

**IMPORTANT**

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**Interview Transcript Title Page**

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<b>Interviewee Surname:</b>	Katz
<b>Forename:</b>	Herman
<b>Interviewee Sex:</b>	Male
<b>Interviewee DOB:</b>	30 July 1914
<b>Interviewee POB:</b>	Vienna, Austria

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<b>Name of Interviewer:</b>	Dr. Bea Lewkowicz
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**REFUGEE VOICES:  
THE AJR AUDIO-VISUAL TESTIMONY ARCHIVE**

**INTERVIEW: 35**

**NAME: HERMAN KATZ**

**DATE: 7 OCTOBER 2003**

**LOCATION: LONDON**

**INTERVIEWER: BEA LEWKOWICZ**

**TAPE 1**

**Tape 1 : 0 minutes and 7 seconds**

BL: Today is the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2003. We're conducting an interview with Mr Herman Katz. We're in London, and my name is Bea Lewkowicz.

BL: Thank you very much for having agreed to do this interview. Can you please tell me your name?

HK: Herman Katz.

BL: And where were you born, please?

HK: In Vienna.

BL: And when?

HK: 30<sup>th</sup> of July, 1914.

BL: Perhaps we could start by your telling me a bit about your family background?

HK: Well, I had a brother and four sisters, and my parents had three shops – grocery stores. And the main one was in Margareten. And that's where we lived.

BL: And what sort of area was that? Which Bezirk was that?

**Tape 1: 1 minute 19 seconds**

HK: Wien 5 – The Fifth District. Margareten.

BL: And can you describe this area a bit. What do you remember?

HK: Well it's a mixed area, nice apartments, and a mixture of shops, and the main road where we lived, Reinprechtsdorfer Straße was a nice street with nice apartments

blocks and nice shops. We had on the corner, I remember, Julius Meindl Coffee and Tea, and I went to school - primary school - in the Margareten Straße also. And we lived comfortably until the Anschluss and then things soon started to get worse. The Nazis came to the shop and they said 'You have to have an Aryan manager.' So we had to employ a manager and pay him 100 Schilling per week. He didn't do anything. He just took the money, didn't do anything. He was supposed to be in charge. He didn't know or understand the business, but he was Aryan. And we weren't even supposed to be in the shop. So one day I was in a hinter room in the shop and the Nazis came and I looked out and then they wanted to know where we lived. So they took us - they wanted to see where we lived - they went to our flat. They didn't do anything at the time. They were just finding out everything about us - what we did and where we lived. They just made a careful check - because we were Jewish - that's it. They sort of took charge of our life. It happened, it happened. The Anschluss was in March, and in May, in May, I wanted - I was planning to emigrate. Of course, one didn't know where to go. It was difficult to find any place where one could go. But my brother took off - my younger brother, who was only I think 16 at the time - he went to Milan. On his own. Just took off by train. And there was one of the few borders that was open from Vienna to Milan. But in May, one morning I came to the shop and my father said, 'A policeman has been here - a tall policeman - asking about you'. It was fortunate I hadn't been in the shop when the policeman came because he had come to arrest me. What it was, I was friendly with an Aryan girl - a Christian girl - and now she was going with an SS man and he was jealous and they

**Tape 1: 5 minutes 0 second**

wanted to pick me up because it was already against the law to have a friendship with a Christian girl - for a Jewish boy. So, we were friendly with a policeman. Local policeman. And my mother phoned him and he said he had a look and there was a file on me. What he did, he hid the file but he told my mother that I should get out. So that evening I took the train to Milan, to meet with my brother. I had difficulty getting... the Italian border police stopped me. They wanted to know where I wanted to go. I said 'I want to go to Palestine'. He said 'Do you have a permit or a visa?' I said 'No'. 'So in that case,' he said, 'you won't be able to get into Palestine'. And he wouldn't let me into Italy either. I was on the border. I phoned my parents. And they sent somebody over - a young man called Meiers. Robert Meiers. He came, he met me there. And he said 'I know another border where you will be able to get into Italy. We have to go through Villach. A town called Villach.' And that was all right. I got through into Milan at that border. They didn't ask any questions there. So - I arrived at my brother's apartment. I hadn't been there very long when the police came, and there was my brother and another young man - also a refugee - and me, and they arrested us. I had no idea what happened. Out of the blue. I found out later: my brother had been carrying a briefcase with false passports. Somebody had given him them, he was only the carrier. Of course false passports were at a premium in those days. They would - people would be able to get out...

**Tape 1: 7 minutes 23 seconds**

BL: Were they Italian passports?

HK: I don't know what passports. I had no idea. I'd just arrived. I'm sure my brother didn't know – or maybe he did know. A young boy of 15. He'd been carrying a suitcase with passports and they arrested us. And we were – my brother's friend and I – we were in the one prison in Milan and he was in the juvenile prison as he was only about 15 or 16. Now we were stuck - we were stuck there. Fortunately, my parents had a connection through the business, and the people had somebody in Milan. A Mrs Scholl. She lived Via Carducci 24. I'll always remember. And she got a lawyer. And I'd been in prison a few weeks – maybe 4 weeks and we were

**Tape 1: 8 minutes 24 seconds**

released. No charge at all. No charge. That boy – but there was a charge against my brother and he was still kept in the juvenile prison and his case was coming up a month later. So, I was free in Milan, with Mrs Scholl. She took care of me. She gave me some money, and I needed a bath. Oh ja. I went to a hotel. She paid for it and I was all right, but I couldn't stay in Milan because I hadn't done anything but I had to leave Italy. When you've been in prison as a foreigner you get chucked out. So I heard it was possible get to Zurich from Milan which was all right. I got to Zurich and met up with my sister, Lola, in Zurich. And we stayed there in an apartment house. We were figuring out where to go from there. We could only stay in Zurich temporarily. She had a visa as a domestic to work in Harrogate, and I tried to figure out... I tried to get a job as a traveller for a firm in Zurich to sell clothing in London.

BL: Where did she get the visa? Her domestic visa? In Zurich?

HK: No, in Vienna. She came with a domestic visa already and stopped off in Zurich.

BL: Why did she stop off in Zurich? Why didn't she just go on to...

HK: To meet up with me. Yes. We arranged to meet there – to meet and go together, and that was lucky for me. Without her I couldn't have got into England. So, eventually the British Consul in Zurich gave me the visa. Stamped my passport with a British Visa, which gave me permission for entry into England. And we set off in September via Paris. We came to Dieppe and Newhaven. And in Newhaven the trouble started. Well, the immigration officer had no bother with her. He couldn't do anything about her visa but with me he asked me for my passport. And as I put my hand in my pocket and took out some papers, he snatched all the papers from me. He said, 'You have to stay here overnight.' Sort of under arrest. 'We'll talk in the morning.' So we stayed overnight in there - there in Newhaven with the immigration officer and we were very worried about what could happen. So in the morning came the vital interview. He said to my sister, "What will you do if I send your brother back?" She said, "I'll go up to that building and I'll jump down." He let us in. No

**Tape 1: 11 minutes 48 seconds.**

more questions. He stamped my passport 'Permission to stay 6 weeks' only, I think. A temporary stay, he gave me. Six weeks. Well that was enough. Then we came to London, we went to Woburn House and Woburn House arranged for visas to be extended.

BL: Before we discuss your time in England can we just maybe go back a bit to Vienna?

HK: Yes.

BL: And maybe you can share some of your memories from the 1920's, because you were born in 1914 and you had a quite lot of time in Vienna. Who were your friends? What sort of people did you mix with?

HK: Yes. Well I worked in my parents' business after I left Handelsschule. I had some friends, they lived locally. Mixed. Not all Jewish. Mixed friends, some I knew from the school. I had also been to the Gymnasium for four years in Vienna and I knew boys from there. We had a comfortable life. I don't think my parents had - they just had enough money, but to bring up six children, and to pay for the rent and the flat. The two youngest children were sent to boarding school because the flat wasn't big enough. So they were in boarding school. But we had holidays every year in Breslau or Baden - Baden bei Wien and in Breslau my parents rented a cottage where we lived for a couple of months during the summer. The children. The parents had to stay in Vienna but the children with a housekeeper were sent to Breslau and spent the summer there.

BL: Did you have a nanny or a housekeeper?

HK: We had a cook; we had a cook - a live-in cook. Ja. But somebody came with us. I think it was an auntie of mine came with us because we couldn't go by ourselves. So she came with us and we stayed in Breslau during the summer. And in Vienna - my father, his main business was eggs... and all the egg merchants would

**Tape 1: 14 minutes 30 seconds**

meet im Zweiten Bezirk in a certain café. That's how it was. Each trade used to meet in a café where they discussed business and they also played games like dominoes. Very popular. Had a meal there. Everything happened in the café. It was a sort of social life. You discussed your business and played cards or domino, I think, yes. billiards as well, they had. So, I liked to go there with my father im Zweiten Bezirk. I quite enjoyed that. And I went to a local café with my friends, where we also socialised - just in a local café there in the 5<sup>th</sup> district where I lived.

BL: But there were no grandparents?

HK: No, we had no grand parents. Father had come from Russia and mother had come from Poland and we had no grandparents at all. They were either in Poland or in Russia.

BL: So you never saw them?

HK: Never saw them, no. Never saw them.

BL: How orthodox was your household?

HK: Not very orthodox, no. They had to keep the shops open on Saturday. In the food business the Saturday is the most important day, the shops were closed on Sundays, not like here. And if you kept the shops closed, you didn't have the refrigeration you have nowadays, food could go bad. Eggs, butter and cheese. We had a Kühlschrank which was with ice. People delivered ice during the week and perishable food was kept in there... But you couldn't keep a food shop closed. Maybe in the Zweiten Bezirk where most of the Jewish people lived, there I suppose they could keep the shops closed on Shabbas and keep open on Sunday. But not in the Fifth District or the other districts where we had the shops.

BL: Did you have a local synagogue?

HK: Yes local synagogue. Local synagogue. Ja

**Tape 1: 17 minutes 20 seconds.**

BL: Can you describe the synagogue? Do you remember what it was called?

HK: I think the synagogue was in the Siebenbrunnengasse probably. Well, Orthodox synagogue. I went mostly when it was the holy days like Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Passover. I didn't go every Shabbas. Some Shabbats. And we Jewish people in Vienna acclimatised or integrated very quickly.

BL: Did you have a barmitzvah at all?

HK: Oh yes, I was barmitzvah, I had a very nice Bar Mitzvah in our synagogue and a very nice party in a café. I think in those days people brought the cakes to the café, and the café would supply the drinks. Torten. They might have brought homemade Torten. Anyway it was a nice party.

BL: And youth clubs? Did you go to any youth clubs?

HK: No, I didn't go to any youth clubs or sport clubs. No.

BL: And what else do you remember? Do you remember any holidays at home?

HK: Oh yes holidays, as I said were in Breslau mostly. Oh yes, I once went with a youth club to Feuerberg— I remember going with a club. I think it was the Socialist club. We went in summer with a club to Feuerberg where we stayed. That's right in the country, near the Italian border, ja, on that side. And we stayed there for a whole month. Socialist youth club.

HK: I was interested in Socialism. Ja. And political leanings were left. Socialism.

BL: Yourself or your family, or both, or...?

HK: Well. My parents didn't bother all that much. But – oh yes - we went one summer with a Socialist club also on holiday I remember now. Ja, so I went twice

**Tape 1: 20 minutes 10 seconds**

with a Socialist club on summer holidays. Different directions. The first time I was much younger. The second time I was a teenager. Ja. Twice I went. I think my younger sister Olga, joined a club – probably a Communist club. Because there was an enquiry one day from the police because she had joined a Communist club. Because her leanings politically were to the left. But anyway life was comfortable. We had no worries. And then out of the blue, of course, once the Nazis came everything changed. It was like an earthquake. One day we were all right and then the next day we were in trouble only because we were Jewish. The law did not protect us any more. The name is vogelfrei. Means ‘bird free’. No protection from the law whatsoever. Of course I was lucky I got out before Kristallnacht. Which we know what happened on Kristallnacht. They especially went for young boys, my age or my brother’s age. They would have killed us then.

BL: What happened to the shop?

HK: Kristallnacht? Well, they plundered the shop and they plundered the flat. My father and two uncles and my mother and two aunties – they were all arrested but the women were sent back home. And the men stayed overnight in a local school. Sort of imprisoned. And my father... A doctor examined the men. My father was sugar diabetic. They let him go home. And the other two men were sent to concentration camps. My two uncles. And they later bought their freedom out. They had to pay to get out.

BL: If we can again go back slightly? So did you already know that you wanted to work in your family’s shop?

HK: Ja. It was definite that I would be in the shops, Ja. It turned out that my brother became a scientist but I wasn’t that way.

BL: Were you the oldest?

HK: I was the oldest, Ja.

**Tape 1: 23 minutes 10 seconds**

BL: Did you like it? Did you like the atmosphere in the shop?

HK: Well it was easy going. I could come and go when I liked. It wasn’t restricted. I worked in the shop seven days - worked long hours in those days from eight in the morning till six or seven even. Worked long hours. But when you work in your parents’ business it’s easy, isn’t it? You can come and go when you feel like.

BL: Was the produce bought from the local farmers?

HK: Farmers? No, no it wasn’t bought from the farmers; it was bought from importers or wholesale. Import, Ja.

BL: And how did your father get into that business?



HK: Well, the way he got into it is quite simple. His grandfather in Russia had an egg Magazin. That's a place where the farmers brought the eggs. And that was a packing station from which eggs were exported to other countries. And also to Vienna from there. So because he was in the egg business. Now then, father was called up for the army, but that was in Russia a very hard life for Jewish boys in the army.

BL: First World War? Or before?

HK: Ja, before the First World War he was called up in the Russian army but it was a very hard life for Jewish boys in the Russian Army. And he managed to get out of it, and he took a train to Vienna. And he had a letter from his grandfather who was in the egg business, who'd been exporting to a firm in Vienna called 'Medak'. And he went to Medak with the letter and they took him on straight away. And that's how he...He had planned to go to America actually, but on the way stopped off in Vienna and got a job straight away and that's how he came to stay in Vienna. And my mother came from Poland. She was a teacher in Lemberg, Lvov. She was a teacher in a primary

### **Tape 1: 25 minutes 55 seconds**

school and she came to Vienna, where she met up with her married sister and through her sister she met my father. That's how they got together.

BL: When did they get married?

HK: Let me see now. 'I think they got married in 1910 or '11. I had an older sister but she died of diphtheria. In those days diphtheria was very dangerous. Yes I was born in '14 but in 1911 my sister Gretel was born. They got married in 1910 and a year later they had their first child. Yeah.

BL: Do you remember any anti-Semitism in Vienna in the 1920s? What was the relationship between Jews and non-Jews in your experience?

HK: I didn't notice anti-Semitism really. Not at school. Not at grammar school. Not at Handelsschule. No. I can't say... On one occasion I was playing with some friends in a park – and that was, I think, in 1937. '36 or '37. I did notice someone did call me a "dirty Jew". One occasion only. In all my life in Vienna I can't say that I encountered anti-Semitism. Not really. But it changed after the Nazis came to power. It changed " from, from heaven to hell. Oh ja– let me see now...one day the Nazis called me -that was after the Anschluss – to a local school. They wanted me to move some chairs. A few other Jewish boys were there. I don't know why they called me. They wanted to show who the masters were...I had to move some chairs. All right. That wasn't too bad. On another occasion they wanted me to come to another of our shops to wash the pavements. Jews had to - were called to wash pavements where there were political slogans. There was supposed to be a vote coming. Before the Anschluss. Because Hitler didn't want the vote. That's why they marched in before the vote was taken. Afterwards the vote was 99%. So there were slogans on the pavements and Jewish men and women were required to wash those slogans off. And they wanted me to travel to another district. But my eldest sister she said she would go instead of me. Nellie. She thought it wouldn't be so dangerous if she went.

And she went and she washed the pavement. And it wasn't too bad, I suppose, they were shouting some insults. She came home and said it wasn't too bad. On another

**Tape 1: 29 minutes 30 seconds**

occasion – oh ja. And my youngest sister Erika – she was quite young, maybe 15 at the time. She wanted to get away and just got on to a plane in Vienna for Zurich. Well in Zurich she was arrested. Overnight, she stayed overnight and in the morning they sent her straight back to Vienna. That was in Switzerland - Zurich. They wouldn't let many...There was difficulty with the Swiss. Getting into Switzerland was difficult. Because my uncles tried to get into Switzerland over the border. They couldn't make it - didn't make it. Went back to Vienna. I got both uncles visas when I was here. Guarantors.

BL: So when was it that you were originally discussing immigration? Was it directly after the Anschluss, that you thought you had to leave or when...?

HK: Not straight away. Not straight away. But as things worsened. Went to get a passport, so the thought must have been in my mind. I didn't have a passport before the Anschluss but I went to get a passport in April, I think. And my youngest sister Erika, the one who went to Zurich by plane - I was in a long queue – and she found a way where I got in quicker. She found a doorway somewhere. So I got a passport. It was a good job I had the passport because when I had to get away in a hurry I had a passport. Otherwise I couldn't or wouldn't have got away to Italy.

BL: Was there a 'J' in it? Was there a 'J' in your passport?

HK: No, I didn't have a 'J' then. No. Later on. It was the Swiss who told the Austrians to put the 'J' in so they could distinguish. The Swiss were quite bad. Quite bad. (Refers to his sister Erika) A young girl and they sent her back. She got ill later in England. She got ill and died young at 45. Maybe she got ill because of the shock she had when the Swiss sent her back and all the things that were going on. But she had a bit of luck. She and two other sisters were taken in by a reverend in Cambridge. The other sister came with me. Lola.

**Tape 1: 33 minutes 30 seconds**

BL: So, was there a plan where – Was it clear to you that you couldn't leave all together, so...

HK: We couldn't leave all together. We left one by one as soon as we had the opportunity, we left. Didn't stay a minute longer than necessary.

BL: What happened to the shops? You said it was arisiert?

HK: Well, eventually the shop was closed down. My parents closed down all the three shops. Couldn't keep them open. Ja, one day they were attacked in the shop. There was my mother, my father and my sister Lola in the shop when they were attacked by a mob. And they locked the shops but they broke in from the back. But father phoned

for the police. And let's see - two policemen and another one – three – came in on a motorbike and told the mob to go away. Ja. Probably saved their lives.

BL: When was that? When?

HK: I was still in Vienna – before I left. So it was...When did that happen, when the mob broke in? I think I would say May 1938. When the mob broke in. And the mob leader was a friend of our cook. A friend of hers. “ I think Father didn't like her having a friend in the apartment. And he sometime sneaked in and she gave him something to eat or so. But if Father knew he was there he would tell him to buzz off. He didn't want any strangers coming in. And he took revenge and brought a mob to the shop. I think he hit my father. My father was bleeding. The three of them were in the back of the shop. Worried. And the police came and rescued them. Ja.

BL: And you said you had a friend and you think because of that the SS came for you?

HK: Ja, I had a friend. That's why he wanted to arrest me. There was a law against Jewish boys mixing with Christian girls.

**Tape 1: 35 minutes 14 seconds**

BL: Was she a girlfriend?

HK: Girlfriend. Yes. Girlfriend. I don't know. She must have told him. Yes, she obviously told him. Well anyway. That's why he wanted to arrest...anyway it turned out to be lucky because I wouldn't have gone away in such a hurry. I wouldn't have got to England and when I got to England managed to get some of my family out. So in a way it was a bit lucky. Beschert .

BL: Because you think you would have stayed longer?

HK: Ja, well, the trouble was where to go. All the countries closed the borders. They wanted visas.

BL: You had no relatives in any other place?

HK: We had some relatives in America but they didn't help. No they didn't help. But they did help an auntie of mine. They helped her and two of her daughters. Ja. They didn't help us. No.

BL: When you set out for Milano did you have a plan to go to England?

HK: No idea, no. No idea what would happen. The idea was to go to Palestine. That was the idea. But the Italian border policeman pointed out unless you have a visa for Palestine he won't let you through Italy. He wouldn't let you into Italy. You could only go to Palestine if you had a permit. And you couldn't get that. The British government blocked the immigration into Palestine, just when we needed it.

BL: Were you involved in any Zionist activities at all in Vienna?

HK: No. None. So that's it. I think I told you everything.

**Tape 1: 37 minutes 18 seconds**

BL: It must have been quite a shock when you came to the British – the border - and they wouldn't let you in. They didn't want to let you in. Or did you expect it?

HK: No I didn't expect any trouble. I had a visa in my passport. A British visa – what more can you...? I didn't know the difference in those days - a visa from a Consul and a visa from the Home Office. See a visa from the Home Office is 100 percent. He can't stop it. I think he works for the... immigration officers and the Home Office they work together. He has to respect a visa from the Home Office. But a visa from a Consul he can reject.

BL: Why do you think he was suspicious of you?

HK: He realised I was a refugee, not a genuine traveller. A genuine traveller would probably not travel with his sister. 'Would probably have a few suitcases with samples. I only had one sample – a waistcoat [Laughs].

BL: Were you supposed to represent a firm of...?

HK: Represent a clothing firm in Zurich. And then when he ... He was suspicious grabbed all my papers. And from my papers and the letters and he could see... He must have read it overnight. He knew I was a refugee and not a traveller. He knew that for sure. After all they are trained, aren't they? They are trained to spot the difference.

BL: And how difficult was it for your sister to get a domestic visa in Vienna?

HK: Well she didn't say she had any difficulties. She applied to work for a family in Harrogate and she had no difficulties. And I got visas for my two aunties also. Domestic visas and guarantees for their husbands.

BL: And what, when you came to England after the border policeman let you through, were your first impressions? Do you remember?

**Tape 1: 39 minutes 42 seconds**

HK: The first impression. Very tired and I went to bed in the hotel and slept a long time. And the first meal was fish and chips with tomato ketchup. Well fish I had seen before, but we had fish and chips with ketchup, that was something new. And we were in number 10 Coram Street, staying there in a boarding house - not far from Woburn House. And kept in touch with Woburn House which was very helpful to arrange extension of stay and also to apply to get other members of the family over. So Woburn House of course helped... yes they also gave us one pound fifty. Every refugee got one pound fifty. At first. But when more and more came, they reduced it to one pound per week. Not a lot. And they told you, 'You're not supposed to work. You haven't got a work permit.' So, it was really... I did find a job in the East End at

an egg firm packing eggs near London Bridge. So I got some money there. But I was a bit worried because it was without a work permit and I knew if they catch me they could send me back. We were worried working without a work permit. But with a pound a week it was not easy to make a living.

BL: You were alone?

HK: Yes I was.

BL: Because she was in Harrogate?

HK: She went to Harrogate, yes. That's right. Yeah.

BL: So did you live in the East End? Where were you living when you started working?

HK: No it was Coram Street – near Woburn House. Which is the West End isn't it? I stayed in the West End, in that place.

BL: Were there other refugees where you stayed?

**Tape 1: 42 minutes 18 seconds**

HK: No, there was a German boy there, but I think he was Nazi. Because we had a conversation one evening and he was not a refugee and he was pro-Nazi. I don't know what he was there for... I suppose he was there on a visit or learning English. Probably, because not far where we were there was a language school and a commercial school. Pitman's. Pitman's. I remember. Ja.

BL: How long did you work in the East End?

HK: In the East End? Well I came in September. Let's see. My sister came to London on a visit. She met up with some manufacturer in Leeds and he said he would give me a job as a trainee. To work in the factory. Trainee. Trained - in a clothing factory. Cutting. I was cutting. They showed me how to cut suits. Oh yes, I went to night school before that. I went to night school. Ja.

BL: In England?

HK: I went to night school. In England, Ja. To learn cutting. So that came in useful. And then my father came in December and we moved to Leeds. And there was my father and myself in Leeds. And my sister was in Harrogate. Not far. It's only about an hour from Leeds. The three of us. And then eventually my mother just arrived a few days before the war started. Although she had had her visa for some time, she wanted to clear up things in Vienna. Eventually my sisters came up from Cambridge and so the family were together in Leeds. Ja.

BL: So you managed to get basically quite a few domestic visas and guarantors for your father. How did you do that? Can you describe it?

HK: Well, I approached some people. They were all Jewish. And explained the position that for domestic was easier than for a guarantee. So for instance, I met a Mr Seifert. Mr Seifert. He guaranteed for my father. Very nice man. A real gentleman.

**Tape 1: 45 minutes 30 seconds**

BL: Where did you meet him?

HK: I met him, let's see now. Seifert I met in London. I was told to go... I was referred to go to visit some people. In the synagogue they gave me some addresses of where to go.

BL: Which synagogue was that?

HK: A synagogue in Great Portland Street.

BL: Aha?

HK: Ja. Anyway I got to know some addresses. I got to know a Mr Schwarz and a Mr. Seifert and they were very helpful with visas and guarantees. But the people who guaranteed didn't have any money to spend. It was just to give a guarantee and that was it. My father or my uncles didn't approach them for any money. They were just happy that they had guaranteed them and because of that they were able to come over here, and saved their lives. Didn't expect or ask for any money. Then when we came to Leeds, my father and two uncles got jobs at Burtons. Working in Burtons. My father on a Hoffman press, which he'd never done before. My two uncles were in the cutting room cutting suit lengths.

BL: What is Burtons?

HK: Burton is the biggest clothing manufacturer in England. You must have seen the name. You must have seen the name. Burton. B U R T O N. He is also connected in the real estate with Evans. Evans is part of his group. But Burtons in those days had a factory employing thousands of people in Leeds, and was working mainly on uniforms for the army. He had a big contract for uniforms, and the men were called up for the army so there was a shortage of workmen. Burtons took in as many refugees as wanted jobs in those days.

**Tape 1: 48 minutes 0 second**

BL: So you worked there, your father, and your two uncles.

HK: Ja.

BL: And in the meantime you said your three sisters were in Cambridge?

HK: Ja. But they came over from Cambridge and joined us in Leeds.

BL: So how did they come to stay there? It was with a reverend, did you say?

HK: They had stayed with a reverend. He had taken them in on a basis to stay for a while, but not permanent.

BL: How long did they stay there?

HK: They stayed there for about a year.

BL: Not as domestics?

HK: Well yes, while they were there they were cleaning and helping with the domestic chores. They were not just sitting on their bottom. They were teenagers and they were working there, doing whatever was required of them. Reverend Stuart. He liked sleeping on a balcony. I think he may have had some breathing trouble. So he always slept on the balcony.

BL: So your sisters' experience as domestics. What did they say in general? I mean your three sisters and your sister in Harrogate. Was it very difficult, or...?

HK: No they didn't complain at all. They were quite happy. They were happy to be in England and happy with whatever was required of them. This was obviously a very nice family. We went to visit them once, my father and I, and everybody was happy to be, to be away from the Nazis.

**Tape 1: 49 minutes 54 seconds**

BL: So when you were in Leeds, where were you living?

HK: We were living first... A butcher had given us two rooms free of charge. We were really living in two rooms. But the council eventually gave us a council house. Because we were by then quite a big family. Let me see now. Ah yes. My father and my mother had been interned on the Isle of Man. And my mother had been released. She came to live with us in Leeds. My brother, in the meantime, had the option of either being released or being sent, being sent to Canada. He took the option. He went to Canada. He wasn't with us. He was the only one away from the family. He was sent to Canada.

BL: Can you tell me about internment? How did it happen?

HK: Just one day at work a policeman came. My father under arrest and was sent to Pontefract, which is a village near Leeds where there was some camp. And there were only men in that camp. And we were together. They were not all Jewish there. There were some Christians there. Obviously they had to sort out the people and interview them to find out who they were. They were afraid of spies. Fifth column. In those days people were talking about the Fifth Column, which means spies. Well if they were Germans, they were probably Nazis. If they were non-Jewish Austrian or Germans, from my experience I found one Nazi in the boarding house. So that's why people were sent to the Isle of Man. And there they were interviewed and they came before a board and they were gradually, after a few months the Jewish people were gradually released.

BL: And what happened to you and your father?

HK: We were released after a couple of days. He was released because he had sugar diabetes and they didn't want to have any people who were poorly. And I said 'I need to look after him' and this and that. And in the factory where I worked, Mr Bronfman said 'He's all right. He's Jewish. He's a refugee.' And they let us out. But my mother and my brother. He was only a teenager. They were interned on the Isle of

**Tape 1: 52 minutes 58 seconds**

Man and from there he went to Canada. And in Canada he was interned for another six or nine months.

BL: Yes...

HK: ... in a camp, and then he was released.

BL: And did he come back?

HK: No. No, this is what happened. He volunteered for the Air Force. He wanted to become a pilot. And one day we were called to the police station and the policeman explained to my father that my brother in Canada, who was under-age, had volunteered for the Air Force and would my father give permission for him to come back? My father said, 'You sent him there. Now he can stay there.' He would not sign for him to come back to be in the Air Force. As a pilot his life would have been limited. Limited. Very limited. Pilots in the Air Force didn't have very long in those days.

BL: So what happened?

HK: So, he stayed in Canada. He was released. He went to the university. And he became a big scientist in Canada. Yes. He and another refugee called Ratz. Katz and Ratz. They built the first computer on the university, and my brother became a big masher in the computer business, which was at the beginning. The first machine they built, the first machine was as big as that wall!

BL: Where did he live? Where in Canada?

HK: In Toronto. And so he became a big masher. He was put in charge of a waterway from the sea into Toronto. As a young man only. But he became a friend of one of Canada's Prime Ministers. The French one.

**Tape 1: 55 minutes 20 seconds**

BL: So even after he was released after the war, he didn't want to come back?

HK: No, he settled. He got married there. He had four children. He settled in Toronto. One of the first things... He invited us both to come over but I was working but my father went over to visit him. And it was a good thing because my father had sugar diabetes and wasn't doing very well in England. But my brother took him to a



doctor who put him on insulin. He hadn't had insulin before that. Put him on insulin and then he got better very quickly. He put on weight. Here he lost weight. He got very thin. He got down to nine stone, but when he took the insulin he got up to 13 stone which was more his proper weight.

BL: And he stayed there, or he came back?

HK: No, he went there for a visit. He went more than once. Two or three times he went. He came back and he and my mother lived in Leeds. Now he died in Leeds, ja. He died in Leeds eventually with the sugar. He had to have a leg amputated and a few months later he died. And mother. Then mother was by herself in Leeds. We were all in London by then. And my brother took her to Canada. She lived in Canada with him for a couple of years. And I've got a photograph...

BL: We can look at photos later.

HK: He took her to Canada where she lived. In a home. He put her in a home. She'd gone by then. She had become senile. He put her in a home and she was comfortable there. I think it was run by nuns. And she died [long silence].  
Some family photos there...

BL: Yes, we should have some space at the end of the tape to show some family photos. This tape is coming to an end and we can

### **Tape 1: 57 minutes and 45 seconds**

End of Tape One.

### **TAPE TWO**

BL: This is tape two and we're conducting interviews with Mr Herman Katz. You were talking about your parents and how they lived in Canada. Maybe you can just take us back to England in the war years. So, you were interned. And after that you were living in Leeds.

HK: We were living in Leeds, yes. The internment. In my case it wasn't really an internment. But say, my mother and one of my sisters were interned.

BL: Was it a difficult experience?

HK: No, I think she really quite enjoyed it in some way. She learned English there. And ...Ja. She socialised. It was quite a new experience for her. There was a very strong wind in The Isle of Man. One day it knocked her over and left a mark on her nose. She didn't complain really. No. She took it in her stride.

BL: How old were your parents by then?

HK: Let's see now... born in 1888, and this was 1940...1940...about 52.

BL: And in Leeds did you have contact with the local Jewish community?

HK: Well, in Leeds, yes, that's how I met my wife, going to a dance at the club - Jewish club - in Leeds. The club was situated near the synagogue in Chapeltown. The district was called Chapeltown Road. Chapeltown. There was the club. In this club my son had his Bar Mitzvah party. We went to that synagogue and lived near there until I got married. I went to live with my wife and her parents in a district called Harehills. Her brother joined the army...

BL: Hold on, when did you meet your wife and when did you get married?

**Tape 2: 2 minutes 45 seconds**

HK: We got married... I met her in 1941 and we got married in the same year on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, 1941. We hadn't been courting or engaged very long. We probably met in June or July and got married in December. One of her sisters was in the land army; her brother was away, so there was only the youngest sister at home. So there was room. We had a bedroom. And we stayed with her parents for a couple of years.

BL: And how were you received as a refugee boy? Both in general by the Jewish community, and also let's say by her parents. Was that a problem?

HK: No. It didn't seem to be a problem. I was Jewish and that was that. Her parents were also foreigners. They had come over from Poland and Russia. They were also. .. You could say they had been refugees once, so I don't think it was much of a problem for them.

BL: You didn't experience any sort of hostility from the British Jewish community or establishment?

HK: No. No.

BL: Quite the contrary you experienced a lot of support and help

HK: Ja, well. I got the guarantees and the people for the domestic. Visas from Jewish people. I met... That was here. I met the Reverend Amias. He died last year. I think he was 94. He started the big Synagogue here. He also started JACS. He was also a founder of JACS.

BL: Can you tell me what it stands for, JACS?

HK: The Jewish Cultural Association...

BL: Doesn't matter. Jewish Cultural Association. So, you stayed with your parents-in-law?

**Tape 2: 5 minutes 10 seconds**

HK: Ja. We stayed there for two years. And after that we went to live with my parents. My parents had a four bedroom house but by then one girl... let's see now, my eldest sister she got married...

BL: Who did she marry?

HK: She married... her husband was called James. Chuck James. She met him in Leeds at a dance and he was working for the government as an accountant or auditor. He was exempt from war service. She met him and they got married, and they went to live in Brighton. They went to live in Brighton. . She made gloves. She became a quite famous glove maker. Making gloves for the Queen. There's her photograph with two children, a photograph behind on the mantelpiece where she got an award. She was also made a Freeman of London I think. And her son is also quite famous. He is an author. He writes thrillers. Peter James. Quite famous. At one time she employed a lot of people in Brighton making gloves. Later she branched out into scarves and other things. Now, the daughter is carrying on the business. Although the factory is closed. But the daughter is carrying on.

BL: She left your parents house. And the other sisters?

HL: Well, two sisters went to Canada.

BL: Aha? In which year? After the war had finished?

HK: Oh yes. Yes, after the war. They went to Canada. Two of them. One worked not far from Leeds – in Harrogate. So there weren't any children at home. We came to live there when my daughter was little. My daughter was about two or three. And we lived with my parents till 1947 when we moved to London. My sister was again in London and she found us a flat and she found me a job as well. In London.

**Tape 2: 8 minutes 17 seconds**

BL: As what?

HK: 1947. Representative for a textile firm called Posner selling household linens and pillowcases. Selling them to hotels and boarding houses. Quite a good job that was. Travelling around London, selling hotel linen. And two or three years later I started working for myself in London. I had a business in Old Street for fifty years.

BL: What sort of business?

HK: Clothing and footwear. Industrial clothing and footwear.

BL: Right?

HK: That includes boiler suits. Workmen's clothing.

BL: Cooks' clothing?

HK: Yes that's right.

BL: Bakers' clothing?

HK: That's right.

BL: So did you want to leave Leeds? Or did you come to London only because of the job?

HK: I came only to London because I didn't have a job in Leeds. After the war we had to leave Burtons. No, I couldn't get a job in Leeds. My sister said 'You come to London. I've got a job for you. I've found a job for you. And also a flat for you.'

**Tape 2: 9 minutes 48 seconds**

BL: Where did you live?

HK: I lived in 57 George Street off Baker Street. Lived upstairs. And later the shop on the ground floor became vacant and I opened a shop for the same things. You know...industrial clothing.

BL: So you said you dealt mainly with boarding houses and hotels?

HK: Ah, that was when I worked for Posner. But that changed when I worked for myself.

BL: Yes, when you worked for Posner – did you go into any...because there were still a lot of refugee boarding houses around.

HK: I remember one refugee boarding house in... Not very far from here. Yes. I met one refugee boarding house owner in North London. Ja.

BL: But you didn't live in a refugee area. Did you know any other refugees?

HK: No I didn't. I lived in the West End..

BL: Exactly. Again. The second time. So you didn't live in Swiss Cottage, or...

HK: No. No. I wasn't in touch with refugees at all at that time. As a matter of fact, my wife died seven years ago, and a year later I met a young ...well, lady my age. And let's see. She came to live here. ' '. Yes. Muriel. Muriel Page Rodney. She was American because she had been married to a GI. I think she was the first GI bride. Y Muriel. She was very nice. No, after Muriel died I was looking around to join some clubs and things. Start a new life. Then I went to AJR.

BL: So before that you didn't have much to do with the AJR?

**Tape 2: 12 minutes 26 seconds**

HK: No, she died on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May this year. And then I began to go out - there's the AJR book down there - the one they send out every month. And I got in touch with AJR, and Sobel and BPG - that's the Bereaved Partners' Group – and Brady Maccabi in Edgware. Yes. Joined all the clubs. Had to start a new life. A change. Before that, no, well, she wasn't a refugee.

BL: And your wife wasn't either?

HK: No. No, she was English. She was born in Leeds. No. Her father became a Captain in the army which her parents were very proud of him.

BL: So, did you feel part of – I mean you said you had a shop in the East End. Did you feel part of the sort of Anglo-Jewish...?

HK: Oh yes. A lot of my contacts were Jewish. A lot of the businesses I did business with were Jewish. Yes. I had a good friend, David Green. I dealt with some market traders as well. David Green was one of them. And Dennis Meisel. Many Jewish customers.

BL: You said you had the shop for 50 years - that business - in the East End?

HK: The shop wasn't quite... yes, 50 years all together. Because I printed some pens with my name on it after 50 years and had them handed out.

BL: From when to when? 1947...

HK: '47...No. I wasn't 50 years in the East End. A few years before, I closed down the warehouse and came and worked from here. Worked from home.

BL: But when you started in the East End it was quite a Jewish area?

**Tape 2: 14 minutes 38 seconds**

HK: Yes. But it changed a lot. Yes. It changed a lot. You could say 90 percent Jewish when I started in '47. There have been a lot of changes. I used to go to the East End a lot. Because I did most of my buying in the East End, around Petticoat Lane and Wentworth Street and Mile End Road. And Whitechapel. I would go down to Whitechapel every day. Buying. Sometimes deliveries. ...Yes, in Old Street I was quite a long time. 64 Old Street corner of Golden Lane.

BL: Yes?

HK: Do you know it?

BL: Mm-hmm.

HK: On the corner. I had industrial clothing in the window. It was called 'H. Kay & Co. London Ltd.' That's how I got the name 'Kay'.

BL: Aha. Why did you change it from Katz to Kay?

HK: Well, when you're in business it's better to have an English name because some businesses are anti-Semitic. And because of that, that's one reason. And when you come over as a refugee you want to hide yourself. You don't want to come out saying 'I'm Jewish'. You hide yourself away. Anyway, it was a good name for a business. It

sounded better than 'H. Katz and Co. London Ltd.' I wasn't actually in the East End proper. Old Street is not the East End.

BL: No it's not.

HK: It's before you get to the East End when you come from the West End and go through Old Street you come down to Shoreditch and Commercial Road, Whitechapel. So, it wasn't really a Jewish area. Dealing with English firms I thought it would be better to have an English-sounding name.

**Tape 2: 17 minutes 0 second**

BL: But you didn't want to change your name completely?

HK: No. I haven't changed my name by Deed Poll. Only for business changed it to Kay. I've always been Katz. Been born Katz and so I suppose I'll die Katz! (chuckles) That's my proper name. Some people have a name for their business.

BL: Sure.

HK: It doesn't have to be the same name.

BL: No. But many people anglicised their name.

HK: Anglicised. Of course. I mean when there were names like yours, Lewkowicz, they might have shortened it to Levko ...

BL: Or just Lev.

HK: Lev. A lot of people shortened their names. Wanted to be anonymous.

BL: Is that how you felt about your past? After the war how did you deal with your past? Did you talk about it to your children at all - about Vienna?

HK: Well, we talked about all these things. But, that was at the time we thought it the best thing to work in England, have an English sounding name. Go to synagogue. Have Jewish friends. And so, well, integrate into the British life. Same as Jewish people were fully integrated in Germany and Austria, so they integrated here.

BL: When did you become naturalised?

HK: Soon after the war finished. I think 1946.

BL: Although of course your wife was British...

**Tape 2: 18 minutes 57 seconds**

HK: She was British, yes.

BL: That doesn't automatically mean that you got...

HK: No. Not automatic. It's not automatic. She became Anita Katz. She didn't become Austrian. She stayed British. Soon after the war. Because you have to be in England five years. I came in 1938. So by '45 I was here already seven years. So I was fully qualified to become naturalised. Had all the qualifications – seven years here, and no offences. So I suppose... And a British wife. Yes, and my daughter was British too, born in Leeds.

BL: What about language? We didn't discuss the aspect of language. Was it difficult for you?

HK: The language was a bit of a problem. We went to night school in England to learn English. I had had one year at school in Austria. One year, well, when you have English lessons you might have one lesson a week. So, one year with one lesson a week isn't much really. But I had already a little beginning of it, so when I went to night school... Of course then my wife couldn't speak German. She only spoke English at home. So naturally you become English.

BL: Did you speak any German to your children?

HK: Not to my wife. She couldn't speak German.

BL: To your children?

HK: No they don't speak German really. No. My son and my daughter were born here, went to school here. They learned a bit of German at school. I think my daughter learned more than my son. They can speak a bit but you can't make a conversation with them.

## **Tape 2: 21 minutes 13 seconds**

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

HK: Well, I've been British since say, 1947. And that's 56 years. I've lived here longer than in Vienna! More than twice as long. I was a boy in Vienna. A young man. But my manhood has been in England hasn't it? My wife and my partner both English. Well, now I meet refugees at the AJR. I've been going there since June. Very nice place. The Day Centre. I go Monday and Thursday. We play bridge. We have lunch.

BL: How would you compare your life to the life of other refugees? Do you feel you were more integrated than others, or...?

HK: Well I'm fully integrated. I suppose, we speak a bit of German at the AJR, at Day Centre. Some of the people... Most of the time they speak English. Occasionally one or two of them speak German. There are some there who speak German. Most of them speak English. Most of them live in the West End. The day centre is in Kilburn. No. Not all in Kilburn. They live all over, really. Well there's one who lives in this street... no, two live in this street. Not far. Number 9. Number 23. There's another refugee lives on the other side. In this street I know three or four people. Refugees.

BL: Do you find any similarities with them or differences? Do you go to many other clubs or associations? Is it different for you?

HK: No, one club is like another. People sit and talk. Play games. Enjoy the music. The nationality doesn't really come into it.

BL: What impact do you think it has had on your life, to be a refugee?

**Tape 2: 23 minutes 50 seconds**

HK: Well, of course I would have been in Vienna, having a shop there, selling groceries, having my family there. And it changed completely hasn't it? Well I had a shop here but in the clothing trade. I couldn't get into the food business. I think it was probably the capital. You needed a bit more capital for that. Well, I would have had a family here. I would have had a family there. A shop there. A shop here. Austrian or British. There are similarities, aren't there? It hasn't changed completely. Jewish friends here - Jewish friends there. Synagogue there. Synagogue here. What has changed? The outlook on life I suppose, has changed.

BL: In which way?

HK: Well, I mean when Hitler came he turned our life upside down. And from one day we were happy and the next day we were in schtuck. We were in terrible trouble. And that has left an impression which one never forgets. Although it happened a long time ago, you think of it probably every day. The thought is in your mind that you were a refugee once, and what happened, and how the life changed. And eventually settled down to the new life in the new country. And that becomes your country.

BL: Do you feel at home here? Do you feel at home in England?

HK: Pardon?

BL: Do you feel at home here?

HK: Yes. Oh yes. Well, here, in this house, I've lived 33 years. It was on the 1st of August 1970 I moved in here from St John's Wood and joined the local synagogue. Here. That's my home. I never contemplated going back.

BL: Have you ever been to visit? Have you ever been back to Vienna?

**Tape 2: 26 minutes 28 seconds**

HK: Yes, just once but I didn't like it much. No relatives left. No friends left. Strange. Like being in a foreign country. No this is my home - that's a foreign country. They gave me the Austrian nationality back again. I suppose they did to everybody. But I wouldn't feel happy going back. Not at my age anyway. Make a new beginning. I would be too old. No. You want to be where your friends and family are. You don't want to be in a strange country. And the people in Vienna they have been very bad



towards us. They robbed us. They sent us to the concentration camps. They killed us. Who wants to go back?

BL: Did you ever get any compensation?

HK: I get some compensation. Well, let me see now, yes. I get some compensation. I get an Austrian pension. Yes, with the English and the Austrian pensions, that's my living. Yes, the two pensions. The Austrians have been... financially they've been quite good. I had some compensation. And, recently I got £1,000. I needed some dental treatment and I got about £1,000. The AJR, they got it for me. One sister I have in Miami – Lola - and she gets more, but unfortunately she's not well. She's got Parkinson's so she gets a lot more. But then she's got to be looked after. She probably gets twice as much as my pension, but then she needs it.

BL: What do you think is the most important aspect of your past? What would you say to your children that you take from Austria?

HK: Well, they're completely English aren't they? It doesn't make all the difference to them whether I came as a refugee or whether I was born here. Because they know my past. We talk about it some times. It doesn't really make any difference to them. They were born here. They don't speak German. Austria is a country far away from them, for which they have no - no feelings. They know why I had to come here. Saved my life. And they're happy. C'est la vie.

BL: Ok, we've covered many different topics. Is there anything you would like to add which I haven't asked you?

**Tape 2: 30 minutes 20 seconds**

HK: No, I think you covered everything pretty well.

BL: Or is there any message you would like to give anyone watching this tape? Say from your experiences?

HK: Well I'm happy that I'm a survivor. Millions got killed. So I'm one of the lucky ones. I'm the one who got away. That's all. What else? Not much else one can say. Grateful to this country that they took me in. I found a haven here. For that one has to be grateful. Yes yes, I suppose I was one of the few - who were lucky.

BL: OK, Mr Katz, I would like to thank you very much for the interview.

[Looking at the photos]

BL: Can you describe this picture?

HK: This is a photograph of myself when I was approximately two and a half to three years old.

BL: And where was it taken?

HK: It was taken in Vienna.

BL: And when, roughly?

HK: Roughly 1917.

BL: Can you please describe this photo?

**Tape 2: 32 minutes 0 second**

HK: On this photo there are my parents, my four sisters, Nellie, Lola, Olga and Erika and my brother Joseph. This photograph was taken on the occasion of a wedding when one of my nieces got married.

BL: And where are you in the picture? Can you describe it?

HK: I am next to my father.

BL: On his left?

HK: Yes, on his left.

BL: Can you please describe this photo?

HK: This is a photo of when I went to primary school in Vienna. The school was situated in the Margaretenstrasse. And the teacher's name was Weber. Herr Weber. And I am sitting on the floor on his left side, on his left.

BL: On which side?

HK: On his left.

BL: Can you please describe this photo?

HK: This photograph shows my sister Lola and myself on holiday in Zell am See, with some friends.

BL: And when was it taken?

HK: This was taken in 1935 approximately.

BL: And where are you please?

**Tape 2: 34 minutes 0 second**

HK: On top or at the back. My sister and myself, we're at the back.

BL: And which sister was this one?

HK: Lola. She's the one that figures a lot in my life because she's the one I came to England with. She got me a job in London. Without her I couldn't have got into England. She lives now in Miami.

BL: Yes can you please describe this photo?

HK; This photograph shows my auntie Gusti, my sisters Nelly, Lola and Olga and Auntie Gusti's daughter Edith and was taken out outside Schönbrunn. One of our favourite places to go on a Sunday to go for walks or to see the Kaiser's palace. It had 40 rooms and each room in a different colour. And we used to enjoy afternoon tea at the Tivoli which is opposite the castle

BL: When was it?

HK: Must have been in the 1930s.

HK: This is my wedding photo. On my right is my sister-in-law Sylvia, on my left is my brother-in-law Paul and my sister Erika.

BL: And what is the name of your bride please?

HK: My bride's name is Anita.

BL: And what was her maiden name please?

HK: Gross .

BL: And when was the wedding?

**Tape 2: 36 minutes 26 seconds**

HK: 21<sup>st</sup> of December 1941.

BL: Yes can you please describe these photos?

HK: These photos are from left to right my sisters Nellie, Lola, Olga, Erika and my brother Joseph.

BL: And when were they taken?

HK: They were taken in the 1930's.

BL: In Vienna?

HK: In Vienna, yes. They were all teenagers then.

BL: Probably they might have been taken right before leaving?

HK: Yes. I think that was the purpose of these photos. For passports. So it probably could have been taken in 1938. Everybody needed a passport then and everybody was in a hurry to get out then. And there was nowhere to go. It was all right then. They would let you out then. But where to go?

BL: Yes, can you please describe this photo?

HK: This photograph shows my wife, my daughter Valerie, and myself on holiday in Blackpool in 1945. There are some more photos on the sideboard.

BL: Can you please describe this photo?

HK: this photo shows my father and my sister Lola on the occasion of a cousin's wedding in Leeds in approximately 1943.

**Tape 2: 38 minutes 26 seconds**

BL: Can you please describe this photo?

HK: In this photograph we see my father, and my sister Nellie on his right and my sister Erika on his left and it was taken in Brighton.

BL: He looks quite different he than in that other photo. Why?

HK: He'd been to Canada the previous year. And the doctor there put him on insulin and then his health greatly improved. Here, he was on pills. While he was on pills he got thinner all the time. And when he was on proper medication, he prospered.

BL: Yes, this photo please.

HK: This photo is of my mother. Anna Katz, formerly Anna Entenburg. And this photo was taken in Vienna in 1938 probably.

BL: Yes...?

HK: This is my daughter's wedding photo. On her right her in-laws, on her left is her husband Gerald, her mother, Anita and myself. And this was taken in ...I can't remember the year... Let's see now...1970.

BL: Can you please describe this photo?

HK; This photo is of my daughter Valerie, her husband Gerald, Valerie's daughter Debra, and their son Lee Andrew.

BL: And when was it taken?

HK: This photo was taken in approximately 1995.

BL: Can you please describe this photo.

**Tape 2: 42 minutes 18 seconds**

HK: This photo is of my son Martin and myself and was taken in 2001 approximately.

BL: In London?

HK: In London. Yes. Definitely in London. Actually in Edgware.

HK: This photograph shows my late partner Muriel Page Rodney and myself and was taken approximately in the year 2000.

HK: Heimatschein is a certificate which shows your nationality and place of birth which is in this case Vienna. This is from 1933.

BL: And at this point you probably didn't have a passport yet so this was in place of a passport?

HK: And the picture shows the Rathaus, which is the...

BL: It's the Stefans Dom, isn't it?

HK: No I think it's the Rathaus... Rathaus is a municipal building. The main municipal building.

HK: This picture shows my late sister Nelli with her children Peter and Genevieve on the occasion when she was made a Freeman of London.

BL: Why was she made Freeman of London?

HK: She was supplier of gloves to the Queen and the Royal Household. And manufacturer of gloves in Brighton.

BL: Ok. Thank you very much Mr Katz. Thank You again for the interview.

HK: Thank you.