming up to seven at the time. The boy standing next to me being my friend but I cannot remember his name.

RL: Which was the shul that you went to?

JB: I can't remember that either. It might have been Leopoldstrasse but I am not quite sure. Because people talk about names of shuls but I can't remember. It was just

around the corner, I remember that. I will have to look it up on the map actually and find out what they called the street.

RL: Did you father belong to any clubs or organisations, was he involved in anything?

JB: Well I don't know but I do know, another one of my early memories, taking

Tape 1: 27 minutes 32 seconds

me to watch certain Jewish Sports Clubs, they were quite into it at that time and we were then a large Jewish community in Vienna with a very well known Jewish Sports Club, which is still going Hakoah. They had a very good football team which played in the league and I remember being taken to football matches to see Hakoah play. I think there were even other ones. I don't know if there was Macabbi at the time but there was certainly Hakoah. The organisation I have come across it. The organisation is still going in different towns around the world....

RL: Did you play sport?

JB: Oh I play all sorts of sports.

RL: Then in Vienna

JB: Oh then, well I suppose I kicked a ball around and no I just played with my cousins.

RL: Was your father, was he involved in sport activity?

JB: I don't think so. He used to kick a ball around with me. I remember that. I think football was their love. Like you have here in Manchester. At that time actually, Austria was one of the top teams and I can remember one of their top players, a chap called Sindelar and I mentioned it to somebody and he said "oh can you remember him. I went to see him once". I don't know who he played for but it was one of the teams in Austria at the time.....

RL: What about music?

JB: Oh yes my father was actually very musical. He loved opera. He really did. In fact when he went into Russia, when he was living in Russia at the time, wherever he was, he went to the opera and he told us he saw Eugene Onegin and he saw it about 30 times. 30 times! He said "well there was nothing else on in this place, we had no choice". He went there every night and he would queue for hours to get into the Viennese Opera House. He would queue for six hours just to get to stand at the top. He really loved the opera. He took me to the opera afterwards in Leeds as well.

RL: Did he play any instrument himself?

JB: No...

RL: What about your mother, was she musical, was she interested in music?

JB: She went along and she enjoyed it. I think my musical education came more from my father's side. A lot of the opera that I learned came from him. He must have taken me more than I remember really. But that was his love both back in Russia and even before that he never lost that love for opera right till the end.

Tape 1: 30 minutes 42 seconds

RL: What about reading? Did they belong to a library or did you read much, whilst you were there or did they read much?

JB: I can't remember. My father had another love which I can tell you radio, he loved radio. He felt you could go round the world in the radio and he was always up to date with the radio and.... one of the things they came and took from us from the Kristallnacht, they came, they knew he had a radio and they came and the first thing they went for was his radio. But he loved the radio...Even when we came to England, we had the old Marconi and that was another one of his loves.

RL: Was he interested in politics?

JB: He was at one time. I think he must have been a bit of a leftie at the time. Certainly when he came back from Russia in his early days. I don't know about later on. I can't remember but when he came back from Russia, he had been with the Red Army, he had met some of the leading communists, leaders, propagators at the time in the early 20's., what's the name, Luxemburg, what was the first name I knew them... I think later on he softened a little bit. Certainly when he came back from Russia, I assume he must have been quite left at the time.

RL: Was he involved in communal politics at all?

JB: I don't think so. I don't think so. I would not know. I was a little bit too young to notice what he was doing. I was interested in getting to know the world the time.

EL: What about your mother, was she interested in anything or involved in anything that you can remember?

JB: Well they were part of the Jewish community certainly later on. She helped in the Judischen Kultur Gemeinde that was the Jewish cultural organisation, if you want to call it that and she worked in and they had a big soup kitchen because people needed it. I am talking about after Hitler came to Vienna until the time that we left. I have quite a few photographs from the kitchen and some certificates from there. There must have been certain aspect because to it some of my aunts and uncles went to Israel in 34/35 and then some of my other cousins came in 37 and 38 and I had quite a few cousins so there must have been some tendency in that direction.

EL: How interested were your parents in Zionism?

JB: I don't think they were until the time came that you had to leave and I think it was a matter of where to go or wherever you could go. We were going to go with the

Mizrachi at one time and it was a matter of what came up first but I don't think they were great Zionists, even though they came from where Herzl lived, but I don't think so. My father might have done, might have been talking about it but I don't know.

RL: The first school that you went to, how old were you when you first started?

Tape 1: 34 minutes 47 seconds

JB: You started school at since the age 6 there. I must have started at school and then had to change because once the Nazi occupation came in, as I said before, all the Jewish children were delegated to schools that they had to go to. I went to this one in Kastalletzgasse. I was delegated there. I think I lived in the Wintergasse and it wasn't all that far away but then we had to move into the Kastalletzgasse. I don't really know what happened to the home in Wintergrasse or whether my grandmother still stayed there. I don't know what happened to her home, now I come to try and recall. I know we had to move then.

RL: Do you remember Hitler coming in, the Nazis coming in and can you describe what you remember from the time?

JB: Yes very much – I remember listening to broadcasts and I can remember the Chancellor saying that they had now come in and we had to give in to them. And I remember his words finishing up, being an Austrian I remember his words saying Long Live Austria being his very last words and then it was quiet. Then Hitler came in. I remember him marching in; a lot of things were inhibited at the time. He came in April, March, April 1938 and I do, I can remember being with my cousin and throwing stones at the Hitler youth and running as fast as I could. I can actually remember throwing these stones there and they chucking and they chasing away as fast as we could. Finished up at my uncle's house that time. I can remember Kristallnacht quite well. We were at home and were told, don't open the doors and don't look out of the windows and eventually we had a knock at the door which we expected. I don't know how we communicated; I don't think we had a phone to communicate with our aunts and uncle. I don't know. The Nazis were there and who was leading them? Our very nice friendly neighbour. They came in and looked around and said "we'll have the radio, we will take the radio I was out there in the back room, they took the radio but I don't think they took anything else, quite honestly. They may have taken one or two things. Oh One of the most important things, they took my father. Sorry I have forgotten that bit. They took my father. They took one person, one member of each Jewish family wherever they went all over Vienna and they took my aunt who was living with my grandmother. They took one member of each family and my 2 uncles, my father's brothers had heard about this and they hid away somewhere. They were bachelors at the time and they disappeared somewhere, and we did not know where my father had gone to and my aunt was released the next day. My aunt was released the next day, I don't know on what grounds. She was quite attractive. She had to go and look after her mother, anyway they did release her but we had no idea where my father was. And eventually got word, not officially, unofficially, that he was being held in a school about a quarter of a mile from where we lived, where they were holding a lot of these people they had taken to the school. So we went down there but we couldn't get any official word, we looked around and I think eventually we found out for sure that he was there and

somebody had seen him there. We just waited and waited, we didn't know what had happened and I can't whether I saw him looking out of the window once and he was released after 14 days and he came home and he was released because we had permits to leave Vienna and he was released on those grounds and we had to get out of Vienna within a certain period of time.

Tape 1: 39 minutes 35 seconds

RL: Do you want to have a little drink of water, take a drink of water?

JB: And our permits were to go to Manchuria from Vienna, via Russia to Manchuria and to Shanghai. We had a, one of my father's sisters had gone that way, she had gone in 1938 or 37, the beginning of 38 and she sent us a work permit, you had to have a work permit when we went and she sent us this work permit and we had all the visas to go and on that condition he was released from prison, where he was being held. There were some horrific stories in that prison, actually despite the fact that it was so early, what happened there. Quite a few people committed suicide. Jumped off the fourth, fifth floors. They had to stand outside naked outside in the yard naked, for hours and hours. This was only early on but before we could go, we planned to go, Russia closed its doors to transit visas and the only way we could get there was to go via Russia, so I can remember my father going up to Berlin which was quite a long journey in those days, he went away literally for a week to try and get some permits etc and when he came back he did not, so we had to look at other lines. One was either Israel or my 2 uncles at that time had gone underground and they were in England. They managed to make their way to England so we looked towards England as well. So they start looking, applying for different visas etc- Can I just go back a little bit to Kristallnacht?

RL: Yes, yes, please do.

JB: Because one of the other things I can remember quite clearly was looking out of the window and seeing people scrubbing the pavement. I mean that was no myth at all, that actually the truth, I saw that there. In fact one of my aunties who really did not want to tell her story at all, she had written it down. But she didn't, she was very unhappy about it. She was the only survivor of my whole family, she was one of the people scrubbing the pavement. I don't know if it was outside our house but she was pulled in for scrubbing the pavement. In fact she told me she was only about 16 at the time and she was walking with her friend and they were stopped by the Nazis and they said to her friend "are you Jewish, Juden?" and she said "yes" and they said "we want you" and my aunt by marriage said to them "well I am Jewish as well" and they said "well you had better come along as well" and they put them to work, scrubbing and she was called to clean the city, civic hall, if you like, they phoned up they need somebody, so they said "right, take a bucket and mop" and she had to walk right across Vienna from where she was living to the centre of town, which was a long way and she stayed there all day long cleaning it and they sent her home in the evening and they took her address in case they wanted her again, but when she got home, her mother was hysterical as she did not know where she was and second of all that they had an address. But she had a very sad story to tell but she can't bring herself to do it. She gets very upset by it. I remember going round the next day, seeing or very shortly afterwards, seeing that the shul had been desecrated around the corner. My mother,

actually who didn't look, who was blondish and did not have particularly Semitic looks, she managed to go up and she went out and she went round and she came back and told us what she saw and it was pretty horrific. Shop windows smashed, people scrubbing the streets, people being abused, pushed off the pavement. Food was then difficult to get, buy.

Tape 1: 44 minutes 8 seconds

RL: What had they done to the shul?

JB: I think the shul had been burned. The windows were all smashed or burned and I know it was destroyed. I remember when I went out maybe it was a few days later or a week later, I remember the shul I used to go to, not as regularly as I go now but I remember I did go there with my aunts and cousins.

RL: Before the Nazis came in.....

JB: One more thing, I must tell you in certain aspects, the person that led them, our most loving neighbour, I think my father, he once said to my father later on, he said "you know if it hadn't been me, when they were going to come in, it might have been worse". You can take that however you want and it could quite well be true. He certainly wasn't very friendly. He wasn't on his own so he could not show any friendliness. He said "I came because if it hadn't been me it could have been a lot worse."

RL: How friendly had you been with the family?

JB: I can't remember but they were friendly. We were neighbours and we had a good relationship before that, so take that it as it comes.

RL: That is what I was going to ask; before the Nazis came in how did you parents get on with the non Jewish people around them. What were the relations like between Jews and non Jews?

JB: I can't remember, I can't remember many non Jewish people then. I can only remember my own family. It was quite an extensive family and my cousins. I can't remember the relationship. I think I got on quite well with that particular neighbour at the time. They were quite friendly. I don't think there were any close friendships with them.

RL: Do you remember any anti-Semitic incidents?

JB: No not before the Nazis, not before the Nazis came... But then I would have been sheltered being the youngest in all the family. I don't, cannot remember.

RL: Were your parents discussing something that might have happened, any anti-Semitic incidents that might have happened to them?

JB: I can't remember

RL: You were probably too young.

JB: I'll pass on that one. No I can't remember. I don't think we really mixed much with non Jewish people as such. There might have been one or two occasions it happened to one of my cousins but I wouldn't like to say, no.

Tape 1: 46 minutes 59 seconds

RL: What kind of religious upbringing did you have in Vienna?

JB: Probably what you might call very middle of the road, very, very middle of the road. My grandmother, who we actually left behind in Vienna. I mean she survived at the time we left but she died during the war there. She was very religious. I think she had quite a, I can remember learning the shemah from my grandmother when I used to sleep there. I can remember this clearly, she took her turn and she taught me the shemah in bed when I was a little boy. I remember that to this day and I told that to my family recently so I think a lot of it must have come from her. One of my uncles was quite religious in fact he was very religious. He finished up in Israel. In fact he was the only brother, I think he was the only boy, yes, and I remember going there for Seder night when all the family got together, it always used to be at his house. But I think it was very much middle of the road. I mean I used to go to a Jewish club around the corner and to the shul, not as regularly, you see. Very middle of the road. Certainly it wasn't Reform or to that extent. There must have been Reform then but I can't remember Reform at all.

RL: Did you have Hebrew lessons?

JB: I think I did at this club but I was very young and it must have been very, very elementary if I did. I remember how to get to this club, it was right and second right again and it was round there. I have a photograph of that and a photograph of when I was at school. I think I mentioned that before.

RL: Did you grandmother cover her hair?

JB: No, no. I have quite a few photographs and I don't think so. It might have been a sheitel, I don't know, it never occurred to me. I don't think so. It didn't look like a sheitel. I don't really know.

RL: In your story, oh the other thing I was going to ask you, you said that when your father was in the prison, that it was quite horrific. Did he actually personally suffer in any way?

JB: Only to the extent, well the same as others did. They made you stand for hours in the bitterly cold. It was in November. It was bitterly cold. They said they had to stand the whole night or the whole day in the yard outside. I can't remember food was, but it wasn't very nice. He said people committed suicide from it, they jumped out into the yard from above, he saw a few do that. So I don't think, he wasn't tortured or anything like that. It depends to what extent you take the torture. It was bad enough having to stand around with your hands raised for hours and things like that in the cold. I mean that was bad enough.

RL: So in the story we were at the point of, they were looking for somewhere else to go.

JB: Yes that's right, so they looked around and some of the family were in Israel already and some of our family had come to England and my mother was working in

Tape 1: 51 minutes 16 seconds

the Jewish Kultur Gemeinde at that time. She also took a course in chiropody. A one year course to give her something a profession and how did we come to go to England? We got a work permit to come to England. China was ruled out completely it just was not feasible. We had to have a permit to come to England. They got a permit from one of the organisations. I would think my uncle might have pushed, got to know one of these organisations in Leeds and he got a permit to come as domestic servants to a place near York and we knew that things were getting pretty bad at that time but on their passport it said distinctly they got this permit, visa, without children, Jack and Sonia. Sonia being my sister who was under 16, my other sister was over 16, didn't come on, had her own passport. And it distinctly said "without these two children." They had a permit, so they tried to apply to get permission for my sisters to come. There was a long waiting list and you had to go to the embassy and we knew that things were getting pretty bad, so somebody suggested to my mother or suggested to my father. "Why doesn't your wife (my mother) write to the Queen of England as a mother to a mother, send a letter from a mother to a mother explaining what the position is and within one week, my sisters were called for a medical maybe 10 days, but very shortly after that, they were called for a medical. When they got to the Austrian embassy somebody said, "how did you manage this so quickly? Have you got some connections?" So we don't know what happened there. And they were called to the medical and the procedure was, once you had your medical which you passed, you get your visa within about a week to 10 days and things were pretty bad, so my father said "right, we will go off now and we will take Jack and they will follow within a week" which unfortunately did not materialise because we were the last train to leave Vienna and the war broke out during that week. War broke out the day after we got to London. So I can tell you about that later.

RL: What date did you leave Vienna?

JB: I think end 30th August - something like that. 29th, 30th of August, something like that.

RL: How were you allowed to go with your parents?

JB: Ah that is an interesting point because it said on the passport without Jack. We got to the border between Germany and Holland. The train stopped and all the border police, Nazi border police came aboard and inspected everyone and looked at everything and they came to us and looked at my father's papers and looked around and said, pointing at me sitting in the corner shrunk up and said "who is he?" He said "that is my son" but it says on here without Jack, without Jack, it says on here. You cannot take him. I was getting smaller and smaller in the corner. I can remember this conversation. He said, "well I can't leave him behind he's only a little boy."

“I am sorry you can’t take him. What if they don’t let him in, in England and he has to come back again and they said “you cannot take him” and they were looking, looking at my father’s papers and all of a sudden he said, “I see you were an Officer in the First World War.” So my father said “that is correct”. The fellow clicked his heels, saluted him and said “I am also an officer in the army, I salute you and I wish you the best of luck”. He said “I am an officer, a fellow officer and I wish you the best of luck” And that is how

Tape 1: 56 minutes 15 seconds

I came. I don’t think I had any difficulty when we got to England, there was nothing here. We just went over by boat from The Hook of Holland to Harwich I think and then registered in Bloomsbury House in London and then went up to Leeds where I had to go into a hostel. There was a hostel in Leeds. Even though my grandmother did live there, but for some reason I had to go into a hostel while my parents went to work as domestic servants in this very nice family in a huge house at a place called Alney near York. My mother was a cook and my father was a general handyman and that is where they were.

RL: Can you remember first of all do you remember the packing and what your parents brought with?

BL: Papers, papers mainly, not much else. I don’t know we had some things over and I don’t know whether that came with my parents or whether that came with my uncles or when my grandmother had come over, to join my uncles, I don’t know. We had some bedding, we had bedding, I remember that. Because you get this special eiderdown, continental down which you could not get in England at the time and they said “take that with you.” I think we brought that. We must have brought some things because some things we have. My father had a very fine domino set, which I still have to this day. It looks like ivory although I don’t think it is ivory. It is very nice and must have come over with them. We could not take much. I mean it was a matter of getting out quickly.

RL: Did anybody supervise the packing?

JB: No. oh you mean, no. I don’t know if they went through it at all. Whatever we took, I don’t remember now. That I can’t remember.

RL: Did you have the suitcases with you?

JB: Yes, yes

RL: How many were you allowed?

JB: Oh I don’t know. I was too excited looking over the boat and looking for England in the distance. All these places I had been told about.

RL: How did you feel about leaving?

JB: You are leaving, I don't know at the time, I left my grandmother behind I left all my cousins behind. I mean it wasn't very pleasant. I wasn't very happy about leaving but on the other hand I suppose at that age it might all have been a little bit of an adventure. I mean I probably didn't realise that I wasn't going to go back, I might not have realised at the time. Actually one of my worst days later on came when I was in this hostel and that was when I was really very upset. My father came to tell me that he was going to be interned. I did not know what that meant at that age, he told me and I think the police came with him to tell me and I think these two policeman and I was very upset at that time when he went. That was worse than leaving Vienna.

Tape 1: 59 minutes 57 seconds

Because I think at that time I really began to realise that things that when he was taken away again. I could not tell the difference between the British police and the Austrian and the Nazis at that age, I just knew that he was being taken away. I remember that. I was crying really. He was interned for about six months I think to the Isle of Man. After he came back, eventually he went into munition production. He trained as an operator, a lathe operator and people. Oh incidentally there they had farm shops, butcher shops and what they used to do, they always used to come round and see my parents. They loved them.

RL: The film is just about to end.

Tape 1: 60 minutes 0 second

TAPE 2

Tape 2: 0 minute 30 seconds

RL: This is the interview with Jaques Broch and it is tape number 2.

JB: That is correct

RL: So you just wanted to correct the names. When I asked you about the extra name that you were given.

JB: Yes I had a quick glance and I don't know how, I must have had a senior moment but the name that all the Jewish people, all the Jewish male people had added to them was Israel and all the females had to add the name Sarah. So I became Jack Israel Broch and my mother became Clara Sarah Broch or Chaya Sarah Broch. Let's have that on the record.

RL: I was going to ask you, you know how you mentioned that 2 uncles had come to England earlier, how do you know how they had got into England, on what kind of permit they came?

JB: I don't know but as it happens I just recently acquired the papers of one of my uncles that came and I have not had a chance of looking at them yet. But they were 2 bachelors and they were, they could look after themselves. They could talk themselves in and out and they were all right.

RL: What were your first impressions of England when you first arrived?

JB: I couldn't speak any English; well I couldn't speak any English. My father had learned some. Yes, I'll tell you it was very funny. I remember getting on a tram in London; they had trams in those days in London. Maybe it was in Leeds, no I think I was still in London, not in Leeds then and we got on and my father was standing and he was trying to close the doors, a gentleman came through the doors and he could not close it and it stuck and someone said what are you doing? He said "I am trying to close the doors". "We don't close the doors here, you know, we leave them open

Tape 2: 2 minutes 42 seconds

here!" I can remember him pulling and tugging away. That was a little impression I had but otherwise, I really, I think too much was going on to make a permanent impression until I remember, I got to the hostel in Leeds and I was actually the second youngest there, One off from the youngest. There was one boy younger than me who became a very good friend of mine who I see quite regularly who became a doctor, a very nice family. I know his family and kept in touch with his family all the time.

RL: What was his name?

JB: I can't, it was Kurt Simon. He had an older brother called Ernest and we were the two youngest there. I can't remember many of the other boys there they were much older than me and the whole thing was all new. The hostel was in Stainbeck Lane in Leeds. Quite a few people did go through it. I remember the hostel, going to music lessons to a certain lady called Nina Rosenberg, who we still know very well indeed. We became very friendly with Nina. Her name when she got married, she became Nina Cohen. She is still a great pianist. We used to go to music lessons. We learned, I have no idea at that time what the thing was all about. We would learn "Some talk of Alexander and some of Hercules" I was only 8 years old! I had no idea what all this was about. I did not know what language it was even in. Having to learn that and Cherry Ripe. But she was a very, very nice lady and she in matter of fact is still in touch with quite a lot of the boys from the hostel. I think at that time she was 18 or 19. We have had a lot of connections with her since then. That's one of the memories of the hostel.

RL: Can you describe the hostel?

JB: It was a big, big house and I am not sure if it is still there. Somebody told me the other day, I met some people in Leeds, who told me they were in the hostel and I could not remember them from the hostel but when you start talking I met some people in a café, but they were in the hostel. Interesting. Somebody told me they just passed there and went to have a look at it and obviously the building must still be there. It was big house with a big garden and a small football field at the back. That is where I learned to play football. We played football at the back and I was taught what to do and then I was sent off to school and I could not talk much English. I was good at maths; I could follow that quite easily. But there again it was only a Junior School. Eventually when my father came back, we went to live with my grandmother, my two

uncles had moved out by then. I think they had gone to London. My father learned to work a lathe and went to munitions manufacture and we lived with my grandmother. I went to different schools then to Cowper Street school, where I still have friends from that school. This is all in Leeds.

RL: How long were you in the hostel for?

JB: I can't remember whether I left the hostel when my mother came to live with my grandmother. I think when my mother came I left the hostel shortly after and I think it must have been, my two uncles were also interned by the way on the Isle of Man, and I think it must have been before my father came home because I remember

Tape 2: 6 minutes 37 seconds

when he was going to come home, they cooked a special meal for his homecoming and I remember that and it wasn't for years, it was a matter of a few months I think.

RL: Who was in charge of the hostel?

JB: Well the Jewish Community set up this hostel. There were one or two around the place. In Leeds they still have a register of all the refugees, a register with all the names of all the refugees that came to Leeds. They have that there and my parents and I, we are in that. There was also an Ort, this was not Ort, they also was an Ort College in Leeds and Ort had one or two houses but that was, I only found that out later on. My father went to ORT to learn another profession. I think it must have been set up by the community and I think one of the benefactors, one of the main benefactors must have been somebody called Mark Lubavitch. A very well to do man and was quite, very charitable. I remember his name being bandied about all the time.

RL: Who looked after you inside the hostel?

Tape 2: 8 minutes 0 second

JB: We had a warden there and a matron.

RL: Do you remember their names?

JB: Yes I do but it has slipped my memory. No gone.

RL: How many children were in the hostel?

JB: Oh there were quite a few. I can't remember but there might have been 40 or something like that.

RL: Was it evenly between boys and girls or more of one than the other?

JB: I can't remember many girls there but I wasn't interested in girls at that time. But I can't remember any girls there. Maybe it was just boys. Very strange. There must have been some but I can only remember only boys because the girls did not play football and I used to spend my time playing football and we went, being so

young, we went to different schools to what the older ones went to, so I probably spent most of my time with Kurt and his brother.

RL: Where were the other children from? Were they also from Vienna or Austria or were they from all over?

JB: They were all from Germany or Vienna, they all spoke German. I think from recollection we did not come on like the Kindertransport. I think we just arrived there individually. I don't know how we came to be there. I think it was part of the communal service at the time, the Jewish community in Leeds.

RL: Did you get to know any other children in the hostel?

Tape 2: 9 minutes 48 seconds

JB: Yes I did. I don't know where they are now. Some are in Canada and sort of, another person that actually lived not far, eventually went to live not far from where we lived in Leeds. But a lot of them I can't remember, certainly not by name.

RL: What was the atmosphere like within the hostel?

JB: It was Jewish on Orthodox lines. It annoys me I can't remember the name of the person, the warden.

RL: It will come back later. How was Shabbos celebrated?

JB: It was in an orthodox line, Kasher. I'm not so sure if we even didn't have a chaplain there. The Rabbonim used to come and visit as well. I can remember that. I don't think we had a Chaplain, a living in Chaplain, unless he was one of us, that was possible.

RL: What did you do Yomtov time, were you taken to one of the shuls or were there services in the hostel?

JB: There were services in the hostel as far as I can remember. The shul was a long way away, well not compared if you were in the car but to walk it would have been. I don't think it would have been good for all the Jewish children to walk all that distance. It was actually near where my grandmother lived, it wasn't all that far really. In those days it seemed a long way. When you are young it seemed, in those days it seemed, things seemed a lot longer, further away than they are now. It wasn't exactly in a Jewish district, but it is now. The Jewish district, the Jews in Leeds eventually starting moving North, not as far as they have moved now. But it wasn't all that far away then either.

RL: How strict were they with the children?

JB: They were pretty strict. Yes. The person in charge was pretty strict. I can't remember the name. It is annoying me.

RL: Can you remember any incidents, any happenings?

JB: No not really. A bit of cold water occasionally. I wanted to tell you about my cousins so can we go back to Vienna? Two of my family had come to Israel already in 1935 and unfortunately it was very sad for them because their mother, my mother's sister got killed in a road accident about 11 months after they arrived and they had 3 children, a boy one year older than me, so he would have been only 5 or 6 at the time and a sister of 9 and another brother who actually is alive, his sister is also alive, this other brother will be 80 this year on December 1st so he must have been 1935, how old would he have been ...he would have been 12. And unfortunately their mother died. The youngest of those somebody called Kalman..... There were three or four of us younger cousins together, he was the first one to leave. I was the youngest and he was about a year older than me and Kalman, he became a general in the Israeli army, a very well known, a very highly respected general. Kalman Magen was his name, who

Tape 2: 14 minutes 9 seconds

was in charge of the armoured corps in Sinai during the Yom Kippur war. The officer changed for the armoured corps after Kalman Magen. He actually came out very highly after the Yom Kippur war. A lot didn't but he did and unfortunately he died in Sinai a few months after, he died in his camp overnight with a heart attack overnight. That was Kalman and his sister Myra was so keen to help in the Second World War, she joined the British Army gave the wrong age, she was too young to join, so she gave the wrong age and she drove huge lorries in North Africa, that was Myra, she is still alive. The eldest one he is still alive he would be 80. One of my other cousins, who I was very, very close to, his parents, he was the one whose father we used to go to Seder with and everything, his father had gone to Israel and I do not know why, this must have broken their heart but he was left behind with my grandmother at the time. Presumably to follow on because he was that much older. He was taken by the Nazis, taken to Auschwitz. He must have been 12 at the time, 12 or 13. Escaped, walked all the way back to Vienna where unfortunately he was captured and taken again and we did not hear from him after that. That was my cousin Charlie.

Another cousin of mine who was part of a larger family, two of the children had gone to Palestine at the time, one had gone earlier. She had about 5 siblings left, brothers and sisters and they perished they did not come out of it. There is one girl actually who still lives in America at the moment and we were in touch with her but her older brother died. That's the Mintzers. My other aunt and uncle, they also went to Palestine, they left and came back to Palestine.

RL: What were their names, if you give their names so that we know who you are speaking about

JB: Yes, well the one I have just told you about, where all the family perished except the two left over, that was the Mintzer family, their younger son was Borshi. The one where they left their youngest son behind, that was Bien's same as my mother's name. That was my Uncle Bien, whose brother, well they all died in Israel but his brother, his eldest brother still lives in a kibbutz in Israel now. That was the Bien family. The only one left behind was the Bien family. The only other one his name was Peres. The other family were Papernicks. They had no children and they also went to Palestine, left and came back and eventually finished up in Florida for the

last few years of their lives. I have a cousin living in Leeds. She came to England quite early; she had a work permit as well. My auntie Miriam, she has died now, that's auntie Miriam. One of my aunts stayed behind with my grandmother in Vienna and they died I think my grandmother died of natural causes eventually. A broken heart perhaps and my auntie also died I think she died of natural causes. I think she actually died of TB where she contracted it I don't know. She died in Vienna during the war. My father's brother came to Leeds. My father's sister went to Australia. She was the only one that went out to Shanghai and after Shanghai, a lot of Jewish people who had gone that way, carried on to Australia after the war. In fact when we were in Australia last year there was an exhibition there of the Jews of Shanghai and it showed how these people had come. There is a book out, a very good book called The Fuji Plan, that describes exactly how they went. And there is the Yeshivah, the Mir Yeshiva from Poland that did exactly the same. They went to Shanghai on exactly the

Tape 2: 19 minutes 26 seconds

same route. A good book, the Fuji Plan, my father gave it to me and each of the aunts and uncles, one in Australia, I think that is it.

RL: How did your uncles manage to get your grandmother over to England?

JB: They must have got a permit. Perhaps she was elderly and they just managed to get a permit. They came to Leeds and they must have got help from the Leeds community. They did quite well in Leeds to bring people over. They managed to get people to sponsor them. You could not come unless you had someone, some work to come to and they would take any sort of work to come over.

RL: Tell me about the family that your parents were with and their experience?

JB: Well they were in this huge farm and huge mansion that they lived in just outside York and my parents had just come to England and knew from nothing. I occasionally went to visit them. I could not go every week just every now and again. They were very nice people and my mother was a cook and it comes to the first Friday night, she makes chicken soup and she brings this chicken soup in and they said, "what's this?" She said "it's chicken soup" and they said "well there is nobody ill". Apparently they only had chicken soup when somebody was not well. There must be some curative properties in chicken soup, the way we always believe. She said "Well there's nobody ill but this is very good for you on a Friday night". Anyway, very politely, they ate it and come the Friday night afterwards they ate it and come the Friday night after that they asked for it. "I hope we are getting chicken soup". They took quite a liking to it. It was quite funny. Nobody said "I wonder what this is doing here.!" Another funny thing, there was a mix up of words. The word basin in English it is a bowl but in German it is a brush and I think my father, I don't know which way he was asked to get a bowl and he comes in with this brush and they said "what's that for?" He said "well you asked for a basin, you know. Things like that happened. Then I was actually evacuated at the beginning of the war to Lincolnshire. I went with another Jewish family to this farm and I remember being, this was very early on because I spoke no English at the time and I had not learned any English whatsoever and I was quite quick to pick it up, but what I could not tell them was they kept telling me, drumming certain words into me. This is this and shoe, shoe, shoe, well shoe was

easy, it was almost the same but I didn't know how to tell them OK I know what it is you don't have to go on and on and I couldn't tell them that. But I must say I did very well in English. I learned pretty quickly.

RL: When you were evacuated, was that from the hostel?

JB: No that was from the school. It was the Leeds City evacuation of school children.... I think I had left the hostel by then. We were not evacuated for long. My parents decided we had better come home. We were not in very much of a Jewish environment. The people were very nice to us. In fact there was a B'nai Akivah camp just near the place near Sleaford in Lincolnshire, just near there. People were very nice to us but my parents decided you had better come home with these other friends as well, so we came home.

Tape 2: 23 minutes 43 seconds

RL: What was the family called, that your parents were working for?

JB: Do you know, Lumm, the Lumms. Just before we went on Aliyah, Hazel was asked to give a talk in the North Riding somewhere about 30 miles north of York and it was a ladies group or a mixed group, I can't remember if it was a mixed or ladies group, round circle, square circle, whatever, she speaks to them all and we were sitting with some people and apparently people came to this luncheon from a long, long way around 30 or 40 miles, and we were sitting with a lady and I was talking to them and said my parents lived in Alney and she said "oh I know that place" this lady and I said "well they lived with some people called Lumm" and she said "I knew the Lumms". She said "But as a matter of fact I must tell you they have got two daughters, they auctioned a lot of goods from this house and this was just recently and I bought two chairs from there, two antique chairs and I bought them from the Lumms and I know the daughters" and it was such a coincidence. They were very nice people and they took a liking to my parents and used to bring us presents every Christmas, I must say, Chanukah presents, Christmas to them and they used to come around and visit every year for quite a lot of years and they were very nice people. So no complaints there.

RL: Can we go back to the Hostel? Do you have any other memories of the place?

JB: No not really. Too much was happening at the time; too much was happening at the time to really take it in. I went to school and I was learning English and learning music to sing with Nina, she was lovely and occasionally I went to visit my grandmother. I got taken there in a police car because I don't know how I came to lose my way and arrived at the door in a police car and these two policemen delivering me to my grandmother or my mother, who was probably with my grandmother at the time. I made new friends.

RL: How did you get on at school?

JB: Very well. After we left the hostel we went to a different school, mostly Jewish. This one was a primary school and I still made good friends from there and at that time they were mainly Jewish children at this particular school.

RL: Where was it?

JB: Cowper St Primary School, Now very much a West Indian district but at the time it was very much a Jewish district. I enjoyed it I made good friends there and I learned my English there and was good at Maths and then went to Leeds Modern school at the age of 11 where I made some more friends who are still very, very closely attached to me, still have a lot of these friends from the Leeds Modern school. There were not so many Jewish people at the Leeds Modern School so we were a little bit closer. A few of us, most of us went to B'nai Akiva. We also went to Habonim. There were quite a few, three or four very close friends. In any case we took up dentistry and went to Dental School together and it is nice to keep up with these old friends.

Tape 2: 28 mins 0 second

RL: So you went to B'nai Akiva? Who was running it who was organising it at the time?

JB: Well our Rosh at Leeds was somebody called David Serr who became a very prominent Gynaecologist, very eminent Gynaecologist in Israel and unfortunately he died about 2 years ago or 2 or 3 years ago, that was David Serr. He was my Madrich. And then there were the two Fass girls who now live in Netanya and I tell people, this was my Madricha and in fact one of them only came to Netanya recently and this was my Madricha in B'nai Akiva. Another person called Eric Blake who became a very eminent physics, not physicist, doctor, physician. He unfortunately died as well. We still have all our friends from B'nai Akiva we are in touch with them all, one way or another, not every day but we are still pretty close to them.

RL: How big a group was it? How big a group was it, how many children attended?

JB: Very strong, B'nai Akiva in Leeds. We were, what would the lot of them come to? In our group there must have been about 20/25.

RL: What age did it encompass?

JB: Well from 9 up to 18 and after that you joined Bachad or TVH, Torah Va'Avoda and you just went on then as long as you like.

RL: The children that went on to B'nai Akiva,

JB I met my wife through B'nai Akiva, by the way

RL I was going to say, what proportion were refugees and what proportion were English born?

RB: All my direct friends were actually English born. The ones I went to dental school with were all English born. There were a proportion of refugees there, more so I would say in TVA and in Bachad but then the younger generation were all English

born. I can only remember one family, maybe two families that were not English born.

RL: What kind of activities would you do?

JB: At B'nai Akiva we did everything. We played table tennis, we had a football team. We had shiurim, we learned Ivrit. I am sorry I did not learn more Ivrit at that time I did not think it that significant. We went to camps, we went on Tiyulim. We had a great time, we had a great time. I can recommend it. We met our spouses. Not all of us but a lot of us did. As did my two daughters and now we have our third generation in B'nai Akiva, my granddaughter wasSo she tells me. The twins are very active in B'nai Akiva. So that's the third generation of B'nai Akiva, yes. I am sure you know all about B'nai Akiva. I expect everybody knows about B'nai Akiva.

Tape 2: 31 minutes 41 seconds

RL No, no that is why it is worth recording for people that don't know.

JB: A very Zionist, a religious Zionist movement. Very strong in Israel, very strong. I mean a movement like Habonim they don't exist in Israel. I think it is the only Zionist movement that actually exists in Israel. They even get people or they used to get Israelies going on to the, who went to B'nai Akiva, who went onto the kibbutzim at one time. The kibbutzim are not the most popular things at the moment but I don't think the Habonim, all their members for their kibbutzim came from abroad. As I said there was no Habonim in Israel. There was HaShomer Hatzair which is a much more leftist movement but B'nai Akiva is very strong in Israel and always has been.

RL: Was there a headquarters to B'nai Akiva in Leeds?

JB: Yes we had our bayit, first we had our bayit in Grange View on the corner of Chapeltown Road and Grange View. Just round the corner from a well known place called Canters Corner, it is a Fish and Chip shop where a lot of us we used to congregate. Then we managed to acquire much bigger premises called Pallistrand House which was a superb house and that was round the other corner. That was a big house. We had table tennis at the top and a nice hall downstairs. We had a very nice minyan there, very nice. We would divan there on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur and daven all the chagim there and it was very nice atmosphere there and we made very good friends. A lot of people at that time became professional people. It might have attracted more of those people. I don't know. One comes the other comes. We had a wonderful time in B'nai Akiva, a wonderful time there. We played in the Leeds and district table tennis league in all the tournaments. We had a football team, which not the best of teams, but we had a great spirit. I mean if we managed to lose 5:1 it was a great day. We didn't mind not winning. We enjoyed it all really. A lot of those people actually, I have a photograph of them, talk about it "Do you remember the football team?" You have got one here in Manchester. We used to play with Stuart Levinthal, he was one of their regulars.

RL: How old were you when you joined B'nai Akiva?

JB: I joined B'nai Akiva when I was taken there by my friend. It must have been about, before my barmitzvah, just before, so 12, that's right. We went to the old bayit first and then went to the new one called Pallistrand House. A benefactor a Mr. Pallistrand. Nothing to do with Palestine, but Pallistrand. Yes it was lovely, those were the days, those were the best days.

RL: You mentioned, barmitzvah. What happened for your barmitzvah?

JB: I was in Leeds and I had it in the shul, the same as all the boys at the time. At the Beis Hamdresh at the time, to which many years later I became a warden. I was a warden for ten years at the Beis Hamedrah in Street Lane Gardens. At that time we had a small party at home with just some friends. That is all. I mean a) The war was still on and b) they probably could not afford it. A small party at home with friends coming. It was nice.

Tape 2: 35 minutes 48 seconds

RL: Did you do leyening?

JB: I did the haftorah, the maftir and haftorah, yes.

RL: Who taught you?

JB: I went to Cheder in those days, you went to cheder for three hours after school. We didn't go to a , our high school wasn't a Jewish school. Unfortunately Leeds never acquired a Jewish High School, we missed out on that and our Jewish education had to come from cheder after school and that was 3 hours cheder and Sunday morning.

RL: Where did you go?

JB: I went to Leeds Yeshiva in Harehills Avenue and we had different teachers there. One I think lives in Manchester, somebody called Jerry Leader, there was Rabbi Gold there, Raphael Silverman teacher, and Rabbi Saffer, that's it really. There were quite a few chedarim in Leeds. I don't know how I came to that one and I think my friend must have taken me there. We came to that one which was not far away. I think it is only just recently, It's been going for many years actually that house but it closed. They sold the house just recently. They might not have sold it yet but I think they have.

RL: Up to what age did you attend?

JB: I left the main part, I must admit after my barmitzvah but then I did go back, I went back for the shiurim, for the gemorrah shiurim. I think when it got a bit near to the, I must have knocked off when it came to 0 levels and I might have gone back again. It was an on/off thing. I didn't go there for 2 hours every night. It was on and off and of course I had more Jewish education in B'nai Akiva as well, we had shiurim there of course and that added to it as well. I can't remember, I left at 8 so I can't have had much Jewish education in Vienna. Except I knew when it was yomtov, I can't

remember if I did anything else. I think I could read Ivrit by the time I left, but that must have been about it.

RL: Where were you living, when your mother came back? Can you just take me through the different places you lived in from the hostel onwards?

JB: From the hostel, yes we went to live with my grandmother in a place called Pasture Road, which was very, very much a Jewish street; Jewish the whole street was more or less Jewish. I still have close friends as a matter of fact who lived near there along the street, quite a few people I actually know lived there and eventually passed from Pasture Rd. I went to Cowper Street School there and then we bought a house, I have forgotten what year. I think it must have been in 1942 because it was before my barmitzvah in a place called Sholebrook Avenue. It was a nice big house and we took in lodgers to help pay for the house. Nice people, a lovely couple called Kalmonson.

Tape 2: 39 minutes 32 seconds

And then eventually, quite a few years later, we moved further up north into the Carr Manors from where I got married, my wife from

RL: So what was your father doing?

JB: My father started a business in fancy goods, a rep at first and then he started his own business of fancy goods wholesalers and a firm called *Chromex* and he had a place here and a place in town. Occasionally he took a market stall which became more regular than occasional at times, which I did a holiday job and took my own stall when I was a student during the holidays and took some of my friends with me. My mother first she actually worked as a machinist, in the early days, after she left York she got a job as a machinist. I wonder whether she ever did any chiropody. She used to do my toes, I know that. She used to do some friends I don't know whether she went into it. So she got a job as a machinist there. Then she worked together with my father, when he set up his own business. That must have been in the late 40's. Because I remember we had a car at the time and I learned to drive then, so it would have been the late 40s. I had to pay for my studies, which wasn't so cheap in those days.

RL: How was their English?

JB: Shall I go back?, I'll go back now, I'll have to tell you a little bit about my sisters because they were left behind and we were in contact with them during the first few years, through the Red Cross, not the first few, the first few months. Then we had to unfortunately lose complete contact with them because we were advised that the Nazis, Germans, were using contacts like that to blackmail families in England for espionage. Knowing that we had family through the post, family in Vienna and they could be endangered, if we didn't listen, so we had to lose complete contact with them. My sisters survived. They were locked up for a little while in prison. My sisters were hidden for a while. My elder sister worked as a dental nurse for somebody. My younger sister had a little bit more freedom because she was blondish ..., she wasn't quite as, she could go out a bit more. They had to wear their badge when they went out but they did survive. My sister now lives in Canada and married an Auschwitz

survivor, who has his number there. In fact she was just 80 last year and I went to see her on her 80th birthday. My other sister who married out, .. I don't begrudge her after all these girls were left on their own, she married out to a very nice chap and she has got a very nice home, lovely home. I have been to see her. I try to be in touch with both of them. She was 6 years older than me. When we left she was 14....I mean it was very difficult for them. I think this gentleman, this person that she married I think he have been in the army, an ordinary foot soldier. But they have done very nicely, came back and he adores her and they have a nice life there.

RL: Does she have family?

JB: She has got one son, yes, she has got one son. I have never felt bad about her marrying out. I might have felt a little bit guilty that I was the one who was, that they were left behind. It wasn't my fault, it wasn't their fault but she had to make a life and that is the way it turned out for her.

Tape 2: 44 minutes 25 seconds

RL: Did they live in Vienna the whole time through the war?

JB: Yes and this other one, she still lives in Vienna, just outside Vienna. After the war, the other one went to Canada shortly after the war, she went to Canada.

RL: Did they live in Vienna as Jews at the time?

JB: Yes they did. I mean, especially my older sister who probably could not disguise the fact that she was Jewish. Oh yes they were locked for a few months at one time and they were allowed out. She got a job as a dental nurse and they treated her very nicely, that couple. As a matter of fact they actually hid her at one time, or maybe both of them. Then they split up with different people. Yes they lived as Jews the whole time as far as they could. They had to have their badge on. I don't know whether my younger sister always wore her badge because she could easily pass off as an Aryan but certainly my older sister did.

RL: When did you re-establish contact?

JB: It took a little bit, after the war, it wasn't until after the war and I cannot remember how. Whether it was the Red Cross again, they had our, we had moved again. I know my father and my uncle went back after the war to see what was going on there. I think, I am not sure whether that is when they established contact or if they had already established contact. I could not quite figure that out. They were supposed to have gone back for at least a week and they had had enough after three days. They took a look at one another and said "let's go" That was enough. They sorted a few things out whatever they could to see what was actually going on there and after 3 days they decided that was enough, let's go and they came home. That is the uncle, his wife is still alive, that is my aunty who had a very hard time. She is the only surviving member of her family. She did have a cousin who went to Palestine but we have not been able to trace this cousin. We have tried but we have not been able to trace this cousin at all. She went down the streets. She walked, I think to Belgium to escape and she found it very hard to impart to recount the past. Not difficult. Then

when she had a knee replacement and when she was in hospital she said she wrote a lot of it down but she can't bear to talk about it and she can't stand films or anything like that. I don't like it either to tell you the honest truth.

RL: Coming back to you, first of all do you remember to the end of the war?

JB: Oh yes oh indeed, we were at B'nai Akiva and we went out to celebrate. I remember that and VE day and VJ day, we were very, very delighted.

RL: Was there any bombing in Leeds?

JB: There was but not all that much. I was in the hostel at the time. When the bombs came down in England I was still at the hostel because I remember we had to go down to the shelter there so that must have been during 1940, part of it but not very much comparatively speaking, compared to the town the minimum really.

Tape 2: 48 minutes 23 seconds

Except for one power station outside Leeds, that was a target we were told. But not all that much.

RL: You say you went to non-Jewish schools.

JB: Yes

RL: And how did you get on with the non- Jewish children there?

JB: Well, the Jewish ones had a long way to travel and we all travelled from the same district, so we had quite a long way to go and my best friend Maurice Sokofsky and Motel Shaw, were both dentists. Motel lives in Netanya at the moment, well he lived in Netanya. We got on quite well with the non-Jewish boys and in fact some of them were very helpful especially when it came to catching up with notes during Yomtov, when we were away during Yomtov and they were very, very nice. One or two weren't all that wonderful. We did have a little bit of anti-Semitism. Some of them said that the headmaster was anti-Semitic. I completely and utterly disagree with them. I found him very helpful. In fact when my father came to apply for naturalisation, there weren't very many people he could ask so he said he would ask Dr. Morton who was the Headmaster at the time if he could give a reference. So he went up and Dr. Morton gave him a beautiful reference, a lovely reference at the time and in fact he was also a friend of the Home Secretary Mr. Chuter Ede at the time and we had no difficulty about getting naturalisation at all. I remember it was a lovely reference. I once had a detention on Shabbas morning and I suppose I should not have got it and I had to walk up to shul and it was a big shlep and I got there and he said "oh by the way, he did not give it to me but he could see. He said "when you get to school come and see me in my office". So I went to his office and he said, "right, I know you don't, you don't want to do any writing, just he actually sent me off to do some gardening, they had a little garden there, "do a little bit of gardening for me" and after detention of about 2 hours he said "that's all right you can go home now". So you know, some people thought he was anti-Semitic but I didn't find that. I found him very helpful all the way through. Then we got a very nice headmaster after that

called Mr. Holland who had been an intelligent officer during the war and he was also very very nice, very good chap. We did have some incidents of anti-Semitism from one or two boys in the school. I did get into a fight once with somebody and we became very good friends after that actually, after that fight. But on the whole we did not find much. Even in a completely non Jewish, I mean there were other grammar schools that a lot of the Jewish boys did go to Roundhay High School, Roundhay but we went there but we got allocated to there.

RL: From there you went to?

JB: Leeds University to do dentistry, as I said as did quite a lot of our friends. It wasn't easy to get in – a lot of them actually hoped to do medicine but it wasn't easy for Jewish students to get into the Leeds Medical School at that time. It was very difficult. We understand. I am not saying that this was a fact that there was an unwritten quota that they would accept but it was never made public but this is what we understand.

Tape 2: 52 minutes 23 seconds

RL: Was there any such problems with dentistry?

JB: No the professor was very good. No problem like that at all in the dental school so that is why a lot of them actually, took dentistry. A lot of Jewish students in the dental school. There were Jewish, don't get me wrong, there were Jewish students in the medical school. Our B'nai Akiva Madrich David Serle, Eric Glick, they were in the medical school, there were quite a few there but it certainly wasn't, they weren't as accommodating as the dental school at the time. Kurt Simons he went to Leeds medical school so there were quite a few there but not for the number that wanted to go, there weren't the places for the number that wanted to go

RL: Who was the professor of dentistry?

JB: The Professor at that time it was Professor Reed. Quite well known and a very good professor and he was very good with the Jewish students. He accepted them and there was no difficulty at all.

RL: Were you involved in any University activities?

JB: Yes we went to JSoc, Jewish Students Association at the time. What else did we do? Well that was the Jewish aspect of it. The dental school was actually a little way away from the University, Nathan Unis Centre, about a 10 minute walk. The dental school we actually had our own football team in the dental school, which had quite a few Jewish people in it, I think probably.... I had a very nice non-Jewish friend there called Jim Bowden who was a professional Rugby Player who played for Great Britain. He was a very nice fellow, he sat next to me. Brocken Bowden we went through together and he was a very nice fellow. He played football with us. I don't think he was really allowed to because he was a professional rugby player and I don't think they would have liked him if he had played football with us. But then J Soc, we had our JSoc meetings but we had our own group of Jewish friends who have gone through school together and from B'nai Akiva and quite a lot of us were in the dental

school. I am not talking about 3 or 4, we are talking about 12 or 14 or 18 that many, who all belonged to B'nai Akiva so we had our own B'nai Akiva, our own group there and it was very good. We had non-Jewish friends, quite a few. One of the students there who came to work with me later was actually somebody from Iraq, Bagdad, was it Bagdad and he became, eventually ended up being the professor of the school of dentistry, yes it was in Baghdad but he was a Kurd. He used to come over to England quite regularly and eventually there came a time when he did not go back any more. He said things got too dangerous. He finished up in America but he couldn't go back there any more, things were just too dangerous, even though prime ministers were his patients and he had a lot of prime ministers one after the other at that time but he was very highly respected there but he gave up his position. He was very friendly with the Jewish boys. A nice fellow. We did, we mixed with everybody.

RL: How active was J Soc?

JB: Oh very good it was a very good J Soc in Leeds at that time. We had a lot of Jewish students in Leeds as well. Apart from, things were different in those days with

Tape 2: 56 minutes 30 seconds

a University in town. In those days you studied in your home town. Not many people left their home town to study. When you applied for University, you applied for your subject and if you didn't get your number one subject you put down a second and third subject. You actually had to list different subjects like for instance, medicine, dentistry, chemistry and maths. So you did not list different Universities for one subject you listed different subjects for the one university. I think that was why B'nai Akiva was so strong in those days because when you got to 18, the people stayed in their own home town, you didn't leave your home town, so the madrachim were all more mature people and they were there the whole year round. Not like at the present times, when they come and it comes to the University holidays they go and there is no continuity in the Jewish community suffered like that, people going away, suffered considerably. Because these were the people who were the leaders of the community later on. They knew the community and they just left and that was it. OK they had some others coming in but they were there in the university year and very few of them stayed after University. They had a big break and I think the community really suffered because of that.

RL: Did you occupy any positions in J Soc?

JB: No I didn't but my friends did. With it being having our own sort of group, although the people that were not J Soc, were also from Leeds. There were one or two students who were from out of town. But there was one person I was particularly thinking of who also came from Vienna initially, but she lived in London who happened to be about the same age as me within a matter of a few weeks. I have known her for many years, but didn't know about this until recently, who was sent to go to the same school as I was in Leeds, from the Kastalletzgasse. She was in the same year as me but she must have been in a different class and she left actually left Vienna four weeks before we did. She was in the same year as us and almost at the end of the school year and she left a few weeks before me. Her name now is Evelyn Nyman and her name before was Evelyn Knoble, her husband has been very well,

been actually a great benefactor of Bar Ilan university and a lot of other Jewish causes. Henrich Knoble was her brother.

RL: She was in the same year as you?

JB: The same year as I was in school in Vienna. There was only a few weeks between us and she actually also only left a few weeks, literally three or four weeks before I did. She had a very good memory. She could remember the names of all the teachers which I could not. She was very good there. She came to study in Leeds. I must stop for a minute.

RL: Well this tape is just about to end so

End of Tape:

TAPE 3

Tape 3: 0 minute 40 seconds

RL: This is the interview with Jaques Broch and this is tape number 3. I just wanted to ask you actually, during the war years did you or your parents have any contact with other refugee committees or refugee groups after the hostel?

JB: Oh yes there were several groups and obviously I made new friends in the same position and the Association of Jewish Refugees which is still going strong now. There were several groups. I obviously probably did not go along to them very much because I was young but they used to go to the meetings. They had meetings because they were all in the same position and some of them also worked in the same factory as my father at the time. I must say that some of them became very close friends. People we did not know before but they became very close friends. Apart from meetings, we used to meet them socially in their houses for a cup of tea and that, we would go round to them and as I said I think my father may even have met some of them when he was interned to the Isle of Man. I'll say something about that since it has come to mind.

Some years ago probably in the 80s, 70's it must have been, one of my sisters came and my father said "what can we do" and I said "why don't we go to the Isle of Man where you were interned and you will show us what it was like". And he said "ok" so off we went, we went to the Isle of Man and he took us exactly, where he, to the house which was still there and he showed us where the barbed wire was around the house and what they did. Interestingly he was a cook there and as I said he has got this survival kit inside him and when they were all camped together before they went there, someone said "can anyone cook here?" so my father said, well if you work in the kitchen you won't starve to himself, so he said "I'm a cook" and that was how he became the cook on the Isle of Man and he did very well though, nobody complained about it. But he did have a lot of trouble there because, I also did not know about this until latter years. There were a lot of Nazis also interned there, together with the Jewish ones. They were all enemy aliens they didn't differentiate between Jewish enemy aliens and Nazis, that were taken off Nazi ships or who happened to be here at the time and they had a lot of trouble there. The Nazis were quite strong and there was

a lot of fighting there, which I did not find out until later. I went actually to see a film about a concentration camp in Scotland where they had Nazis and I think that prompted me to ask my father "did you have that there" because I had just assumed that they were all Jewish people but no they were enemy aliens and there was no differentiation between Nazis or Jewish enemy aliens, no matter what.

They were all grouped together in the same rooms, the same houses and they had a lot of trouble there. My aunty, the one that is still living now, the one who I'd said, she was also interned to the Isle of Man. I don't think, she didn't meet my uncle there. She was in St. Mary's when my father was in I think Douglas, I think it was in Douglas, on the far side of the Isle of Man, the town there. We had a very interesting time there and he was amazed it was all still there. The houses hadn't changed and "that was the house I was in and that was the kitchen and barbed wire". It was interesting from that point of view.

Tape 3: 4 minutes 51 seconds

RL: Going back you said that your father joined the AJR, did they have regular meetings?

JB: I think they must have done because I know they met up with their friends. They had their magazine which is still going now. My son-in-law's mother, Sylvia Aaron, she still gets it in Israel regularly and she passes it on to me and it is still going and it is quite helpful still. You know if you have got any problems, anything wrong, they are quite helpful with that. It came up recently, why did the AJR come up, we were talking about it just recently, I don't know why it came up.

RL: You did not join it?

JB: No I didn't follow it up, no, in the end. But I have a read of the magazines, the newsletters. It is quite useful. They have a column for, like they have in the Chronicle, if you are looking for missing relatives and it brings you up to date with all the repatriation news and news of all the people and in fact, it is a bit of a disgrace that after all these years after the war they still haven't settled all the repatriation and a lot of the people have died unfortunately who would have benefited from this. It is a disgrace with the Swiss accounts and the Austrian accounts.

RL: Did you come into contact with refugee groups yourself beside your parents?

JB: No only my friends. Kurt Simon and Kurt's cousin, Clare, now called Clare Richman. She still lives in Leeds. She actually came just after the war. She also had a very hard time in Budapest, she was hidden away there and it was just them they were the friends. The other couple who I was evacuated with, called Rosenbaum, who I kept in touch with. He didn't live far away from us. But then I made new friends at B'nai Akiva from the age of 12. I mean there were refugees, there were refugees there as well, although a lot of them were born in England, there were refugees there. I led a normal English life or the life B'nai Akiva chaverim would lead in those days.

RL: Do you remember the foundation of the State?

JB: Yes, oh that was a lovely, lovely day. I wrote something in a book that I had when I was a student, I forgot what I wrote now but it was a very proud moment that we now have our own state, I can remember that distinctly. I used to hate the German National Anthem, Deutschland, Deutschland Lieber Alles and there is some music similar to it nowadays that I can't stand it. In fact there is one piece of liturgical music, Jewish liturgical music that it is a little bit like that and I can't stand it. Oh yes I can remember that, it was a very proud moment, a very exciting moment.

RL: What language did you use to speak at home with your parents?

JB: English I think. Both probably. My parents spoke pretty good English. My father actually started to learn English before we came. He was a very good, a very good linguist. He spoke Russian like a native really and German and probably a bit of Hungarian as well, another language. And he, both considered coming here he started learning English. He was quite good at it before we came. Well he wrote that letter to

Tape 3: 8 minutes 54 seconds

the Queen Mother. Although he didn't know the difference between a bowl and a broom but that was unfortunate at the time. I think we spoke a lot of English but there must have been German as well because the lodger we had in, I think we spoke German so I could understand German quite fluently as well. I took German at school. It probably helped me to speak German at home with my schoolwork.

RL: How many lodgers did you take?

JB: We had an elderly couple who were very nice indeed; they were very nice except that they used to stay up till two o'clock in the morning. I think they used to sleep until two o'clock in the afternoon. We also had an odd single person. They were all refugees, all people who had come from the continent.

RL: When did they stop taking lodgers?

JB: I am just trying to think when we moved out of that house. When we moved into the Call Manors, I got married in 55; I was a student in Call Manors. We must have moved in the early 50's, in the early 50s, so we didn't have any lodgers in the Call Manors.

RL: When did you qualify from University?

JB: I qualified in 1955 so I can remember various things. I can remember my grandmother dying when I was a student, that sort of thing and I can remember which house we were in, that is how I knew when we moved. Yes I qualified in 55, left school in 1950 went to Leeds University, qualified in 1955. Worked for somebody else first for 2 to 3 years, for people about 2 years, no longer than that and went to work in Bradford and became a partner in the practice that I was at. It was a consultant practice actually. He was the only consultant in that area and became a partner there. Also got married in 55 after I qualified, got married the same year to an Irish girl from Dublin called Hazel Rubenstein who I met at B'nai Akiva camp, needless to say. Met at a camp that we went to in Ireland. I think we got married

about 2 years after we met just after I qualified. We lived in a flat at first for about 6 months and looked for a house of our own. Bought a house in Scotthall Road, that's important Scotthall Road because everybody knew our house in Scotthall Road and Scotthall Road was a very, very long road in Leeds but everybody knew where the Brochs lived and we lived in that house for 38 years if not longer, 38 to 40 years, something like that. Hazel came from a very nice family in Dublin. Her family story is another story. Her parents both were born in Dublin. Her grandparents came from Lublin, well I'm not quite sure if they did but Hazel used to think that they came from Lublin to Dublin but I'm not quite so sure about that. She has 2 surviving sisters. She had an older sister who died. Her nieces, one, two nieces live in Israel, one nephew lives in Israel on Kibbutz Lavi and some in Maalei Adumim. This nephew who is about to get married is the only nephew and oldest of all her nephews who has not been married and he is 54 and he is going to get married this year at long last. She has 2 sisters, both her sisters live in Israel now, both her surviving sisters. Rhona, Rhona Jacobs who married someone called Alf Jacobs from Manchester and her sister Miriam lives in Netanya near us, Edna lives in Ra'anana. They had a butcher shop, a

Tape 3: 13 minutes 37 seconds

well known butcher shop in Dublin called Rubensteins and anybody who comes from Dublin or visits from there will tell you about Rubenstein's meat. That was a family shop. Hazel's grandfather had that shop before her father went into it and took it and then one of her sisters took it after them.

RL: Where did you marry?

JB: We married in Dublin. Rabbi Jacobowitz married us. He was the chief rabbi at the time. He married us. Hazel knew him quite well and his wife and in fact we kept in constant touch with Lady Jacobowitz since then. We speak on the phone and we have a very good relationship. So we got married in Dublin. That was in 55 and we came back to Leeds. We had a honeymoon. In those days Sheva Brochas were not as prevalent as they are at the moment. Came back to Leeds and worked for somebody for 18 months. I did locum for a dentist for 18 months. This dentist actually had polio and I ran his practice for 18 months and when he came back he didn't need me. I got another job in Bradford at the time and that was the Consultants practice and that is the one I finished up with. I eventually became a partner there with the other partners and that's where I finished up with in the end. I had another practice in Leeds which I started in my own house and I bought my initial equipment off my old dentist in Leeds. A quite well known dentist David Manson, quite well known dentist. I was in the surgery one day and I said "David I am thinking of starting up", I've forgotten, "in my own house in my small bedroom". "I will tell you what", he said, "I have got a chair here that I don't use upstairs. I have got an old drill here that I don't use. I have got a spittoon that you can have. Will that set you up?" I said "that would be wonderful." He said "Well £10". So I bought all my initial equipment for £10. I had to get a cabinet and I had to get a steriliser, my instruments I still had from the dental school. I had to buy a few more instruments and that is how I came to set up my own practice in my own little bedroom upstairs and it was good fun actually. I used to work in the evenings and Sunday mornings. Sunday mornings was actually very busy and a lot of the practice built up from there. Patients fortunately when I had an evening surgery I had late afternoon appointments they were all friends at first. They

used to come early afternoon to visit, stay for tea and supper before I could treat them. We didn't mind doing it, it was nice. Then our eldest daughter was born, Beverly so I had to tell the patients to come up the stairs very quietly not to wake up my daughter and they had to tip toe to the surgery, it was different. Then a house came up for sale round the corner, where the shopping parade, not far from me round the corner. I said to Hazel, on this shopping parade there was 1 house, 3 shops were newly built, 3 cottages there 2 of which had been converted into shops and the one in the middle was a small cottage on a very busy road, and I said to Hazel, I said "Hazel if that cottage ever comes up for sale it would make a good practice". One day she came home and said, "The cottage is up for sale" and we bought it in one day. We went out to see the people. The price was right and we literally bought it that day and we moved into that King Lane practice and eventually it became a very busy practice and I had an associate working with me, a Mrs. Johnson a very nice lady whose husband was a consultant orthodontist Senior Consultant Orthodontist at St. James hospital. I had other associates but she was the one that stayed with me for many years and towards the end we had a very nice relationship.

Tape 3: 18 mins 25 seconds

I am very happy to say I sold it to a friend of my son, somebody called Peter Fellerman. I was spending my time between Bradford and Leeds. I didn't put full time in and I am very happy to say he has done wonders with it. It is very nice to see what he has done with it. There are 3 dentists working there full time now. What we would have done, he's into it full time. He has bought next door and we passed there the other day and have to say he has done it beautifully. So I am very pleased with that to see that he is doing very nicely. It just brings to mind this boy's grandparents who were Leeds people and not refugees at the time, were my parents best friends. When they first came, they were their very first friends in England. They called them Mr. and Mrs. Jackson and they had been friends with my parents for many, many years and so when Peter came along he only wanted to buy the practice, I wasn't ready to sell and he kept chasing me for it. I had a very soft spot for him and that is how Peter came to buy it. It was quite a coincidence with that.

RL: Did you become involved in the Leeds community?

JB: Yes in later years. When Hazel came to Leeds she was a great communal worker. She started off by doing some cheder teaching in the morning and withdrawal classes in various schools. I have started off with Hazel because she did much communal work. I did work and I worked on Sunday and in the evenings and I did not have much spare time in those early days. But Hazel became involved in the community very early. She did her Cheder teaching then she actually became secretary of the Zionist Council, you know the first job she had, apart from becoming chairman of the new, they formed a new Emunah group with all these young marrieds at the time and she was the Chairman of that and that built up to a very strong group. That is the Women's Mizrahi at that time it was Women's Mizrahi and she was helped very much by a doyen of the older group called Mrs Fass, Celia Fass who helped her set up this new group and eventually in later years Hazel set up another young group as well which is still going. These groups are still going now, so she was the chairman of that for quite a while until it got going. I think that is how she became to be in the Zionist Council in the first place as a representative of Emunah.

Then she became the secretary of the Leeds Jewish Representative Council. She worked the way all the way up there. She was the first Lady President of the Jewish Community in Leeds in the 80's or 70s, in the 80s I think. So she went right to the top there. Various other things that she did, she had a very active interest in the Old Age Home. She was the first lady to be an executive officer in the Beis Hamedrash albeit she was the secretary at the time. She formed the first Leeds Jewish Choral Society, which she helped to form. Several choirs stemmed from that afterwards but she initiated the first Leeds Jewish Choral Society which had about 40, 50 active members, which was very active at the time. From that the Shuls in Leeds formed their own choir after that. People like the choir master, Michael Saville in the Beis Hamedrash had a very good choir, he was part of that choral society and a lot of the other cantors were as well. What else did she do? We were very active in the Jewish Day School Parents Association to which I actually became the chairman for a while, quite a few years. I did quite well at that because they didn't have much money but when I finished up they had a good bank balance.

RL: When did that start, the Jewish Day School?

Tape 3: 22 minutes 53 seconds

JB: Ah, now then, our children were one of the first ones to enter the Jewish Day School. I think it was one year or two years above ours and in the kindergarden as well, they were the. The Kindergarten started, Beverley must have been about 3 when she started in 1960 and the Jewish day school started shortly after that. Even though it was a bit experimental, people before had tried a long time to start it, we decided to send out children there. So I think Beverley was in the second or third year of the school starting so that must have been in the early 60's. Was there only one year or maybe two years ahead of her? And they were very happy in the Jewish Day School, eventually they used to, they had the Talmud Torah premises, very nice Talmud Torah building there, purpose built building and now of course they have got, they have built a much bigger and better school some years later on the campus. Regretfully they do not have a, regretfully they do not have a secondary school, a grammar school as yet. Although there have been moves to start one. I think that was one of the fall downs of the Leeds community not having a grammar school, a grammar school there. People might have come to Leeds especially the Orthodox and Rabbonim didn't come because there was no education, no further education for their children at the time. On the other hand Leeds was always a very Zionistic city, a very Zionistic city. A tremendous number of people from Leeds have gone on Aliyah. Our shul has got a whole board up full list of people who have gone on Aliyah.....

RL: So you were active with the school, you were chairman of the, what was it, the Parents Association

JB: The Parents Association, I did that. I was warden of the shul for about ten years as well. Going back to Hazel because she did most of the communal work, then she formed, she did form a communal Chevrah Kadisha in Leeds because there wasn't a communal one and she literally formed that, a one man team to form it, which is still going actually very strongly. When we left to go on Aliyah, they wanted to honour her so they made her the honorary life president of the Chevrah Kadisha and they said

“we can have your name on our headed paper to remember you. So you don’t see many life presidents of a Chevra Kadisha Vaad

RL: What did they do before that was formed?

JB: The community had, the shuls had their own and just one person used to do it all, one person used to do all that work and it was just too much for him and he just couldn’t do it and he wasn’t being paid very well, he wasn’t being paid very much either and it was a bit of a disgrace. When the other shuls had their own Chevrah Kadisha, I don’t know how many of the members actually did Chevrah Kadisha work but according to the Pinchas that was their Chevra Kadisha and they were taken from the Leeds Jewish Communal, which I heap great praise and other towns have actually followed it, copied it.

RL: How did it operate, how was it set up?

JB: It is all voluntary people now, all voluntary people and all the shuls are together and if unfortunately there is a death, they have a list and a rota of people who come on different days. They take a rota. When they have a Seudah, the three

Tape 3: 27 minutes 2 seconds

main shuls take it in as rota it is held in each different shul in rotation so it is a proper communal affair and they take up the whole community. The Reform shul have their own. They did want to ours but it was a bit strange doing a tahara if they are only going to be cremated afterwards. So they decided the Reform, we showed them what to do, we went and taught them and they have their own and I think they use the same house, the same mortuary. That was one of her great things, what else did she do? She became Chairman, she was a great speaker which I expect nothing less coming from Ireland. They have a very successful speaker’s panel in Leeds which again she formed; she was chairman for many years. Regarding speakers all over Yorkshire, she was the main speaker to non-Jewish groups, Round Table, Square Table as I said before, Rotary Clubs, University Groups. They have a great team of speakers. She used to do a lot of Sedorim for non-Jewish groups and even Church groups. She has got some very amusing stories to tell about that. She used to go all over Yorkshire and in fact Newcastle, Scarborough she travelled there and was very successful. Part what they called Ajax, part of the defence work, because it did breed very good relationships and she took a couple of groups to Israel once a group of non-Jewish Teachers and another one, a group together. They asked her and she went with them took them. They were very interested and were very good about it all. They were completely non-Jewish Groups.She met some very interesting people with this, including being invited, then she became a member of CCJ The Council for Christians and Jews Executive, of that. She went down to some of their functions which were patronised, patronised or patronised by the Queen. We actually got invited to a garden party which was very exciting one day at Buckingham Palace. She went down to similar functions and met some of the Archbishops down here. Cardinal Hulme was introduced to them. It was very interesting for her.

But she spent a lot of time on these talks and she trained as a speaker as well because she was a little bit worried that when we go, and she did train some younger people

take it up and she did train some younger people, because her mentor actually was a Leeds Jewish Historian called Louis Sape. He was a nice chap and is not alive, not with us any more. He was her mentor initially and that is what she did. Now what else did she do? I don't know where she found the time. People used to phone her up for all sorts of things, from births to death. All during the day, it was incredible. She did some teaching for some young marrieds who wanted to, who were not dati or wanted to know more and she had a small class of that. During the early days she did Bat Chayil class in the Beis Hamedrash, I have photographs of that, very nice. You see a lot of synagogue visits. In our Beis Hamedrash and she would have about four or five hundred people at a time. She must have seen thousands of people who had gone through it. She had regular teachers, who used to bring children and schools back every year and that was very successful, the Synagogue visiting. Actually the decorum was much better with four or five hundred with them there, than they were in our shul on Yom Kippur. I mean the decorum was fantastic when these people came in and they were used to not speaking at services. She was in the Ladies Guild in the Shul and did all the normal things that people would do and that's her life and as I say we have three children now.

RL: So tell me about your children, when were they born, and what are they called?

Tape 3: 31 minutes 56 seconds

JB: My eldest is Beverley who was born on the 1st December 1957. I hope I am not going to have to remember all the birthdays, not the grandchildren anyway. She did a pharmacy, went on to do pharmacy after all her schooling. She went to the Jewish Day School. She was the one that was right at the beginning of the Jewish Day School. Some people thought we can't, they are only experimenting but we went through it and it turned out very nicely. She decided to go to B'nai Akiva at an early age. This was only to be expected coming from us. She finished up, she eventually went to study after junior education, she went to study at Allerton High School in Leeds where all my other two children went to as well and then she did her is a pharmacist; well she is a qualified pharmacist. She does not exactly practice pharmacy now. Then she met her husband in B'nai Akiva, Julian Aaron who was a Maskir for B'nai Akiva, in London for one year while she did her one year professional training, which she did in Stamford Hill in the Eye Hospital there, the famous Eye Hospital in Stamford Hill, I've forgotten the name of that one. Terrible. Because there she did not have to work on Shabbat. Then they went on Aliyah straight after that, and they went to Kibbutz Beit Rimon. They are still on kibbutz Beit Rimon now. Not so much a kibbutz now but she did do some pharmacy in Israel then her first baby came along, Moshe, the eldest is called Moshe, who has just become an officer, about a month ago in the Israeli army. Had a very nice ceremony for that, in the middle of the Negev, very hot there and then we went down for it, a four hour ride in 94 degrees in the shade but it was a very proud ceremony there and eventually she did a bit more pharmacy.

She worked in the kibbutz kitchen and then her second son came along Avishai who has just finished school now and will be going into the army. I think he is having a year off working with handicapped children before he goes into the army next year and then she has got a daughter, called Tirza, who has got one more year to do in

school. Then she decided she always wanted to work with children and she had to wait on the kibbutz till the children, all the kibbutz children they were all young babies there, until they got to the age of about 7 or 8 and then she actually left the kitchen and she worked with the children. She decided that pharmacy wasn't getting anywhere in Israel, not for where she was living because she had a long way to travel, she worked in Afula hospital and the doctors were on strike and she was bored, she had nothing to do there so she decided last year, 2 years ago to complete a teaching degree and so she's gone into informal education, she got a degree in that now and that is Beverley. The second is Estelle, who went to study in Manchester and went to the same school. She was born in 1959 on the 26th September, very close to Rosh Hashanah and she took up occupational therapy. She lives in Manchester with 3 lovely children. She is now deputy head of Occupational Therapy in the Salford area. At the moment she is standing in for the head because the head has been ill for a few weeks. She is very busy. She is a very conscientious girl, is Estelle. She has always been conscientious. Everyone of her school reports said that she is conscientious. That is Estelle. She is also very active in the community as far as I can gather. She had her own Emunah group and is active in Jewish Defence. She has just taken over the Bachad fellowship in Manchester, friends of B'nai Akiva is another name for it, looking after the B'nai Akiva Bayit. She has got children, very proud of her. Her eldest daughter Channah has just finished school and she is now at this very moment looking after our flat in Netanya while we are here. "Looking After" in inverted commas. She

Tape 3: 36 minutes 35 seconds

has got, Estelle has twin sons, also very happy to have twin grandson's, who went off to B'nai Akiva camp yesterday, Shimon and Daniel. They are just 15. They have just done their GCSE's and hope to go into the 6th form next year, and that is Estelle. David the youngest was born in 1964. He was also in B'nai Akiva. He now lives in Kibbutz Alamim in the south within a very good view of Gaza City not far from Kibbutz Sa'ad. He has 4 children. His wife comes from Netivot. Her parents came from Morocco before that. I forgot to tell you Estelle's name is Gillis. She married somebody called Maurice Gillis who comes from Sunderland but lived in Glasgow before he came to Manchester. One of the Gillis' from Sunderland, a lot of Gillis' come from Sunderland. David married this girl who came from Morocco. They have four lovely children. The eldest one is 15, Asaf, the next one has just been Barmitzvah, Gal, who is 13. They have one daughter, they all managed to have one daughter Tirza, who is now 10, and Omer who is 6. I am not sure if Tirza is 9 or 10, 9 or 10 I am not quite sure and that's their children. They live on Kibbutz Alumim, a very big agricultural kibbutz, very nice like a beautiful park.

If you haven't visited it is well worth a visiting. You can stay there in the lovely guest house and it's like a big park, down in the Negev, beautiful really. Whereas Beit Rimon is on top of a hill, different type of surroundings. That's David. David did 2 years shlichut in England at the beginning of 1990 and in fact his second, Gal was born in England, an Englishman. He could play cricket for England and David was Director of informal education at, what's the school in London, the JFS. He did a very good job of that and then he went back to his kibbutz Alumim but while he was in London, David had a degree in, he went to study in Bar Ilan, I've just remembered. When David was 18 he started studying at Leeds University economics and history.

Then he was selected to present B'nai Akiva on the very first March of the Living visit to Poland to which he went and that may have changed his life because when he came back he was in tears and Hazel thought he had been in trouble with the police, he was so moved by it all and he said "I can't study here, I've got to go and live in Israel." So he had started his first year at Leeds University. So we went to see his professor at Leeds University and also David found out he could also get into Bar Ilan and we spoke to them and he told him, "look David we don't mind, we will keep your place open, you go, if you want to come back, we will keep your place open for 2 years here. You try it out and if you feel, I know how you feel and if you feel you want to come back, you can come back here, if you want." But David went and studied at Bar Ilan and did a degree in Jewish studies and Jewish History there and got his BA at Bar Ilan University and then when he came to England he got a MA at Jews College. His tutor in his first year was Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. He had to stop in the second year because that was when he was appointed Chief Rabbi so he couldn't carry on in the second year, so he had a very good relationship with Jonathan Sacks at the time and that is our David. That is our three children. I will have a drop of water.

RL: When was your first visit to Israel?

JB: Our first visit to Israel was in 1968 for Pesach and it was just after the war in 1967. I had never been to Israel and I had quite a lot of cousins living there. I hadn't met some of them, up till then, I met them a lot later some of them came to England, they had aunts and uncles living there and it was very exciting. We had a great time because two of my cousins, we were with some friends and they wanted to show us

Tape 3: 41 minutes 44 seconds

their family and two of my cousins gave us a full tour and we went right up to Kunetra where you could not go to now and we went up into the West Bank and into the two mountains, Mount Ebal at the top there near Nablus, where you couldn't go to now. We saw all that, we had a wonderful trip. I did miss out on something there. because on the last day when we eventually managed to see my cousin Kalman again who at that time was the Operational Officer, a Colonel, and I don't know why, we didn't look into our arrangements properly and we were flying back on Yom Hatzmaut, which was a shame because that year was a great Yom Hatzmaut. It was the year after the war and it was a great Yom Hatzmaut and we were, managed to get hold of Kalman to go and visit him the night before, the day before and while we were there he said "do you want to come to the Yom Hatzmaut rehearsals with me?" and I said "I can't go because going back the next day." He said "don't worry, come with me, I have got a helicopter coming to pick me up and its rehearsals and you can come with me and we will sit there. And do you know 50,000 people turned out for the rehearsal, 50,000 people turned out for the rehearsal, and I turned it down to have sat in the box up there with him, I am so sorry, I really regretted that. He was actually the Operations Officer at the time and I think he was the one that had to give the order for the war to start because the general staff, he was the one acting for them, he was to right and that's it. He had to give the order. Then after that he went on to become a General, a very well known General, very highly respected really, not because he was my cousin. He was with us in Leeds a week or ten days before the Yom Kippur war started and he was going back to take command of all the armoured forces in Sinai and about 2 weeks later, and before he could actually take over the command the war

broke out and his very good friend, who was actually his neighbour, General Brenner was the commander at the time, he was taking over from him and he got killed during the early stages of that Yom Kippur war and then Kalman took it over from him. They were very good friends. Unfortunately they are buried next to one another now.

RL: When did you first think of actually moving there?

JB: Sorry

RL: When did you first think of actually moving there?

JB: Well we probably thought of it from our B'nai Akiva days. We always had it in mind. I felt that I couldn't really leave my parents because they had been through enough already and they would have to move home and life and everything like that and I would have found it very, very hard to have left them. Hazel's own parents lived in Dublin but then they came to live in Manchester and in the last few years, Hazel's mother came to live with us as well, for the last few years of her life, for 6, 7 or 8 years perhaps and that was actually after my parents had passed away, and I would have found it, I just could not leave my parents, after what they had been through in their lifetime. It was there in the back of our minds, it was there in our minds. We didn't, I suppose we must have had it in mind after all we have got 2 children living there. But we were brought up with it in B'nai Akiva to go and live there. It is very nice living in your own, your own country. It is very nice. You go around, you do what you want. You can have your tzitzis hanging out, kipa on your head, it is very nice. It is a lovely life. It will be a lot better when we get peace there.

Tape 3: 46 minutes 17 seconds

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

JB: In terms of nationality, that is very interesting because I would be entitled to an Austrian passport which I haven't got. ABC Austrian British but no C. I am not Chinese! Otherwise it would have been ABC. I feel quite Israeli now. When I come over to England I have no difficulty in fitting in here. We have got a lot of wonderful memories from Leeds and if you are going to ask me "do we miss Leeds", well I would say "yes, we do". Because you can't live in a town for all your life and put in to a town what we have put in especially what Hazel has put in without having, leaving, taking wonderful memories with you and missing the place. On the other hand we are not unhappy in Israel. I mean those are two entirely different things. Because first people say "are you happy in Israel or do you miss Leeds?" Yes we miss Leeds and they usually assume that we weren't settled in Israel. But we are. We are not unhappy in Israel but we do miss Leeds as well. They are entirely separate entities. Hazel is trying to do as much as she can in Israel. She is a volunteer at the Laniado Hospital, she is very active with the shul, she is involved with Emunah there and we help, we have helped with English teaching in schools. So we have tried to, It's not easy to be as active because unfortunately, and it is entirely our fault, our Ivrit isn't, not as good as it should be. Although where we live you don't need it because everyone talks English. Even the Russians talk English to a certain extent and all our friends, where we live in Israel, they are all, the whole English community around there. Our shul, it's a big shul with well over 200 members and the services, the

droshas are in English, shiurim in English and everything is done in English just the same. And in fact the Gabboim and everything, it is an English community. So we haven't been, we haven't had to struggle to learn Ivrit as much as. And also we decided that if we are going to learn Ivrit, everyone decides their own makeup, we didn't want to get, not involved, take it on full time and miss out on all our social life which we would have had to. So we went two to three mornings a week. We still go to Ulpan now we are still learning and our Ivrit is getting better but we have reconciled ourselves to say that we are never going to be perfect Hebraists but it is improving slowly and surely. We have got very nice teacher Carmella and Hazel organised the Ivrit classes in our shul. We have got this teacher who used to teach on a very, very good Ulpan for many years and she is retired and she is doing this work voluntarily, Carmella. And Hazel has organised a fashion, show and I have organised nights for our social activities there a table tennis club which is going very well. We had a very big tournament, the first open tournament, open table tennis tournament of young Israel in North Netanya sponsored by someone in our community called Morris Crisp. Now Morris Crisp was a very nice gentleman, about 80 now, who used to play table tennis for England and in his earlier days he was the Welsh champion, the Scottish champion but unfortunately just recently he lost the sight of one of his eyes, about 4 years ago and cannot play now. A very nice fellow. Morris Crisp actually has played against one of the table tennis immortals, somebody called Richard Bergman, he has play against him several times.

RL: When did you actually make Aliyah?

Tape 3: 50 minutes 34 seconds

JB: We made it in December; we have now been there four and half years. It must have been December '98, yes, we have been there four and a half years now.

RL: What made you pick Netanya?

JB: Well.... we had a flat, we already had a flat in Netanya before that and the first time I saw Netanya I didn't particularly fall for it but then I didn't know the North side of Netanya and we bought a flat there so that our children could get off kibbutz occasionally. Most of the other people at Kibbutz had parents, grandparents and relations and could get off the Kibbutz for weekends. I found that my daughter never got off the kibbutz except when we were there, very rarely so we decided we had better get a flat so that they could come off Kibbutz and for us as well. My son went to live in the south and my daughter in the north so we decided to have somewhere in the middle, that is how we came to Netanya. We like it very, very much. It is a bit humid and also we decided to live by the seaside. If we were going to be retired we might as well enjoy the pleasure of living by the seaside. In Netanya it is a very nice seaside place and they are doing up the promenade beautifully. I suppose we must have considered Jerusalem but Jerusalem is not all that far away, only an hour and if we want to go, we can go to Jerusalem anytime that we want. Also to my way of thinking I don't think we would appreciate it because if you live in a town you don't appreciate the things in your town but if we are living out of Jerusalem we would appreciate going up to Jerusalem every time and go to actually, go and see things, that's why we came to Netanya.

RL: Just coming back again to identity, when you were living in Leeds and in England, how English or British did you feel?

JB: I felt quite British. I was a professional man; I had an English professional degree. I wasn't British to the core. I was Jewish British and it is difficult to explain I suppose. I voted and had my education here and was quite thankful. I mean I came here as a refugee and I am thankful for what they did for me here and I'm very grateful for that. I am not in the least bit anti-British not in any sense, I mean I might be anti-British against some of their policies or I may not agree with some of the policies but a lot of English people don't agree with some of the policies either. I mean to that extent, but I am really, I suppose very grateful for what this country did for me, coming as a refugee, and education and I made my living here, made a comfortable living and I was a respected member but then of course I also practised in Bradford for many years and there was a big Asian community there and I didn't exactly feel Asian. There was one occasion when an Asian family came in to me, a new patient, and I said "you know how did you come to up here" and I had two Asian nurses, very nice girls, extremely nice and they said "well we were told we had to come in." My nurse used to tell me their background where they came from and who they are and this particular family had a big shop down the bottom of the road. I said "well you have got a dentist just opposite where you are." "No he said Mr Khan, Mr. Singh said "we have to come to see you." "That is very nice", then he said "we like to see our own in any case!!" I thought "well it's time I left Bradford!" It was very nice of them really. So when you are asking about nationality I am a little bit mixed up.

Tape 3: 54 minutes 58 seconds

RL: Do you think you've got any kind of...

JB: When you ask me what nationality I am, it gets very difficult when you come to the Eurovision song contest as to which country I support and I usually go for the one that's running on top because I've got Austria, Israel, Britain, Ireland. So I've got a good choice. It gets a bit difficult. Also when it comes to football matches, it gets a bit difficult. I think I support Israel actually in football; I have always been for the underdogs.

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

JB: Here or in Israel?

RL: When you were here?

JB: When I was here. Well, yes I may have done, different to the upper core of the British, to the very upper classes but then I suppose most people do, if you are not the upper classes you feel different to them. Most of the middle classes and my professional colleagues, I didn't, I didn't feel any different to them. I have some very good friends..... I haven't seen them very often but occasionally contact with them. I got a very nice email from one of my school friends, from an ex-school friend who joined Friends Reunited, that's a school programme. He picked me up. My son had put me on the programme and he sent, that was a non-Jewish friend and he sent a very nice letter bringing me up to date with them. Very nice. He had done very well as

well. So we brought each other up. I knew some of the non Jewish people, especially those that went to University, 2 or 3 from my class became doctors, the year from my class became doctors.

RL: Do you feel you had any kind of continental identity?

JB: Not very often, perhaps with food. Perhaps with food, you know my grandmother used to make this or my mother used to make this, but that might not, probably was certainly continental to a certain extent. But I think that was the only continental. I had a very strange experience when I went to Vienna for that one day that I mentioned to you about. Because I was very apprehensive about going I really wasn't keen, didn't, wasn't keen to go but I thought for one day I could manage it. And the first thing we saw was some of the Austrian, elderly Austrian people dressed typically with the hats and fur coats and then you begin to wonder what, where were they during the war. But halfway through that day I said to myself "What am I worried about? I said in German "Ich bin ein Engländer" You know, like Kennedy when he was in Berlin, he said "Ich bin ein Berliner" "Ich bin ein Engländer" to myself, "I am an Englishman. I do not need to be worried about what is going on here." All my German was not bad because Estelle bought something at the airport and this lady was saying something in broken English and I said something in German and she said "oh excuse me I didn't know you were from here....so my accent couldn't have been all that bad. But I wanted to tell you when I got back to the surgery.

Tape 3: 59 minutes 0 second

RL: I was just going to say that this tape is about to end.

JB: Well I'll just say this quickly, when I got back to the surgery I felt different as though a weight had been lifted off my shoulders. I felt much lighter. My staff said to me "Mr.Broch you're are so different from when before you went, you are so much lighter and cheerful" and I really felt I had got something out of my system. And I can see this being passed down from through the family, certain Holocaust after effects. I really did feel different after I came back. I felt it myself.

END OF TAPE

TAPE 4

[Some background discussion omitted before filming restarts.]

RL: This is the interview with Jaques Broch, tape 4.

Jaques you were just saying when that tape ended how the visit back to Vienna made a difference to you. Can you just explain that a little bit more, elaborate on what you meant.

JB: Yes. I had no wish to go back really. I had no wish to hear the accent and the German, the Deutsch, the German environment. I was very apprehensive about going. A certain amount of fear there...how am I going to feel when I got there and I didn't want to but having decided and especially for my family for my daughter and for my wife for Hazel and this one day flight came up, so I said I can do one day, one day

won't harm me but even the day of the travel I was very apprehensive. I mean we got there and we had a tour and I wasn't happy when I saw too many Austrian, especially elderly Austrian people dressed, it was cold and they had these fur collars on, typically Austrian and you think in your mind "What were they doing during the war, who were they and what were they up to?" And I was very apprehensive and then we met up with my sister which was very nice and we went to the kosher restaurant there, had lunch there and we left our tour to have that, we didn't continue on the walking tour. And she drove down as I think I explained to you before how I found, how I knew exactly where I used to live and that the name of the street had changed and then after she dropped us, we had to get the coach back, the arranged coach in the centre of town, we had about an hour to spare and we walked around and I said to myself "why am I so worried after all, I am an Englishman, Ich bin an Engländer. I am not an Austrian anymore, why should I be worried" and I actually felt different once I had said that to myself. I was quoting President Kennedy who when he was in Berlin said "Ich bin ein Berliner". "Ich bin ein Engländer" and I felt quite different, I walked round the market there and it wasn't as though I was such a stranger there because when my daughter Estelle bought something at the airport, as we were going out and she was talking in English to the lady and I interrupted and said something in German, a sentence or two, she said, she apologised and she said "I didn't know that you were one of us, you know, a Wiener". But when I came back the very next day, I felt different, I felt as if I had something off my shoulders, something out of my system, whether it was fear, or apprehension? ... Even all my staff said to me without hesitation. "Mr Broch" they said "You are so different since you have been to

Tape 4: 3 minutes 51 seconds

Vienna". And I wasn't a difficult person I was always cheerful with them but they said "you are so much, you seem so much lighter and happier since you have been to Vienna.". It was so noticeable. So I can understand now when they talking about second and third generation holocaust survivors, how sometimes, they still need, require, not require but certainly some psychological help would be very helpful. Some people might have this worse than I did. I mean I don't, when you know about the sufferings of what my sister and brother in law went through, I mean mine was negligible, I still had this fear up till then about going to Austria and hearing the Austrian accent and the harsh and the German being spoken, but it left me that day.

RL: How do you feel towards the Germans and towards the Austrians?

JB: How do I feel about them? I don't like it when they win at football, I don't like it when they win. I must have some, I still obviously got some, what is the word I should use, not hate because they are not all involved. I have met a few in Italy who were quite pro Israel, but I would say with reservation that I am not very keen on them, not very keen because sometimes some stories come out now, which, I will give you a little example which actually happened to my auntie, the one who went through all this and she was on one of her visits to Israel, her first visit, she went to Yad Vashem. She could not bring herself to go in so her daughter went in but she couldn't bring herself to go in. So she was sitting outside and 2 German ladies came out talking in German. She was just sitting there on the wall there waiting for my cousin to come out and one of these German ladies turned round to the other one, they had just come out of the hall there and she turned round and my aunty was sitting

there and nodded to my aunty and said “do you think that this could really have happened?” So you get all kinds unfortunately. We had a very, our daily in Leeds, very nice. She was with us for over 30 years. We took her, we took her on a visit to Israel once and she was an Austrian person, extremely nice and sometimes very ashamed about her family who still lived in Austria, who said “how can you work for Jewish people”. She tells us this and she was wonderful. We had her for over 30 years. We still go to see her and are still in touch with her, phone and speak to her, Mrs. Kendall, everybody knew Mrs Kendall. Her daughter worked for me as a dental nurse. So she told us this and she was so embarrassed. When she came back she said “do you know what my family said to me?” Her family live in Vienna. So I have very mixed feelings about how I feel about them.....

RL: You were talking about the psychological effects that peoples experiences have on them. Do you feel that the way that you, that it had any effect on you in terms of the way that you brought up your children or in the way that you lived?

JB: No I don't think so in that way, no. No I don't think so. Not that I am aware of. No but I used to say to myself, “how can I talk about, how can I talk about the post holocaust...., three generations onwards, grandchildren who were not even born at the time and I think how can they, somebody says “how can it affect them,” and it wasn't until I had this personal reaction in Vienna, that I realised that it does affect you. I mean there is no doubt about it that it does affect you. I mean I am not going to see any films about the Holocaust, anything like that. I went to one recently called “The Pianist” and I was very upset by it. I was very upset by it. I did not really want

Tape 4: 9 minutes 10 seconds

to go in the first place, my aunty can't face it nor can her daughter. Her daughter doesn't like it and her daughter was born here many years later, many years later.

RL: Now that you live in Israel, how British do you feel in Israel?

JB: Well it depends what you are actually doing. A lot of Israelis dislike the British because of the British Arms programmes and the pro-Arab bias in the media and the Foreign Office so to them we are Israeli. But sometimes if you go into the Post Office or you go into the bank or the shop and you talk English very nicely they are a lot more polite to you! Sometimes it pays to be English and British, they are very polite to you. If you don't push in the queue, and a couple of times my son has stood at the back and all these people queuing and the girl behind the counter has told him to move forward, you talk English and it is very nice. Hazel says she always gets better attention when she speaks English so it has its ups and its downs..... Except for the British media of course that is terrible, I can understand that and you don't feel proud. Sometimes you see the behaviour and I have seen this in Israel, I have seen this in Bethlehem some years ago on Christmas Eve, I have seen the behaviour of some of the young English and they were hooligans, they were drunk on Christmas Eve and they had just got in to be televising the Christmas Eve Service and they managed to get to Bethlehem. They were sitting in the Square on the floor drinking away, singing away. I mean it doesn't make me ashamed but it makes a lot of other British people ashamed. That wasn't nice. I feel quite English but not so much now – I have given up my English driving licence so I have given a bit of my Englishness away. But in

my professional life I am still English. I am registered here so I don't do much professional life I am still registered here, I could work here but I am not registered in Israel so if I wanted to work, I would have to work here, there is no choice about that.

RL: How Israeli do you feel?

JB: Well it is strange, a few years ago, we had a holiday, we went to a nephew who was living temporarily in Milan and we went over to see him and when you are talking there, you start talking more Hebrew there than we do in Israel and it comes out naturally because you are abroad. We would say Toda and all sorts of Hebrew phrases would come out, which you wouldn't use in Israel. We would be embarrassed if you did use them there. We kept coming out with words, both of us, she always kept coming out, so I feel, I do feel quite Israeli. Because wherever you go all over the world and we have done, difficult when you live in Israel but we have done a fair lot of travelling, you always meet Israelis and there is something. You meet Jewish people as well but no matter where you are there are some Israelis there and no matter how far away they might be from Judaism sometimes, when they see a kippah, they come up to you and start talking to you, that affinity. I wouldn't like to tell you in some of the most remotest places we have met Israelis and so I do feel more Israeli when I meet them. Maybe when I meet them out of Israel I don't know. But whenever you do it makes you feel more Israeli. In Canada and on the cruises, the language, the Jewish language we didn't know at the time in Australia and New Zealand. I mean you have got an affinity with Jewish people..... I was on a cruise and after the first few days, nobody came forward and eventually they came forward. "I have got a brother living, or I am a member of B'nai B'rith. They gradually come out of the

Tape 4: 13 minutes 43 seconds

woodwork, you might say. In fact it is quite interesting how they do over the years how more and more come out, You set off with nobody, with no Jewish people aboard and you finish up with a whole, half the ship is Jewish! Well not half the ship but a lot of them. There is certainly a great affinity with Israelis, certainly, more especially when you meet them abroad, more than if I met an English person abroad, I wouldn't know unless they particularly came from Leeds and I might have known them. If they were just a stranger I wouldn't but if it is an Israeli, where do you live, do you know so and so, where do you come from, what are you doing here? And that is how I feel towards Israelis.

RL: Has the situation in Israel over the last couple of years affected you a lot, much?

JB: It must have affected everybody living in Israel because of the whole affect on the, especially the economy of Israel has been quite disastrous. It depends so much on the tourist trade and that was completely down and it is just beginning to pick up a little bit and of course when you consider how many people are dependent upon the tourist trade, apart from the hotels and restaurants. All the people that work in the hotels, all the people that work in this and they are closing down and these people have no work. Then you have all the tour operators. I mean there are thousands of them in Israel, tour operators, there is coaches and their guides and drivers and I mean a lot of them, the majority of them have lost their work and it affected the country

tremendously. Of course unfortunately the deaths have also affected the country today, it is very sad, especially when young people have been killed. I won't say that I look forward to wander. I personally don't wander around the market as much as I used to. I probably won't wander around the market as much as I used to and a few months ago, I certainly would not have stayed in town when quite a few bombs went off in Netanya, I wouldn't have stayed in Netanya town longer than I had to. I mean I wouldn't sit down but we are getting over that now at the moment. It does affect your life to a certain extent. Its helped me, sort of, invigorates my fund raising for the Laniado Hospital, which is our hospital in Netanya which has a lot of calls put on it and they are very short of funds and needs all the help it can get. Unfortunately all the hospitals with the financial situation in Israel at the moment, the new budget, all the hospitals need a lot of help and it's sad when they have not got it. Because again when we were issued with gas masks a few months ago, I wasn't, I won't say I wasn't happy about it, I was probably a bit upset about it that I had to have that, especially I wasn't looking forward to putting on a gas mask and fortunately I didn't have to put it on. It is such a shame, because it could be such a wonderful country and the Palestinians could live in peace and harmony and they would benefit and it's to their benefit and they won't. Whether it is a minority like it is in Ireland, you have got in Ireland, the majority probably want to live in peace. It is very hard and there have been such a lot of deaths. It is going to be very hard to live peacefully. There is the wall they are doing at the moment is one solution to stop the infiltrators. We are still getting a lot of infiltrators, a lot of infiltrators who come with bombs and don't make it, that are caught before they, a lot of them, probably 70 or 80% of them and it is sad it could be such a wonderful co-existence. There is going to have to be a co-existence because there is no way they can get round it one way or another. That is my way of thinking. Rabbi Jacobovits said that many years ago and it turned out he was right.

Tape 4: 18 minutes 39 seconds

RL: Is there any message you would like to give us as we come to the end or anything else you would like to speak about?

JB: No. My message is always, I say this to children, I heard this said to me.. You must remember where you come from then you should be able to work out where you are going.You must remember, you mustn't forget. I mean I am not happy my brother in law was in the British Army, unfortunately my late brother in law. He used to come down on the Brits and I used to say, what is the matter with you, you are getting your pension you are getting a disablement pension from the British Army.... what is it, what have they done to you? I said, that is where you were born, that's your, and he could not answer. I think he was following a general trend at the time. It is important I think to know who you are and what you are in yourself. And if you find a peaceful solution that will be the answer, that's the main thing. Don't on the other hand don't expect too much. It is a new generation nowadays. Compared to mine I mean and don't expect them to live up to the standards the way our generation lived, you can't do that because the young generation is different. We had no television, no videos, no computers and it is a different life nowadays. I am not saying it is a better life. I am not saying our standards weren't better, I think to a lot of extent our standards were better and our morals but you can't always decry them because unfortunately that is the new generation. Of course we need a lot more Jews in the middle of the road; it is bad in Israel that you are to the right or left and not the British

type of Jew in the middle of the road. The education system is partly to blame for this. Because from an early age you decide are you going to go to a religious school or a non religious school and they have to decide that, there is no happy medium and you are brought up in that way. One thing, we were very upset about when we first came on Aliyah, was the actual hate between the left and the right. We went to an election meeting all in English, five different parties and they were hating themselves. British politics are a lot cleaner. Whatever they say, they shop together, go on an aeroplane together, or go to functions together. Blair and Duncan Smith I mean there is no hate. It upset us very much. One Jewish person should hate another Jewish person so much, we were upset by that and we hope that there will be a more middle of the road attitude coming because they certainly need it there. If you respect people, they will respect you, that's all. Don't be too hard on people if they don't do it the way you want them to do it.

RL: Thank you very much

JB: I have got some documents to show you

I did say in an interview earlier on that my father always said what to take with you when you have to leave, are your documents and papers and now I would like you to share with me some of the documents and papers that he brought with him when he left Vienna.

The first one that we have here, which is actually a very nice document is my grandfather's discharge paper from the Austrian/Hungarian army in the year 1890 from a place called Olmutz. On the very top left hand corner is the name of the place

Tape 4: 23 minutes 10 seconds

and the name of the regiment that he was in, on the top left hand corner and dated on it 30 December 1890 from Olmutz

RL: What was your grandfather's name?

JB: His name was Yaacov Broch, Jacob and half of it is in Hungarian and the other half of it is in German. He was an Hungarian Jew, in the Austro-Hungarian army at the time.

This certificate here is my grandfather's who I never met of course, he died at the beginning of the 20th century. It is his birth certificate. His name was Yaacov Hersh Broch., the same one, which you saw his discharge papers. This certificate shows date of birth as 16th May 1857 and his parents names were Maurice Mordechai Broch and Rosie Fuchs. At the bottom is signed by Joseph Wien the District Rabbi and dated 1857 in the place called Wien Neustadt.

This is an interesting one. It is one of my grandfather's , the one we have been talking about, one of his school reports from the Leopoldstadter Gymnasium in Vienna which is a high school and Leopoldstadt is the district and the date of that is 18th February 1871. Unfortunately it is the only school report I have of my grandfather but it is very interesting. This is in Vienna. This is Yaacov Hersh, Jacob Broch.

This document dated 26/9/1921 is for Paul Broch my father and that is his release paper, his homecoming paper after he was a prisoner of war from the first World War and he spent some time in Russia after that and he didn't come home until 1921 or 22. And that was actually the release paper or homecoming document in 21.

This certificate of my mother Chaya Clara Sarah Broch for participation of her work in the Judisch Kultur Gemeinde. This was the Jewish centre where she was helping prepare meals, serving soup for a lot of people who hadn't any food then. This certificate goes up to 30 September 1939,.....obviously you had to have a certificate for all the work you did and that is in Vienna.

This document here was issued in Vienna in 1930 appertaining to my mother Clara Broch and it is what is called, what is known as a Heimatschein Like a citizens document to show that you were living in Vienna and it was signed by the magistrates there and shows when you were born and what your status is.

These are passports. The one on the right hand side is my mother's passport with a photograph of myself and my sister, both my sisters were older than me. That is the younger one of the two sisters because the elder one had her own passport and we were included in that passport issued by Deutschen Reich. My name is Jaques and my sister is Sonia.

This is another page in the passport and shows a visa for entry into the United Kingdom on my mother's passport and the writing, I don't know if you can make out it says that it does not include the children Jaques or Sonia.

This is my father's passport, Paul Broch, issued in Vienna in 1938. On the right hand side it does include children Jaques and Sonia, Sofie her name was, but they are excluded on the visa to come to England.

This is my personal identity card issued to all Jewish people with the letter J on the outside.

This is the inside and you can see my signature Jaques Israel Broch. That name was added to everybody. I actually remember signing that. I was about 8 years old and I can remember the person standing by me, the German, the Nazi saying that if you don't put your tongue in, I will cut it off. Whether it was funny or not, I don't know. Not to me it wasn't.

[The descriptions of the passports etc. are indistinct due to the sound recording.]