

**IMPORTANT**

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**AJR**

**Winston House, 2 Dollis Park**

**London N3 1HF**

**[ajrrefugeevoices@ajr.org.uk](mailto:ajrrefugeevoices@ajr.org.uk)**

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**Interview Transcript Title Page**

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<b>Interviewee Surname:</b>	Wuga
<b>Forename:</b>	Henry
<b>Interviewee Sex:</b>	Male
<b>Interviewee DOB:</b>	23 February 1924
<b>Interviewee POB:</b>	Nuremberg, Germany

<b>Date of Interview:</b>	4 October 2004
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<b>Name of Interviewer:</b>	Dr. Anthony Grenville
<b>Total Duration (HH:MM):</b>	2 hours 37 minutes

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

**INTERVIEW: 74**

**NAME: HENRY WUGA**

**DATE: 4 OCTOBER 2004**

**LOCATION: GLASGOW**

**INTERVIEWER: ANTHONY GRENVILLE**

**TAPE 1**

AG: I am conducting an interview with Henry Wuga on October 4 2004 in Glasgow. My name is Anthony Grenville. Well, Mr. Wuga, first of all I'd like to thank you very much indeed for agreeing to do the interview with us. And could I just ask you first of all to start by stating your full name at birth?

HW: My full name at birth was Heinz Martin Wuga.

AG: And where were you born?

HW: In Nürnberg.

AG: And when?

HW: 23 February 1924

AG: Could I just start again by asking you about your family background. Please could you tell me something about the home that you grew up with your parents?

HW: Certainly. We lived in a flat in Fürtherstraße near the centre of Nürnberg outside the walls. My father had a stationary business. He travelled for stationary, and my mother helped him in that respect. My mother came from Heilbronn in Württemberg from a catering background. Her father had a brewery and restaurant in Heilbronn, and my father came from Graz in Austria, and they settled in Nürnberg.

**Tape 1: 2 minutes 43 seconds**

AG: What was your father's name?

HW: My father's name was Karl Heinrich Wuga.

AG: When was he born, if you remember?

HW: Yes I remember. Nineteen, eighteen hundred, I think 79, 1881.

AG: And how come that someone from Graz came to be living in Nürnberg?

HW: My father was, in these days when he was young, I am told, he was ein Prokurist. He worked in ...

AG: Like an office clerk?

HW: An office clerk, that's right, an office clerk and he got a job in Nürnberg. And he met my mother before the war on holiday, funnily enough in Blankenberge. They just met by chance in Blankenberge, one of these Dutch-Belgian sea side resorts, and he became a prisoner of war. He was in the Austrian army, and eventually they got married after the war and settled in Nürnberg.

AG: Where was he a prisoner of war?

HW: He was a prisoner of war in Italy in the Alps, this great battle in Bassano del Grappa, these mountains in northern Italy. He was a prisoner of war for quite a long time.

AG: And what did he do as a professional in Nürnberg? Did he continue ...

HW: Yes, he then started his own business. He had a stationary supply to offices. Typewriters, paper, revenues, etc.

AG: And what sort of man was he? How do you remember him?

HW: How do I remember him? He was tall, very busy with his business except at the weekends we would go out. On the week-ends we went out into the country. Very smart man, very nice man, very vain, if I may say in a way. I mean the business of combing his hair with the mirror in the back till everything was absolutely perfect and rubbing his hands with a little cotton wool with 4711 on it. Very pukka gentleman, yes.

**Tape 1: 5 minutes 8 seconds**

AG: And what about your mother? What was her name?

HW: My mother's name was Leonore Würzburger from Heilbronn.

AG: Do you remember when she was born?

HW: Yes, she was born if I said my father was born 81 my mother was born in 91.

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

HW: She came from a background, a well-established family with a brewery and restaurants. She had three siblings; there were four of them, three girls and one boy.

AG: Did they all live in Heilbronn?

HW: They all lived in Heilbronn, yes. The uncle, my uncle was in charge of the business. My mother didn't live in Heilbronn, obviously, in Nürnberg. The other sister, Jule, Julia, she married a ein Ahasen in Heilbronn in the synagogue, and the other sister, Fanny, married a gentleman by the name of Hempel, who dealt in pearls, Japanese pearls and things like that, yes.

AG: So you would have seen quite a lot of that side of your family?

HW: I saw a lot of that side of my family near Heilbronn because I went on my summer holidays. That's where we went to be with my cousins and to be with my aunts and uncles. My father's family we had no connection, very little connection with. They lived in Graz, he had two brothers, and I once visited Graz with him when I was about twelve years old, and my grandmother in Graz was in a hospital, in a home, a hospice so to say. But there was very little ... we exchanged letters but saw very little of them, saw most of my mother's family, it was a different relationship.

**Tape 1: 7 minutes 11 seconds**

AG: So you grew up very much more as it were German than being aware of any Austrian influence?

HW: Yes, yes.

AG: And was the household Jewish and observant at all?

HW: Observant no. My father was not Jewish. My father came from a Catholic background obviously and from Austria, but he put in his, in the family book we had, when it came to religion, he put in 'Dissident'.

AG: Could you translate this?

HW: Yes, absolutely. He dissented from any input religiously. He really cut himself off from that. So I grew up from a Jewish point of view. I went to a Jewish school but obviously through Hitler time, and I had Bar Mitzvah. So I grew up in a more Jewish influence from my mother's side.

AG: Could this, the fact that your father married a Jewish woman, could this have led to a slight distance between your family and the other?

HW: No, it did not. My father left Austria as a young man, and he really never had much contact with either his brothers or his mother, his father, I have no idea. I am told that the name Wuga, this strange name Wuga, we tried to do some research into that, very difficult. I believe his father came from Maribor, Marburg, in what is now Slovenia, and I believe his father or grandfather changed the name, the spelling of the name and the whole ethos of the name. Somebody said to me once this you can translate it as eine Goldamsel so we really can, I cannot go back any further than my father and his brothers. Otherwise I have no idea.

AG: Goldamsel. The Amsel is a blackbird?

HW: Blackbird, that's right.

AG: I see. Yes, I must say I wondered about your name.

HW: It's about the only ... there are no Wugas. I am the last of the Mohicans, so to speak, and I have no sons. We came across the name once in Austria, which must have been distant relations, but we have no way of dealing with these things. And as you know in Austria, Austria had no central registry until as late as the 1930s, so unless you went to the parish where somebody was born you had no way of finding anything out.

**Tape 1: 9 minutes 50 seconds**

AG: Right. Did you have any brothers or sisters yourself?

HW: No, I am an only child.

AG: And when you were a small child how about your first memories of the household and your family life?

HW: My first memories. We then, when I was a small child, we lived in the suburbs. We lived in the suburbs, that's right. I went to the local school, and eventually Hitler came, and then we could no longer go to the local school.

AG: Yes I'd like to hear a bit about the pre-Hitler years and how it was for you as a half Jewish child.

HW: That was not a problem. Most of my friends were from the surrounding area. Most of them were Jewish. I had a very normal, safe childhood with my parents. I had friends, obviously, I had other young people as friends but it was a normal childhood, and it was no problem until 33, till the whole thing fell apart.

AG: What area of Nürnberg did you grow up in?

HW: I grew up near the Plärrer. We lived in a suburb beforehand but when I was quite young, when I was about six, we moved more centrally, so the Fürther Straße was a busy

thoroughfare near the Plärrer square, which was a big transport junction, and we lived in a usual German tenement with a big front door, and you could drive through to the back. And my father had his store there and his warehouse there as well.

AG: Could you describe the family flat a bit?

HW: These were large flats with double doors going through from one room to another. When you opened them all you had a huge space. A large flat with traditional furniture. My mother tended a bit towards Biedermeier, so one of the rooms was in that style. The other rooms were normal, of the time. And for my father being in the business to me as you can see in this room your back is to my desk even at the age of eleven I got a desk in my room. So I grew up with a desk.

AG: So did his business do fairly well?

HW: His business did reasonably well till at one time it didn't do so well, and he had to, from what I remember, the business written over to my mother because obviously there must have been some financial problems. But then my mother being a Jewess, yes, so the business was again transferred to his name, and it made things very difficult.

### **Tape 1: 12 minutes 53 seconds**

AG: Did have any cooks or servants at all?

HW: Yes, we had, obviously, we had a girl, yes, a live-in girl. When I was young I had a live-in nanny and we had a live-in girl.

AG: Were these ordinary Germans?

HW: Ordinary, ordinary Germans, yes, which became difficult because eventually you weren't allowed to do that. But you say, servants. Well, if it was a good, a reasonable middle-class family. But what always amazes me when you look at it in retrospect, for example, washing, I mean smalls were washed, but household washing, tablecloths and bed linen was washed once every four weeks. Two women came, and they took everything downstairs to the cellar, where there were boilers, and it was washed. And then it was taken upstairs to dry, and the next day, the next day, the next week, came another lady, who started to repair things if they needed something to be sown on. Now we were not a well-to-do family by any means, and it's not that my mother wouldn't, couldn't do that but she was involved in business. But when I look back - 'oh you must have been wealthy' - it wasn't like that. A woman, a sewing woman, and two washing women once a month, this was a normal, quite a normal affair. When you tell it here to people, 'So you must have been very wealthy.' Not at all, this was of the time. That's how it was. Latterly, latterly, when Hitler came, we had great difficulty with that of course. We weren't allowed to employ these girls any more. But I remember well one occasion. Fürther Straße was very wide, so when the German rallies came, the Nürnberg rallies, the Reichsparteitage, we had the uniform SA etc. marching twelve abreast outside

our windows. It was quite horrifying. I was usually sent away to Heilbronn to be with my cousins. But I remember one occasion. One of the girls we had, one of the maids, was fairly left-wing. She opened both double windows, and then we weren't beaten up I don't know to this day, and shouted out, 'The mustard is running over', 'der Senf läuft über' because of these brown shirts. Now if someone would have taken this on board they would have come and wrecked our flat there and then. But they didn't. My father pulled her in, shut the windows, and that was that.

**Tape 1: 15 minutes 40 seconds**

AG: When you were at your first school, say, kindergarten and then at primary school or, were there a fair number of other Jewish children in the school?

HW: One or two, yes.

AG: And what were relations like between the Jewish and ...?

HW: It was no problem whatsoever until after 33. Then I remember being still at primary school, being sat in a corner, and being ignored by the teacher, by the other pupils all of a sudden. I mean unbelievable how this could change. What are your friends, your mates one day the next day you were completely ostracized. Sent to Coventry, as you would say in this country. And then of course we all went to Jewish school, and we were fortunate in this respect. The twin town of Nürnberg is Fürth, which as you will know was a very orthodox Jewish town with eine israelitische Realschule, a long-established Jewish school, and of course we all went to Fürth. By tram, not a problem, by tram to this strictly orthodox school in Fürth.

AG: How did you feel about this changing attitude to you?

HW: Well, as a child, you accept it. You are very young, and all of a sudden you are transferred to this school with all your friends, and you meet new friends. Many of my friends from, the relationship lasted from that school for then the rest of your life. I mean it was a very inclusive school, and we had this very good ... we had one German teacher by law. We had to have non Jewish teacher, who was all right but there was always a little ... but it was a very orthodox school. We had Chumlish (?) and Talmud but it was a good secondary education. It was a very well-known school, and we had unfortunately large classes. In every time of the year there were 52 in a class. Yes, a lot, but it was a sign of the time, so it had to be because we all went to that school. But we had good teachers who we remained in contact with even when they were in America. I remember their names, I ...

AG: Anyone particularly you remember? Any names that you would like to mention?

HW: Benno Heinemann, he was tremendous. We had another poor chap called Mandelbaum, who was rather ... an excellent teacher and a very nice man, but we were boys. We were, yes, and we would march into class shouting, 'hey do wir sind do'. And



then we were punished. He said, 'I will send for the headmaster.' Unfortunately, boyish brats, this teacher we undermined, yes. But the other teachers they were much better, and then of course we had religious teachers as well. We had a rabbi.

**Tape 1: 18 minutes 40 seconds**

AG: Was this a change for you to come into contact with orthodox Jewry?

HW: Yes. It was a change coming into contact with orthodoxy. We belonged to the main congregation in Nürnberg the, what would here be called progressively liberal. We had a choir but it was the main synagogue in Nürnberg. In Fürth, it was a different matter altogether. There were five schools grouped round the school yard. I mean it was quite a different kettle of fish. I mean it was a very religious school obviously. And then comes this, strange, comes this influx. All of a sudden, over half the pupils come from a liberal background from Nürnberg and are pushed into this school. So things there, they had to find a balance as well, so things there changed slightly.

AG: How did they manage that?

HW: They managed to do that very well.

AG: And at home did you have Friday evening Shabbath?

HW: Yes we had Shabbath, I had Bar Mitzvah, we had Friday evenings. Usually on ... I went to my family in Heilbronn, but we did keep certain Jewish things, but not to a great extent.

AG: Would you like to tell me something about your Bar Mitzvah, which must have fallen in the Nazi period?

HW: It fell in the Nazi period, so celebrations were cut down in any case. On the Bar Mitzvah we went to the synagogue, and on the way home we then had family at home. We must have had, from what I remember, I remember about forty to fifty people sat down to dinner. Cooking was not a problem in our house coming from a catering background, and I remember that very well. Some of my friends were there, and I also remember to my shame that I fluffed my speech. Terrible really, just one of those things. I remember that. But that went off nicely, and that was that. Then I, if I may go on, when I was fourteen, my mother, quite carefully, in retrospect, took me away from school. She said, 'I am sorry the way things are going on we have to get out of here soon. You better learn something.' And through connections I became an apprentice in the Hotel Tannhäuser in Baden Baden. Hotel Köhlerstern, a strictly orthodox hotel in Baden Baden. Even though it was called Tannhäuser.

AG: Wagner would have been pleased, sorry.

**Tape 1: 21 minutes 43 seconds**

HW: Yes, I went there in May 38, May 4, I remember that, I have got a piece of paper to prove that, and I worked there for 6 months, non-stop. I mean, it was absolutely pure slavery, which I enjoyed tremendously, to be honest.

AG: What did you do?

HW: I was in the kitchen. I was an apprentice to the chef. I was sent to the pastry, in the day before many machines. When we made sponges we beat them by hand. I learned a tremendous amount in six months. We got one half day a week. Yes, yes, you worked, I mean, that was not ... You were fed, clothed, you got no money, on the contrary, Mrs. Gülderstern said to me, 'Years before you came here you had to pay to learn something, yes.' So, my ... I had to ... buy my jackets, and I worked there very happily. Then, the chef was sent to the army, and I was literally, I was left with, obviously, there were people in the kitchen. But even at that tender age I had to do quite a bit of cooking. We had fifty guests. On the one afternoon off we got on a Saturday afternoon because Saturday night was go. Baden Baden had the only legal casino in Germany, very pukka affair, so we went. We stole our way round to the casino and looked in the window. I mean we were kids, lets face it. I made friends with the people we had. And being somewhat rebellious, when it came to the beginning of November I said, 'I would like to go home for a week.' 'What do you mean you want to go home for a week?' I said, 'I am sorry I'm going. I have now worked for six months. I would like a week off.' Which I thought was a reasonable affair. And that's how I missed Kristallnacht in Baden Baden, where everybody was put in the synagogue and set alight. So I escaped that. I had Kristallnacht in Nürnberg, which was not very nice either, but in Baden Baden it would have been even more traumatic.

AG: Yes, I have seen pictures of the synagogue in Baden Baden.

HW: Yes, I have a picture of that. They set it alight. Nobody lost their life but it must have been fairly traumatic. So obviously I never went back there. So this was my original catering experience.

**Tape 1: 24 minutes 21 seconds**

AG: Yes. Just to go back a little bit, how did your parents', your father's business fare under the Nazi, during the Nazi years?

HW: I don't think very well. There was a shortage of money. All of a sudden we had einen Untermieter, a lodger. Yes, I think we needed the money. We had a large, a very large flat, and strangely enough the lodger was first a Mr. Oxen. No, he came later, a Jewish gentleman, a very nice man, emigrated to America. First, believe it or not, we had a lieutenant in the German army as a lodger in our house, who was extremely friendly to Jews as such, and he tried to protect the household as much as he could from any incursion from the SA, quite unusual. He was a nice man, and he was very protective of

my mother, and he pushed a lot of things that would have happened. He managed to sidetrack them into other affairs. So that was quite interesting from that point of view.

AG: Presumably ...

HW: It was also said that I was a small child. You wouldn't know that now that I was small, I had rickets. I was undernourished because I wouldn't eat. So I was sent to various children's homes, Bad Dürenheim, a big children's place in Bad Dürenheim, which also ... These are childhood memories. They will never leave me. We marched into this ... I was six years of age. The matron was standing by the door, and as we came in she said, 'To the left, to the right, to the left, ...' I said, 'What are you doing?' 'Oh, I am looking at the skin, at your skin texture, at the colour of your skin. I know those children that can play in the sun and those that have to be sheltered from the sun.' I mean just by looking, absolutely. I remember that very well. And we, just by the by, some years ago, a few years ago, on the way home from skiing, I said to Inge, 'Lets go through Bad Dürenheim.' And I had forgotten the name of this Hospiz. It was called, Louisenhospiz, an enormous building. I mean six storeys high, really a 1940s huge building institution as a Jewish children school. I couldn't remember the name, and I went to the local tourist office, and of course the girl behind the desk was from somewhere in the east. She had no idea either, and the name came to be Louisenhospiz. So she said, 'It's up the hill here.' So we drove up and there I recognized it immediately 70 years later. There was this beautiful place; it had now become a psychiatric institution. But this enormous place was still there. I remember that from my childhood very well.

**Tape 1: 27 minutes 28 seconds**

And then we were sent to other children's homes, Bad Kissingen. I was already twelve at the time I think. And I, we objected to ... we were walking round to breathe in the air of the saline. You know what that is. A structure twenty feet high filled with brushwood, where the hot thermal waters are pumped to the top, and by perforating it down the whole area is infused with this moist healthy health-giving air, which we had to breathe in. But we had to hold hands, which at that age I didn't think this was necessary. And we were not allowed a knife; we were only allowed a spoon and fork. Now that upset me, even at that age. And I tell this story because I feel it's quite interesting. We ... very institutional obviously, and I was a bad eater but this day we had something I liked, chicken fricassee with rice. Fine, I got this and I ate most of it and then I had some rice left and I wanted some more sauce. And I got up and went up to the desk and asked, 'Could I please have a little more sauce with my rice?' 'You will get sauce when you have eaten your rice.' 'You don't understand,' I said, 'I need the sauce to make the rice slip down.' Now that created ... I mean nobody had ever dared to confront this Victorian institution. They sent for the governor, whatever. What happened in the end, all I know at night two other boys and I, we opened the window and left and run away, because we thought this was an injustice. We didn't stay very long, we were found by the police and taken back. But that ... My mother was told to take me away from this institution. One of those things they remain with you, these details.

**Tape 1: 29 minutes 33 seconds**

AG: I was thinking about your parents as a half Jewish, half non-Jewish marriage. Presumably there was pressure on your father to abandon your mother and you. A lot of non-Jewish husbands did.

HW: There was great pressure on my father to do that but he did not. They stayed together through thick and thin, even when the business suffered. But they simply stayed together. And not only did they stay together, they went through the war together. My father died during an air raid, but not through bombs, but a heart attack and my mother was then left alone in that flat. And we had good neighbours; we had good neighbours in the Hinterhaus, a postman and his daughter, whom I knew. We grew up and we played in the garden. A very strongly catholic family, who took my mother to a village, Pauzfeld near Bamberg, where she remained hidden for the rest of the war. Now this was quite something. She pretended to be a refugee from the east, not a Jewish person. And money passed hands. You see it was very difficult. She only went out at night, she kept herself to herself, but she survived the war there. And then she came back after the war to Nürnberg.

AG: My goodness. You were going to tell me about the Kristallnacht in Nürnberg.

HW: Kristallnacht in Nürnberg. I have to say that our house was not touched for some reason or other. But I remember the neighbour's house, yes. I remember them there beaten up and taken away. I remember in Essenweinstrasse the next morning when we went to see friends, a piano, a baby grand, being thrown out of a second floor window crashing on the pavement. And I remember friends there they had new furniture. They emigrated to Israel and all the furniture was smashed up and their bed linen was ripped and the whole house was full of feathers. And it was very traumatic, extremely traumatic. That's how it was. My father was not taken away, my mother was not taken away, but many of our ... my friends' fathers were, obviously ended up in Dachau for many weeks, before they were released again. And then things changed, then the pressure came on to get out. Now I remember my father taking me to the British consulate in ... or the American consulate, British consulate, in Munich to get some sort of visa. And eventually how this Kindertransport thing then was arranged all I remember my mother said, 'You have permission to go.' And I remember them taking me to the station and ...

**Tape 1: 32 minutes 38 seconds**

AG: Did they discuss it with you in advance?

HW: Yes, they discussed it with me in advance. Oh yes, I was absolutely well aware of what was happening. But may I say how naïve one can be? I mean I was fifteen. What I could not ... we had cousins in Paris, we had cousins in Brussels, and I was very friendly with my cousin in Paris, a girl my age. I said, 'Why must I go on this train? Why can I not go via Paris and spend a couple of days in Paris and then go to Britain?' So the tightness of Kindertransport the absolute didn't hit me until I was on the train, and once we crossed the frontier into Holland, and we got red apples and white bread, and people

were standing at the platform looking after us, that was quite traumatic. But at first I thought, 'I have always been interested in travel, why must I go? Why can't I go via Paris? Why must I go on this train? I can take the next train to Paris.' It wasn't like that, you see, childish ideas, but ...

AG: So, how did the preparations go for your emigration to Britain?

HW: My mother packed this little case I was allowed to take, but she also packed a trunk, which was then sent on and came to Glasgow eventually, with odds and ends in it, yes, because we came with this little bag. How did I, the next question will be, how did I come to Glasgow? Well, we came by train to Liverpool street station. I remember well not being collected by a guarantor or by a committee, but going to Glasgow the next day. Being sitting there, being sat there for hours till everybody was collected. We were the last; I remember that, in this black cavern, which now is no longer a black cavern. Very traumatic. And the next day we went by Royal Scot to Glasgow with four children. One of the little girls, younger than I, she is still around. We still meet here in our Jewish AJR meetings we have, yes.

**Tape 1: 34 minutes 58 seconds**

AG: What's her name?

HW: Sinclair. She married a Scotsman. I remember on the journey – I mean I travelled many times in Germany as a child with a label round. We were put on a train to go and see my relatives. But here we were on the Royal Scot, I mean unbelievable, with waiters with white gloves on. We were taken to the dining room. It was quite a vacation. This little girl wanted hot chocolate, which she got in a silver pot. It was, I remember that, quite dramatic. But how did I get to Glasgow? My mother's cousin by the name of Gummersheimer, they were dentists in Heilbronn. He was a dentist. They emigrated to Barcelona in 1935. Came the civil war, they fled back to Germany, where else could they go. And he got ... The British government gave permission to about fifty German dentists to settle here, and he came to Britain. And when he came to London people said, 'Don't stay here, you will starve to death, go north, young man.' And they found something in Glasgow, and they settled in Glasgow, which at first he didn't like. It was black but nevertheless they settled in Glasgow. So knowing that we had a relative in Glasgow, she then arranged for a committee and found a sponsor for me. This is how I came directly to Glasgow.

AG: What was it like for you? How do you remember the parting from your parents?

HW: The parting from my parents was ... Well, tears were flowing. But I remember them standing and waving goodbye on the platform.

AG: This was the main station?

HW: That was the main station in Nürnberg.

AG: What time of day was it?

HW: That was during daylight. We went all the way through to Holland and we crossed the channel at night. I think we arrived at Liverpool street station, in Harwich the next morning. I remember leaving, you didn't think whether ... I mean I don't think it dawned on me that I may never see them again. And I did see my mother again but that ... I don't think at fifteen that quite dawns on you, especially being a boy and having, already having been away from home remember for six months living separately. I think girls were much more traumatised by the Kindertransport affair than I was.

**Tape 1: 37 minutes 31 seconds**

AG: What do you remember of the journey and the other children?

HW: The journey was fairly subdued, very subdued. Till we got to Holland, then things seemed to change. Once the uniform guards turned off the train at the frontier, Bentheim, I think. And at the Dutch stations there were these Dutch ladies handing red apples and white bread, something ... I mean we had apples, we had no shortages at home, but bread seemed to be rye bread, it wasn't there except on Sabbath and it wasn't purely white bread, and apples weren't Mackintosh. It was quite a wealth of things. And then the boat journey was exciting and then the next day train to Liverpool street station.

AG: What were your first impressions of this country when you arrived at Harwich?

HW: Harwich that was all right. Strangely Harwich was not bad. Liverpool Street station, we were waiting in a huge hall down below was rather traumatic. Coming to Glasgow by train - tremendous journey - many hours - it was very interesting. I was only interested in the country side and being received here by ... I was guaranteed for by a Mrs. Etta Harridge, who originally came from Estonia. She had settled here in Glasgow with her husband, a furniture factory. Her husband died very young, she was left with four children. From the next day on she went to that factory and run that factory for the next thirty years. By the time I came here Mrs. Harridge must have been well in her sixties. Children, no children, well, one son was still at home he was also in that factory. I mean we are talking of him as a young man. She must have been seventy, Mrs. Harridge, I think, yes, easily. To take on a child of fifteen was quite unusual. She was a tremendous lady, also a very intellectual lady. She took me to the theatre. I mean even with my poor English I remember Elisabeth Bergner appearing in Glasgow in the Boy David. Now she took me to that. I was very fortunate in the kind of home I found here in Glasgow.

AG: We are going to have to stop for a moment because the tape is coming to an end.

**Tape 1: 39 minutes 50 seconds**

**TAPE 2**

AG: Henry Wuga, tape two. You were just telling me about the lady who took you in, Mrs. ... I didn't quite catch her name.

HW: Mrs. Harridge.

AG: Was she Jewish or not?

HW: Yes, oh yes, oh yes, very Jewish, yes.

AG: And she took you to see Elisabeth Bergner?

HW: She took me to see Elisabeth Bergner in the Boy David, which was quite unusual. She insisted. She was great to go to theatres or concerts which I would say. She had very intellectual friends. She was very ... an absolutely tremendous lady. In spite of running this furniture factory but she was ... she was very educated. Coming from Estonia from a place Lieberau (?) I think. It was very ... and I had ... she had ... I was in touch with her family; her grand-daughter for example was only five at the time and they all lived in Glasgow. And I was taken in, it was marvellous.

AG: What part of Glasgow did you live in?

HW: In Queenspark. We went to Queenspark synagogue. And her son, Simon, he must have been well in his fifties, she must have been over seventy years, he was well in his fifties, he took me on a Saturday afternoon, he and a friend, to play golf so they just took me along. I mean I just trailed around. We went by train, we went out to the golf course, we played golf. And then you went to a restaurant in the evening for high tea. I was very well treated. When I told that to many of my other refugee friends, they didn't have it as good. And then they said, 'Well, what are we going to do? We best send you to school.' True enough. And then within a few weeks of arriving here I was sent to school, Queenspark school, because I really had very little English but I was taken in, not a problem. I was very welcomed and I learned what there was to learn, and then the summer holidays arrived and I was taken, I was sent to Kirkcudbright.

**Tape 2: 2 minutes 10 seconds**

AG: Could I just ask what sort of school was Queenspark School?

HW: An ordinary secondary school.

AG: Sorry I interrupted you.

HW: I wasn't there very long. Then the summer holidays came. And again the committee had arranged. Myself and another boy, we were sent to Kirkcudbright by a family named Sassoon, one of the Sassoons, David Sassoon. And they lived an artistic

life in Kirkcudbright and with his two sons, with whom I am friendly to this day. They had a hut, a wooden hut, and we spent, I spent four weeks of this summer there. The first time in my life I saw the sea properly and I saw the Firth with forty foot tides, so we go out three miles and then coming in like an express train, quite dangerous, but you learned. And I had a marvellous time there, absolutely marvellous. I learned a lot, I also learned good English there. We lived in that black painted hut on the beach, very primitive but that was fine.

**Tape 2: 3 minutes 21 seconds**

AG: How many boys were there?

HW: How many boys? Two boys, Jacky and Jury, yes, there were two sons. David Sassoon moved to Kirkcudbright, in, I don't know, 1918. He didn't want anything to do with the family and the banking, he was a painter, so he moved to Kirkcudbright, which was an artists' town. Jacky and Jury Sassoon still live in Kirkcudbright. We see him quite often. When I came back, when the holiday finished I came back to Glasgow, evacuation had arrived. So I was an evacuee, for the second time, yes. We went to school, we were put into a gas mask, a little case. We were put on a train to Perth. And I ended up on a farm, on a farm near Perth. Fantastic. I mean we talk about war time, yes, it was quite traumatic, war had broken out, now that I remembered, war breaking out, that was not so good. Policemen came in, anything. I went to this farm. I was evacuated to that farm, and there was no shortage of food. There were pheasants, there was milk, there was cream, and they had two children also my age. And I learnt to deal with horses and ploughing and then the potato harvest came, potato harvesting, which in these days Irish teams came to the farm to lift the potatoes. It was marvellous. And I went to the local village school, but that didn't go so well. The education authorities thought, 'We have to do something about this', so we then moved to the other side of Perth, to a village called Forgandenny, a large country estate, which was run by the Glasgow corporation, and they sent teachers, and from there we lived there. And I went to, I was sent to Perth Academy, and as my English wasn't good enough I was then sent to Ballhousing boys' school, which was a lesser school, not such a good grammar school. But the headmaster, a Mr. Bothwick, was very kind to me and I spent, I sat my lower English leaving certificate or whatever it was called in those days. And that school introduced me to Shakespeare. That class that autumn did Macbeth.

**Tape 2: 5 minutes 58 seconds**

AG: Your English can't have been that bad if you were reading the Scottish play.

HW: No, well, yes, and it impacted on me. I can quote pieces of Macbeth to this day from memory. It just shows you when you get the right teacher then you're interested in something.

AG: Sorry we are going to have to interrupt a moment.



Interruption

**Tape 2: 7 minutes 13 seconds**

AG: Recommencing after the interruption. Actually, could I just ask you one or two questions as we had a break? The first thing is when you came to Scotland did you manage to have contact with your family back in Nürnberg?

HW: Yes, obviously that was before the war broke out. I wrote to my parents in Nürnberg and got letters back. When war broke out, then things changed. But that caused me endless trouble because I wrote letters to my uncle in Paris and to my uncle in Bruxelles, and these letters were sent - that was before Belgium was invaded - were sent to Germany. And vice versa, my mother and father corresponded with me through Paris and Bruxelles and as these letters were then censored I was accused of corresponding with the enemy.

AG: Really? How ...? Tell me about that.

**Tape 2: 8 minutes 21 seconds**

HW: I will tell you. We were evacuated to Forquahenna and I had forgotten, going to school, I had forgotten to register with the police when I became sixteen. As simple as that, just, they just ... I went to school every morning. We cycled and I just need to check ... and we cycled to school every morning. And at the time of Dunkirk British police put up road blocks in various main roads with huge circular cement blocks to stop tanks from going through. We cycled to school and I had an aliens' registration book and we were stopped obviously. And I will never forget the young soldier. They were told to look for German spies or for communists. So I took out my aliens' registrations book 'nationality: German'. Now the poor soldier nearly dropped his gun. This is what he was looking for. He sent for the sergeant, the sergeant sent for the lieutenant, and the lieutenant said, 'Let the boy go to school.' It was ... I will never forget that. I mean, it was a whole series of things. In any case, I forgot to register with the police, and when I registered, when I came I registered with the police, I was then sent back to Glasgow because Perth became a protected area, yes. You remember, one was not allowed to live within x miles of the coast or in certain parts of Great Britain and I was sent to Glasgow. And then it all happened. As I was not registered with the police I was sent to a tribunal in Edinburgh. And the high court in Edinburgh was struggling, well, Sir John Strathclyde (?) was struggling to assess us. The committee in Glasgow gave me a lawyer to be with me, who wasn't allowed in, and in the high court I was accused of corresponding with the enemy, which is a very serious offence, and they took a poor view of that obviously, and I had to be arrested. I was handcuffed ...

**Tape 2: 10 minutes 33 seconds**

AG: But you were writing to your parents.

HW: Ja, I know, but via an enemy country, yes, or to an enemy country via France, that's .... I've got these letters here. In any case, I was taken to the station, back to prison, locked in a compartment on the train, ...

AG: I am sorry we have to interrupt again.

**Tape 2: 11 minutes 2 seconds**

AG: Recommencing after the interruption after the gap with the sound. You were just saying you were arrested for ...

HW: The high court in Edinburgh they had no option but to arrest me. Corresponding to the enemy I was sent to Glasgow. At Queen Street station two detectives waited for me. When I came out of the train they took me to my house in Queens Drive, Mrs. Harridge's house. I was given half an hour to pack a suitcase. I was allowed one phone call and I phoned my cousin, two phone calls, I phoned Mrs. Harridge, and I phoned my cousin, Mrs. Gummersheimer. And I was taken away to the police station here. And being Scotland, a very civilized country, the sergeant said, 'Can nit taken nee laddies under seventeen can be put in a cell.' There you are. This is ... So, they had a real problem. What were they going to do with me? I was taken to a remand home in St. Vincent street in the middle of town, a remand home which children were brought to who appear in court. So I was taken to this remand home. The boys were much younger than I was. Probably eleven or twelve years old, really unbelievable. The governor of the remand home was very kind but very naïve. We all smoked in these days and he said to me, 'You can't smoke here, give me your cigarettes and if you want to smoke come to my office.' I knew better than to do that. I would have been beaten up. Because I was really, the first question these kids asked me was, 'What did you do?' I didn't do nothing. I didn't steal anything or break anything so I was at the bottom of the pile. I only stayed there for two days and I was then transferred to Maryhill barracks in Glasgow. Maryhill barracks in Glasgow in an underground ammunition bunker, because they didn't know what to do with me, with twenty other people, German sailors, from the German merchant navy.

AG: Oh no!

**Tape 2: 13 minutes 10 seconds**

HW: Oh yes. I don't know if Icelandic blockade means anything to you. When the British navy blocated the waters north of Iceland and any German marchant ship that came through they took it and arrested them, and I was with these German sailors in an underground bunker at Maryhill barracks for quite a few ..., quite a couple of weeks. Nothing much happened. One or two of the officers were rather ... I was very young, so they were quite good to me. Then we were taken from there by bus to Edinburgh, to Donaldson School in Edinburgh, this huge deaf and dumb institution which became a transit Camp, internment camp. I ... there was an air raid during one night in Edinburgh and some of the German sailors called me a dirty Jew, there was a little .... It wasn't very

pleasant. I was the only Jewish person there. These were German sailors. The commander of the school said, 'Anybody here that can cook?' Now, having worked in a hotel, I could, yes. I mean I have learned, even at an early age, if you need volunteers and you want to get out of something, volunteer. I said yes I could cook. But I was put in charge of the kitchen, believe it or not, and I was told to prepare a meal for over two hundred people arriving within the next seventy-two hours. That was internment. You see I was ...

AG: You were the guy ...

HW: I was the forerunner, exactly. So I went to the kitchen, and we had huge, huge equipment, huge boilers, it was a school after all, a big school. And we prepared a meal and there was a bit of shouting about why should a Jew be in charge of us. And one theory lead to another one, and then it calmed down. And they brought a British corporal into the kitchen to keep the peace. And within two days came at least two hundred people, amongst whom was my father in law whom of course I did not know. But my cousin Geoffrey Warren was also in Glasgow. He was studying here in Glasgow, so all of a sudden, here he came. And that was Donaldson's. From Donaldsons' school ...

## **Tape 2: 15 minutes 33 seconds**

AG: What were conditions like in Donaldson School?

HW: Conditions in Donaldson School. There were dormitories. Conditions were good. There was plenty to eat in dormitories. I don't think there was a problem. There was no hardship. From there we were sent by train to York race course, which was ... that was already good, York race course, because we had organised ourselves into groups. You could go to lectures. You could go to ... The only thing the journey from Edinburgh to York race course was typically British army. We were ... As I was in the kitchen, I knew we were going by train. And the sergeant came down to draw rations, how many men are there and we drew up the rations. Oatmeal, lentils, peas, bread. And I said to him, even at that age I said to him, 'This is no good, there are no cooking facilities on this train but that's what we've got.' We needed bread or something like that but we got oatmeal. This is typical, yes. You go by the book. We arrived in Warth, which was interesting, we were sorted out. And then we were sent to Warth Mills in Birmingham, which was shocking.

AG: Tell me about Warth's Mills.

HW: That was shocking. That was a disused cotton mill. There must have been five hundred of us. We were ill treated in disrespect. First of all, when we arrived we were searched, we were stripped, and our cases were taken. Everything was taken out and they misappropriated anything they wanted. They gave you a chit in the end. And it was pretty poor. It was also from hygienic point of view. If something would have happened there an epidemic would have broken out. A few people were very badly injured by transmission lights falling down. In any case that was war Warth mills. It was not nice, I

can assure you. It was traumatic. I met quite a few people there who took it very badly. And from there we were eventually sent to the Isle of Man ...

AG: How long did you have to ...?

HW: Warth Mills? I can't exactly say. I think three, four weeks in Warth Mills, yes. And then by boat to the Isle of Man, and I ended up in Peel, the other side, not on the camps in Ramsey. Peel was very nice. The camp was well organised.

AG: Was it called ...?. I don't know much about camps.

HW: Peverale Camp, Peel.

**Tape 2: 17 minutes 58 seconds**

AG: How many people were in that camp would you say?

HW: Three hundred. Two hundred. Three hundred.

AG: Mostly ...

HW: Mostly Austrian and Jewish refugees. A few political refugees, a few Germans. The secretary of Franz von Papen was one of them. But I must say the camp, I don't want to dwell too long on it, but the camp to me was like a university. It was like that. Remember I was one of the youngest, yes. There were all these high power academics.

AG: Do you remember some of them?

HW: I remember the Herbert Bondi, I mean, the Amadeus Quartets, we know we had Raviez and Landauer. We had one of them in the camp. There was a lot of music. And a lot of lectures, and it was absolutely high power. You could go to any lecture you wanted. Philosophy, medicine, music. There were people desperate to hold meetings and to let it go. There was no shortage of food. We were not ill treated. We persuaded the camp commander when we went out for a walk not to have soldiers with us, and eventually we were allowed out in groups with one unarmed soldier because they knew. By that time they knew we are not ... we wanted to join the war effort, we wanted to get out of here and help the country. We were not here, we objected to some Vichy French officers having a run of the Isle of Man. We weren't behind barbed wire that we objected to strongly. It was a brilliant summer. We went swimming, we went lecturing, we went walking, learned a lot of things. In my room was a man from Yorkshire in his fifties, not a word of German. I said, 'How do you come here?' He said, 'I have no idea.' It turned out his father came here in 1902 or something, never got naturalized, so he was German. He had no idea, absolutely no idea, I mean the man was lost. From him I learned how to make tobacco. We gathered certain leaves and used a bit of saltpetre and then put them in a tin under your bed, so you had tobacco to get by. It was great. Then I was reallocated to a room not in our house, as I again ended up in the kitchen, obviously. We had spare

flour, and spare this, and spare that. We baked doughnuts, Krapfen, etc. and sold them to, you know, there were cafés in the camp. It was a well organized affair. And then I was allocated to another room and I got a new room mate. That was my weirdest experience. Lieutenant I can't remember his name. Officer allegedly from the German army, a metallurgist seconded to the British aluminium company at Fort William but also educated at Oxford. Now he was absolutely bilingual I cannot tell you. He was a marvellous ... He gave lectures on metallurgy, but he tried to get me drunk a few times. Later it turned out this was MI5. They literally thought I was corresponding with the enemy. By that time of course we could ... the Isle of Man, and we found out that he was from MI5. He was planted on me, tried to get me drunk, tried to get me talking but nothing had happened. So, at some point he was taken away to hospital with appendix or so, but he never ended up there, and he turned up in another camp trying to find out something about somebody else. So that was the experience of that.

**Tape 2: 22 minutes 3 seconds**

AG: But MI5 on to a sixteen or seventeen year old boy.

HW: I know, you see, how paranoid, but this is the point. This is what happens in bureaucracy. Somebody strong should have said, 'Come on, read these letters, there is no code in there, there are quite a few of them.' But there you are. Can you imagine the expenses they spent on me. I was sent to Ramsey, when the time came for release I was sent to Ramsey, and the commander said to me, 'I am sorry, I cannot hold you a day longer, because you are under the age of internment'. I was under, I was only seventeen. But I had learned a lot. The camp did me a lot of good. I felt sorry for some of the other people. They played chess, the older men, anything to me was older, even men in their twenties, they played blind chess. You had your back to the table, you called out the squares, and you were given five seconds to move. So that's the kind of high powered affair this was. Very impressionable on a seventeen year old, yes. Coming back here to Glasgow I was given a pass, put on a boat, I had to change trains in Preston, which was horrible. You were ten months in a camp, you are absolutely ... you have every food, every smoke, every lecture, every, ... I had no brothers and sisters, my mother was in Germany, I hoped she was all right, I had no idea, my friends were in Glasgow, but all of a sudden I am alone on a big railway station. Who do I ask? It was ... the journey on to Glasgow was quite frightening, after being ten months in a camp situation. Unusual experience for a young man, but it stood me in good stead, I can assure you.

**Tape 2: 24 minutes 0 second**

AG: You said you felt a bit sorry for the older men. How did they take it? How did they react?

HW: Well, they had wives, they had children. How could their wife fare while they were here? Who ...? I mean, nobody had money. Would the wife go out cleaning? What ...? It was quite, quite traumatic. The other thing I have to bring out, we had these shiny papers to write on. You have seen these, you have seen one of these shiny paper. Once a

week we were allowed a letter. Now, as I had nobody to write to, I was elected to send my letters to the Manchester Guardian, as it was called in these days, or to Elena Rathbone. Now, Elena Rathbone, MP for the universities, this taught me about British democracy. You were incarcerated in a camp as an enemy, all right, a friendly enemy alien. By the way, I was enemy alien category A, dangerous enemy alien category.

AG: You were classed as an A? My god!

HW: O yes, dangerous enemy alien category. I attended two tribunals on the Isle of Man. One made me down to C, to B, and then I became again a friendly enemy alien due to religious persecution category B. Category B, category C when they threw me, sent me home. So we sent our complaints. Why are we interned? We could be helping the war effort. You need us. You sent this to Elena Rathbone, and being incarcerated in a camp in Britain you heard your questions read out at question time in the House of Commons.

AG: You heard your ...?

HW: During a war. This is unbelievable. But that was the good side of British democracy, you see. That was fantastic. And the Manchester Garden, of course, was for us whereas Lord Beaverbook and the Express and the Daily Mail, I mean, on money, on tax payers' money, paradise on the Isle of Man, they can go swimming, they are fed, they get cigarettes, it shouldn't be like that. You know, this absolute insistent propaganda, which got us interned in the first place till Churchill got so fed up he said, 'collar the lot.' This is how it happened. So I came out of it well. Eventually, shortly after I came out, within the next six months, most people were released. You found work. They realized that this is not what it was, so that was very good. And I came back to Glasgow.

**Tape 2: 26 minutes 48 seconds**

AG: When was this approximately when you came back to Glasgow?

HW: I was interned for 10 months. I was interned in December for ten months – 41. 41 I came back to Glasgow. And what could I do? Mrs. Harridge was very kind. You can ...

Phone rings

AG: Oh, we had better stop.

**Tape 2: 27 minutes 20 seconds**

AG: Recommencing after the interruption. You were just saying that ... you were telling me what you were planning or trying to do when you came back to Glasgow in 1941.

HW: Mrs. Harridge had offered me I could have gone into the business, her upholstery business. She was quite willing to teach me that. I could go and study in water, whatever.

I opted to go back into catering. I liked that, yes, and I found a job in a Glasgow restaurant, and I worked there as an apprentice, as a sous-chef, and eventually I was promoted. And I worked in various Glasgow restaurants, the Colin Stuart, Exchange, the Grovenor, the Rogano, and eventually I went to the Royal Restaurant and then to the Grand Hotel over the years, where I became chef de cuisine at the Grand Hotel.

AG: That sounds like a very upmarket ...

HW: Well, I had some experience and I gained more experience. I worked in good-class restaurants, yes, and how come I didn't do any war work? This is also a short story which I will tell you. This again was sheer ... I mean what happens in your life is quite strange. It is sheer luck. You had to go to the labour exchange, in these days known in Glasgow, known as the bureau.

AG: The what?

HW: The bureau - ein Büro.

AG: Oh, ok.

HW: I went down to the bureau. They would get me a job. Went to the bureau - strangest thing. Glaswegian. This young chap, I think he was two years older than I, he was a clerk. He looked at me, he said, 'Specky, you are going nowhere. We also need some people to cook for the public.' And he would refuse any application I made to go to Hillington to the ammunitions factory, or join the merchant navy, anything like that. He would not pass this on. So, through this lowly clerk at the labour exchange I remained in Glasgow during the war. Well, I suppose it had to be done as well but it was very strange. So I made my career through the various hotels, the restaurants. There I always found myself higher up the ladder, and eventually became chef de cuisine in the Grand Hotel. In the meantime I, when I came back to Glasgow, what do you do to find friends? So I found out there is a refugee club, German, Austrian, Czech, mostly Jewish.

**Tape 2: 30 minutes 2 seconds**

AG: Did it have a name?

HW: It didn't have a name. The centre, we just called it the centre, was a little house called 'the house on the hill' in Sophie Hall Street, where the dental hospital is now. This was our place. It was financed by the trade union movement in Glasgow, because it was fairly left-wing. And a lot of the slightly older people were very politically active. And we were there as a group, and again we learned a lot about music, we had lectures, we had meetings on a Saturday afternoon. On Sundays we went for rambles. There were also obviously older people there. So there were again discussion groups and helping the war effort, and we founded a group singing Czech national songs, and Austrian songs for Mrs. Churchill's aid to Russia fund. We toured Scotland, performing in the Usher Hall, in St. Andrew's Hall, in the music hall in Aberdeen to raise money for Mrs. Churchill's aid

to Russia fund. As I said, fairly left-wing in climate, 1<sup>st</sup> of May march. My wife, Ingrid, whom I met there, her father warned her, 'Don't get involved in left-wing affairs.' True enough because, for example, it was so egalitarian because we all had no money. That was inevitable. We all had a job and you did what you could. On a Saturday we went for a ramble. You made yourself a sandwich or something, but, some people had more money than others, so you threw your sandwich in the middle in a cloth, and then you took a dip and had to eat whatever came out. This is how egalitarian it was. Nobody should suffer from not having enough money to put whatever they want in their sandwich. But the club was great. We made great friends that lasted many, many, many years, I mean to this present day people we met there. It was a very coherent group.

**Tape 2: 32 minutes 14 seconds**

AG: Could you tell me how you came to meet your future wife?

HW: I met my future wife ... she was one of the group in that .... She was a friend, not a girlfriend. Everybody was a friend but all of a sudden then it gelled. Inge was lucky in the respect that her parents had the courage to come out of Germany as a domestic couple. I mean a middle class commercial traveller and a housewife come out as a commercial, as a domestic couple, a butler and maid, which saved their life. And by chance they went from one job to another and eventually got a job in Scotland near the coast. They were sent away from there, came to Glasgow, and this is where I met Ingrid. And eventually we became an item, and we got married during the war in 1944.

AG: Could you tell me your wife's full name just for the tape ...

HW: My wife's full name is Ingrid Wolf. She comes from Dortmund, her parents came from Schleswig-Holstein. And she lived in Glasgow not obviously with her parents because she was in lodgings but eventually with her parents, and that gave me some family home as well. She is also an only child, strangely enough. So, but that was marvellous to have ...

AG: In-laws, yes course.

HW: In-laws, yes. To have found a family.

AG: Before we get on to your marriage one or two things I'd like to ask you about. First of all about this club. Did you come into contact with organisations like the Austrian centre or the free German youth?

HW: Yes, absolutely. Free German youth, the Austrian center. The Czechs had another club somewhere slightly different but they joined us. So, as you will know from the names you quoted, they were fairly left-wing organisations, and even there was pressure some people wanted to go back to Germany and rebuild Germany after the war. It was ... I helped to write pamphlets, left-wing pamphlets, Communist party pamphlets. Not that I ever joined the party. I was one of 'don't do that, that might go against you once if you



want to become naturalized, so.’ And Inge’s father also warned against these things. But eventually I applied and I became naturalized without any problem. But it was great to be young and to march on the first of May and to go to the rallies and perform and it was great.

AG: Were you still living with this Mrs. Harridge?

HW: I was still living ... Until I got married I lived with Mrs. Harridge till the day I got married. So it was a wonderful feeling. I lived there for three, forty-four, five years I lived there.

**Tape 2: 35 minutes 13 seconds**

AG: And all this time since you’d arrived in Scotland as a young teenager did you encounter hostility at all from the local population?

HW: No, you didn’t encounter much hostility. There, obviously, during the war, we did what we ... listened to and speaking German ... We tried to speak as much English. Obviously, we had an accent. I have an accent to this day. I open my mouth and people say, ‘Where do you come from?’ But hostility in Scotland, no. Scotland was a fairly inclusive society, particularly if you lived in the west of Scotland they were even more open and friendly. And may I say this, I mean it’s somewhat to do with the way things were, sometimes still are. Unfortunately, much to my chagrin, in Scotland we have this catholic-protestant problem. We were in the middle. And really, we were left alone to a greater extent than we would have been because of this horrendous animosity here. I mean, do you kick with your left foot? I mean this is ... Are you a fing (?) I mean this is unbelievable. When we employed a woman to help in the house she said, ‘I am sorry I must tell you I am catholic.’ I said, ‘It doesn’t matter to me as long as you do your job.’ This is how strict it was. And to be asked, ‘Do you kick with your left foot?’ Of course I had no idea what this meant. I know. I give you another instance. I know these are stories, quite interesting stories. In the Royal Restaurant I worked there was a big woman, a big Protestant woman from Ayr. She was marvellous, she was very good, a good friend of mine, but she .... She did not have it in for me because I was Jewish, not at all. On July 12 she said, ‘Henry, do you carry flowers?’ The new type men in Scotland in these days did not carry flowers. They didn’t buy flowers for their wives. That was a city type affair. She knew I would carry a bunch of flowers. Well, she bought me a bunch of flowers. Being innocent, I had no idea what orange lilies are, and I am sitting in the tram car, and I tell you she was playing with fire. Sitting in a tram car on July 12, in a public tram, with a bunch of brownish lilies was provocation. You could be beaten up. I didn’t know until days later she said to me, ‘How did you get on?’ She was trying. That’s incredible, incredible what can happen to you for no reason, for being innocent.

**Tape 2: 37 minutes 58 seconds**

AG: This ‘kicking with your left foot’ that means you are a Catholic?

HW: You are a Catholic kicking with your left foot.

AG: Goodness gracious. And presumably you were in Glasgow during the blitz? Glasgow must have been badly bombed.

HW: No, Glasgow was not badly bombed. This is a misnomer. Clydebank, the shipyards, the cellar of Glasgow, the twin town of Glasgow was badly bombed. Glasgow itself had various bomb attacks, and a few bombs fell on the south side and the west end, but as for the blitz, that was in Clydebank on two nights, otherwise we were fairly free of that sort of thing here, yes. But Rudolf Hess landed here, yes. Rudolf Hess landed here in Scotland, not far from here, not far from Glasgow. I remember, obviously I remember the sirens, the air raid shelters, the fire watching, things like that, yes.

AG: Did you do fire watching?

HW: Yes, we did fire watching in the refugee club. There we did fire watching with a stirrup-pump and all that sort of thing, yes.

AG: And do you remember, say, Churchill's speeches, radio speeches and so on?

HW: Churchill's speeches. Not only do I remember them, I mean, there was no television. Newspapers was everything. There was plenty of news on the radio. But Churchill's speeches! You sat round the radio and you listened to that man speak, and by sheer language he uplifted the whole. He was a unifying force, I mean it was quite incredible how the power of the word could enthuse a whole community because the community spirit was very good in these days. You helped each other, yes. And by this man's rhetoric, I mean, unbelievable, his speeches not only defied you on the beaches, his whole .... When he gave a talk, it lifted the whole thing up even when there were dark days during the war and we lost many battles but it was really very, very uplifting.

## **Tape 2: 40 minutes 10 seconds**

AG: Did you ever fear, say at the time of Dunkirk, that Britain might be invaded?

HW: Yes, yes. Not only that. We were saying to ourselves, 'If it is invaded we are all here on the Isle of Man.' They already got us. This played havoc with us, yes. Many people saw that. But what also then, and this came from older people, Inge's uncle for example in London, he said, 'Don't believe that we can stay here. We might all be sent back.' Now, particularly in London there were a couple of MPs who said, 'Enough, enough of this, we have enough of these Jews here, the war is now over, they can go back.' But again, Churchill said, 'Absolutely not, this is not over. It is different.' But these fears always existed. And again you are rootless. Despite being naturalized you are not, you are still an outsider.

AG: What was your impression of the experience and attitudes and behaviour of the British during the war? You experienced it as it were as a bit of an outsider.

HW: Yes, with great admiration. I mean it was incredible what people squeezed. And here were certain shortages. But I didn't really feel shortages because I worked in the catering trade. And there was a lot of bartering going on. You needed tea, we needed sugar, and you changed things. But there was more of a community spirit. And I mean I have only been in one area during the blitz in London. Things were quite different there. But I feel people helped each other, in spite of grumbles, in spite of the men being away, in spite of being dark days. But I felt the country was in a good moral shape then.

AG: In what way do you mean things were different in London?

HW: Well, it's much more intense. The bombardment was much more intense, yes. People, many more people lost relatives, people lost their houses. It was quite different. I was in London quite a few times during the blitz, but it was tighter. Here it was ... I mean the war passed by here eventually, if you follow what I mean. I mean, all right, there were certain shortages, but remember, in spite of the rationing, restaurants were not rationed. If you got there early enough. If you came late, closed. We got so much fish and it's finished. And there was a limit of five shillings. That was the most you could charge for a meal at the beginning of the war so that they couldn't by charging feed all the wealthy people and not the others. And fish and chip shops were always there. So there was very little hardship. In great, in bigger communities, in bigger towns, also here in Glasgow, obviously a woman with five children whose husband was away in the war, it was going to be tough. There is no question about that, yes. It was very tough for some people. But on the whole things were very manageable. And with cod liver oil and concentrated orange juice the youngsters were in a better shape than they are now.

**Tape 2: 43 minutes 19 seconds**

AG: You said you went to London a few times. You could travel around fairly freely?

HW: You could travel around fairly freely, if you had the money, yes.

AG: Even you as ... because you were still an enemy alien.

HW: Yes, but a friendly enemy alien. I was naturalized but that was later. No, you could travel around. You could not go to a restricted area. You could travel to London. I could not go to Aire or Truro, I could not go to Bournemouth near the coast. You were certainly restricted to where you could travel, and if you did want to travel you went with your alien's book to the police, and you told them, and they stamped it. And as we went out on rambles, all sorts of youth hostel organizations, we became very friendly with the Glasgow aliens' department because they were fed up with us. You wanted to stay out after half past ten, you wanted to go to a dance you had to go there, and they would all say, 'Not you again! Go!' I mean it was beginning to be a nuisance. I would have liked to get hold of this aliens' registration book. We handed it in when we got naturalized. And I've been to the Glasgow police but they somehow threw it away. It was interesting, all this. I mean you wanted to go to a dance you had to go to the police, and have it stamped.

But they were very friendly. There was no feeling that you were a foreigner, an enemy alien. That feeling did not ... when they knew who we were. Obviously there were some ... the Italian community too was in turmoil, and a few were a bit fascistic, yes. There was big community in Glasgow, a big Italian community.

AG: Did you encounter anti-Jewish, specifically anti-Jewish feeling?

HW: Anti –Jewish feeling, once or twice. On the whole, no.

**Tape 2: 45 minutes 12 seconds**

AG: And how about your professional life? You started telling me about that how you worked your way up until you were working as a chef at the Grand Hotel.

HW: Eventually I was working as a chef de cuisine in the Grand Hotel but I wanted to advance myself a little further, so I went to France. I worked in France for six months, in Lyon, the gastronomic capital of France. I left my wife at home. She unfortunately could not come with me. She couldn't get a job. She would have come. I had a cousin in Lyon who made an arrangement for me, and I worked for six months in Lyon, which was very ..., which was excellent. When I came back obviously I couldn't advance any more in that particular, being chef de cuisine. By that time we had two children, one child, the other child came later. And I enjoyed what I did being a chef but eventually I said to myself, 'This is not ... I'd like to get a bit further, I want to do other things.' A friend offered me a partnership in a business selling bird foods. He was going to retire. So I left the grand hotel, and I went with this for a year but it didn't work out. To buy the business would have needed a certain amount of money, and it simply didn't work out. And that fell through so again here I am unemployed. I again went back to a firm I worked for in frozen food business before I joined the hotels. And he gave me a job, and I travelled around Scotland, travelled around Scotland selling frozen foods to hotels. So I knew what I was doing but it was very poorly paid. And a friend said to me, 'Would you not like to do some private Jewish catering?' I said to her, 'Really not'. She said, 'Why not try?' Well, we tried and we did a couple of private functions, and as, if I may say that, as we were different ... I mean the catering background here in Glasgow was extremely Jewish. Chopped liver, chicken soup, it was absolutely down the traditional middle. We brought a different continental outlook to that, different cakes, different things. And this started ... more people phoned me, 'Would you not like to do a function? Would you not like to do this?' But then we had no licence from the gap. If you wanted to do Bar Mitzvahs and weddings, etc. So the frozen food firm I worked with was very amenable. 'All right, you work for us part time, you do your catering aside', and for two years, three years it went on like this till eventually we went out of this altogether. I said, 'We will do this whole time.' And it boomed, within a very short time it boomed. And eventually I got a licence here in Glasgow.

**Tape 2: 48 minutes 22 seconds**

AG: Was that very difficult?

HW: That was difficult, yes, it was obviously difficult as I was not ..., but had to be, had to do that sort of thing. So they have their job to do, the ... thing, I understand that. And Rabbi Gottlieb, you know, he had a certain sense of humour, very strict. He said, 'You have to abide by the laws but I don't expect you to lie in sackcloth and ashes or tissue over the floor with your shoe.' At first, when I went to see him first, he said, 'No, I am sorry, we have enough Jewish caterers here. It wouldn't do.' I said, 'I am sorry I didn't ask you for commercial advice, I asked you for a licence.' And eventually I got the licence and then within a few years the business really boomed. And we were very lucky. We became known in the community and became caterers. We did functions, anything from ten to four hundred. We had staff, we had a nucleus of regular staff and of course lots of part timers.

AG: What was the firm called?

HW: The firm was called Wuga Catering.

AG: All right.

HW: I didn't ... And we had a very good relationship with the community. When I started, at the very beginning, somebody didn't pay. 'What am I going to do?' So I took him to court. Now I was told by the people in the community, 'We don't do that.' I said, 'Well, listen I am sorry. I will do it. I will establish this is how I work.' I did it and I never looked back from then on. I had such a good relationship with the community I never took a deposit. Absolutely. This is not London, this is Glasgow. Can you imagine, I mean it never arose, because really ... All right, you have in business life over thirty years one or two bad debts, it's bound to happen, yes. But I never even took a deposit. If something happened, if somebody took ill, so it was changed. So that may give you an idea on the inside how well we worked together. And we had regular staff and the community got to know us very well, all people. Let's face it, in a community of eight, ten thousand people it's the same people all the time. You meet again and again. So they get to know you, they get to know your waitresses, the waitresses know exactly which kind of whiskey he drinks and what he doesn't eat, and that became a fairly nice, nice way of doing business.

### **Tape 2: 51 minutes 5 seconds**

When we had people, let me give you an idea, when people came from out of town, first of all they came to Glasgow they thought we have snow on our boots and then they saw things are different. We also tried to ... There were other two Jewish caterers here, one eventually. We tried not to do like they did in London, these huge banquets, absolutely not. Try and keep it a little more manageable, also not quite as ostentatious. And then obviously people spent money on flowers and decorations. But people came from out of town to do a gap. The bride came from out of town. So I met the parents here in Glasgow. We were going to do the gap here in Glasgow in the synagogue. They were very weary. I sent the menu, they changed it certainly, but I didn't ask for a deposit. 'Will they be all

right?' They were very weary because from what I hear caterers in London you can be sometimes, you can be a little gazumped or what not. But they enjoyed it. We established a good deal. And when I went out of the business, when I left the business eventually about twelve years ago, one rabbi said to me, 'You are going out with a gap,' with a good name, which is a very nice thing to say. But let me tell you, it had its problems, with Shabbat and with infighting amongst the clergy. You know, they don't like each other either. One is saying, 'What's he doing there. I wouldn't allow him to do that.' But, obviously there are many, many sides to all these sorts of things. But we had a very good business, a very good relationship with the community. We introduced a lot of new things. And then people began to travel. When people came back, 'Could we have crudités on the table?' 'Certainly', so we did that. Most people who hadn't travelled, 'Was ist das? Raw vegetables on the table.' So, but through the years these things have changed. Things do change in the catering business. And as I, even I come from an orthodox hotel background, we didn't have gap we didn't know, and gap we didn't, not in the form it is made here, and the first time I made it, I ... it tasted beautifully but somebody said, 'It is not quite right, it is as white as driven snow', which is dark brown, it wasn't in the oven long enough, but we learned, we also learned. Yes, you have to learn.

**Tape 2: 53 minutes 44 seconds**

AG: Did you find any difficulties coming into a Scottish Jewish community coming from a German central European Jewish background?

HW: Yes. Other than the catering, yes. Obviously there is, there was a bit of a divide. Unfortunately we are known as yekkes. Yes, you know. I don't have to tell you that. People thought we were somewhat up-ety, come from a different background. Most people here are from the period of settlement, from the east, even so they have been here a long time. Many became very established, very Scottish. But nevertheless then we were sort of told, 'You keep yourselves to yourselves.' Now, you have to point out to people, 'What about the Scots that emigrate to Canada? They go to the Caledonian society.' This is what happens. And then my wife Ingrid always pointed out, 'Look here, it is not for me to knock on your door I am coming in for a cup of tea. It is for you to invite me.' And only that way can the two sides get together. And they did get together very well. I mean we obviously became very integrated in the community. We joined a music society, a literary society. Most people were very kind. Other people were a little standoff-ish because you are different, you are strange. But eventually it all works very well. But then being German Jewish, all right, maybe not quite so fromm (pious) as some people pretend to be but it all works in the end. But the beginning is a little difficult, I will say that, yes.

**Tape 2: 55 minutes 37 seconds**

AG: I haven't yet asked you about your wedding, which you mentioned briefly, but could you tell me any more about that? Perhaps you could tell me when it was.

HW: My wedding, Ingrid and mine? Ingrid's parents were here. My mother wasn't here, unfortunately. But being only children and now being somewhat settled and falling in love, and there was nothing to wait for, not really. There was nothing to wait for. You know people say you should get married later. We were twenty and we arranged to get married. Not a problem in the synagogue here in Pontyfields ?. We had the wedding in the synagogue and the function in Ingrid's flat, in Ingrid's parents' flat. There were I think fourteen of us. There were Mrs. Harridge and her son, obviously, there was my cousin, the Gummersheimers, an uncle from London, and two of our younger friends, one from Czechoslovakia and one from Essen, who we are friendly with to this day. We had a very nice party. I got one of the chefs from the hotel to do the cooking while we were at the synagogue and I, well, again, we tried to do it differently. The menu is still hanging up out in the hall. We delivered a special menu, and I was determined to ... food was always important, just the presentation. I made bombs, ice cream bombs, yes. Now, I had shapes, you filled in the ice cream but then you have to freeze it. Now we had no deep freezers or anything like that in these days. So I went down, on the day of the wedding, I filled, I made that in the morning, went down to the local Italian shop, asked his permission to use his ice cream machine, filled our bath with ice and sea salt to make it into a saline solution, and froze the bombs in there. I mean, crazy, but that gave us a lot of pleasure. It was very nice. It was a very nice wedding.

AG: What was the date of the wedding?

HW: The date of the wedding was the 26<sup>th</sup> of December 1944. In the middle of the war, but, as again ...

AG: Right. Well, the tape is going to come to an end. So I'll get you to talk more about wedding when we start the next tape.

**Tape 2: 58 minutes 15 seconds**

### **TAPE 3**

AG: Henry Wuga, tape 3. We were just talking about your wedding when we changed tapes. I believe there's a story to tell about the wedding cake itself.

HW: The wedding cake, yes. Just a few months before the wedding I was sent by my employers, a big restaurant, a catering firm in Glasgow, to Abbotsford, Abbotsford House, the home of Sir Walter Maxwell Scott, to cater the wedding for his great great granddaughter, which I was very greatly honoured at my age of twenty to be sent to arrange this wedding. I had the most tremendous help from the local baker, who supplied me with staff, with sandwiches, and the gamekeeper's wife happened to be French, so she came and helped me in the kitchen for a family dinner. As you said, it was war time, but being on a private estate, consommé, lobster, pheasant, partridge, was not a problem. It was for me a wonderful experience. They were very kind and this baker eventually said to me, 'When you are getting married in December we will do the wedding cake.' Now he sent me, I can't remember, a two tier, three tier wedding cake but strangely enough

you wouldn't recognize it. It's silver in colour because the outside was made of these cake boards in papier maché. You were allowed to bake cakes but you were not allowed to ice them. That was the war time restriction. But it was very generous of this man to send me a cake. And the house is still in the hands of the family, of the Maxwell family, Stirling Maxwell, and I again had some connection with Dame Jean Maxwell Scott. She is lady in waiting to Princess Alice, who is president of the British limb ex-servicemen association so there is a slight connection, which was very nice to find forty years later, fifty years later for that matter.

**Tape 3: 2 minutes 21 seconds**

AG: You were telling me that you went many years later to visit Abbotsford again.

HW: Yes, when we visited Abbotsford with friends and when we were ... when I saw the lady who sold me the tickets I realized. I said, 'Are you a lady of the house? Are you associated with the house?' She said, 'Yes, I am Lady Jean Maxwell Scott.' I said, well, 'My name is Henry Wuga. I was here in 1944 to cater the wedding of your sister.' 'Oh', she said, 'how nice. Would you like to be shown around what used to be the kitchens, now workshops?' So she took us round the kitchens, which was really very, very nice. And of course our American friends were absolutely over the moon. I mean to be received by the lady owning Abbotsford and being shown around, which was for them a very nice holiday affair.

AG: After this war time wedding you and your wife must have settled down somewhere in Glasgow?

HW: We settled down in Glasgow. We lived as we ... we all had jobs, I was working in the catering trade, my wife was working in a factory making policemen's uniforms. War work, this had to be done. So we lived with my in-laws. And I had a very good relationship with my father and mother in law. We shared a flat with them. That we could afford. So we lived there for quite a few years before we eventually bought our own flat. We lived there for quite a few years. We had a very good relationship indeed.

AG: Could you tell me something about your in laws?

**Tape 3: 3 minutes 54 seconds**

HW: My in laws Erna and Asher Wolff from Dortmund, but originally from Schleswig-Holstein, came to this country as a domestic couple, the only way to save their lives. They had the courage; many people did not have the courage, as a well settled businessman, traveller, with a flat, all of a sudden to give up everything, and the only way to get out on a domestic permit. And they went and worked in various houses, quite large-ish houses in England as butler and maid. Some ... they were very ... not well treated in one house being Germans. They came to other houses, where they were better treated, they came to Scotland, where they were very well treated indeed. But it saved their lives, and eventually they left and went back into commercial business, but a very



tough beginning. And my mother survived the war in Germany, as I told you. And then she came out – I'll come to that in a minute. We got married, we lived with my in laws, we did our work, we had very little money. We did not start a family for the first eight years or so, but we took the opportunity of ... we had bicycles and we went youth hostelling all over Scotland. For many years, we visited the whole of Scotland, also the Lake District, on bicycles, in youth hostels and these bring back great memories. It was really ... it was excellent. Eventually we gave up the bicycles and went on other holidays to the seaside, to the mountains, or skiing, and in 1947 ... In 1945, just after the war, after corresponding with my mother through the Red Cross - these little six monthly forms, you wrote on one side, it took six months to get there, it took six months to get back, your mother wrote on the other side, but at least you were allowed twenty-five words. At least you were allowed to know that they are aware, that kind of posting, all right. That's how I learned that my father had died during an air raid. After the war I had a letter – yes, I think it was a letter because phoning was very difficult - from an American soldier by the name of Stern, he was a German Jewish boy, who found my mother back in Nürnberg and who told me that she has been liberated. And my mother being a very feisty lady, she needed to be to survive, she ... I mean during the First World War she ran her brother's restaurant in Heilbronn. When she came back to Nürnberg she went back to her flat. It was bombed but she went to the flat opposite, there was a Nazi living in there but she threw them out. She said, 'I am moving in here,' and she moved in here with the people who had hidden them, with Fanny Rippel. She was a very, very forceful person. So to try to get her out ...

**Tape 3: 7 minutes 3 seconds**

AG: What was the name of the people who had hidden them?

HW: Rippel, Fanny Rippel.

AG: Have they ever been acknowledged at all?

HW: Well, I don't know. I suppose so. She was associated with the Caritas. The director of the Caritas was a Monsignor Kröner, who was very kind to my mother. He arranged all this. And we got to know him. He came to visit us a few times. We went to visit them. Whether they have ever been acknowledged in the Yavershim I don't know but they did a lot. So to get my mother out was very, very, very difficult. If you have ever had anything to do with the Home Office, I feel for the people that are in-comers now, that are refugees that are trying to get asylum. Eventually, it took two years, 1947 my mother came here. And I have a letter from the Home Office, 'By all means your mother can come here.' I mean we found everything, we would pay, we would look after her but she has no resident, no permanent residency. It was never rescinded, but that thing was always at the bottom of the letters, so any day they could say, 'No thank you, you go back again.' So my mother came here, English, her English was not all that good. She tried to find a job, which was difficult for someone that age here in Glasgow just after the war. She didn't like it here even though I am her only son. After two years she emigrated to the United States, where she lived for twenty-five years in Brooklyn with her sister.

But we were in constant contact. She came over here, we went over there. She could not get to the idea that the little boy she left is now a married man. She loved Ingrid, she liked Ingrid as a person but not as a wife. Unfortunately, she really, ... I mean, I am an only child. But she went to America and we ... that's how it was. But she made a living for herself in America. She worked in the hotels, in the restaurants and established a living and a social security number with a pension, quite an amazing lady. And when it became ... when she was well over eighty, she couldn't work any more, she lived with her sister. We brought her back to Glasgow and the last four years of her life she spent with us in, by that time we had moved to Polish Hills, to a bigger house and she lived with us. When we had, as I said, we lived with my in laws when we were younger, when my mother in law died and also at an early age, my father in law moved in with us. He had a room in our house. It was great for the grand children because he was a nice man and we .... There was no difficulty. And later on my mother lived with us the last few years of her life.

**Tape 3: 9 minutes 59 seconds**

AG: When did you actually become naturalized? Could you tell me about that?

HW: Naturalized was also in 1940 ..., I have to look for the certificate, in nineteen forty-six, forty-seven. No great difficulty. You had to bring testimonials from a GP or somebody. Through Mrs. Harridge, she knew plenty of people in that ..., in the official circle and it was no problem at all to become naturalized. Only Ingrid only became naturalized, she did not have to apply. She became naturalized due to being married to a British citizen, all of a sudden. But this is a document which is very important. It's come up a few times. It's come up a few times. You see, any anti-foreigner, anti-Semitic – I wouldn't say anti-Semitic, I would say anti-foreigner - I lost my passport once in London, I mislaid it, and I lost my passport once in Barcelona. And on both occasions going to the passport office to try and to prove who you are. Now, first of all, you are a foreigner. I mean even though you are naturalized. 'I am naturalized, oh yes.' 'Have you got your papers on you?' Now it's a remark, I mean it's happened to me twice. It's such an insensitive remark. This is something you keep in a bank. At one stage I got so annoyed even though I wasn't in the camp, I said, 'No, it's tattooed on my forearm.' It's really an insensitive remark. 'Have you got your papers on you?' I mean, come on. But these things happen, obviously. The minute you are naturalized, you are not 100%. Hasn't happened lately but that can happen to you.

AG: And what about changing your first name? Did you ...

HW: It wasn't done by deed. I think on the naturalisation document all of a sudden I am known as Henry Martin Wuga. That was quite straightforward.

AG: Did this have any sort of significance for you? After all, changing one's name is not something one does every day.

HW: Not really. Not really. It didn't trouble me much. As you see, I kept the family name. Many people changed their names, obviously, yes, for various reasons. I think it's got something to do with ..., first of all, it's a strange name. Secondly, I'm ashamed to say, not so much out of tradition, but being involved in the catering business, to be a foreigner during the war, in catering, anywhere, I happened to be in Glasgow, was not a difficulty. Half of them were Italian antecedents or ... So you had a foreign accent and you came from another country, in the catering business was nothing to be ashamed of. In other places you would hide it. But nobody bothered about these things. That I think had some influence. This is my name and it will stay like that.

AG: You were telling me while we were having a cup of coffee about your nickname at school in ...

HW: Yes, that was also ... I think that was very British. Heinz, who wants somebody called Heinz, but there is such a thing as Heinz baked beans, fifty-seven varieties. At school I was called 57, very simple, very short, to the point, nobody bothered. That really, that was invented by the kids of my age, this is typical, the see saw of this sort of thing. This is like head line writing.

AG: This was not ... you didn't feel that this was something hostile?

HW: Not at all, no. It was friendly. No, I didn't think it was hostile at all.

### **Tape 3: 13 minutes 34 seconds**

AG: Going back to your family. You lived with your in-laws. I can't remember where that was.

HW: In Glasgow. In Maxwell Road. And eventually we moved to Kir street, also in Polish Hills. And then we started the catering business. And we still lived in an apartment, in a tenement. And that became somewhat difficult. Some neighbours complained, 'They are carrying on business upstairs.' It also became difficult to carry things downstairs, and as the business increased we looked for bigger premises, and we found a large house in Polish Hills which was half business and half private.

AG: Did you buy that house.

HW: We bought that, yes.

AG: When was this?

HW: When was that? 89 – in the sixties, in the nineteen sixties, yes. A large, huge, stone built house in Polish Hills. It was very nice, lovely area. And we had a drive-in, and the back had the catering kitchens and store rooms. It was very suitable. By that time we had children. We have two daughters.

AG: Could you tell me their names and when they were born?

HW: Hillary was born in 1953 and Gillian was born in 1957. We still lived in the flat in Kir Street, yes, we were still in the flat in Kir Street when Hillary was born. When Gillian was born we had moved to the bigger house. So it was end of fifties that we moved. Two girls, lovely. They went to the local school here and then they went ... in these days Hillary started with the high school of Glasgow in a fee paying school in these days. But in these days it cost seven pounds a term. I mean even for that time that was very little money. They were good schools, they were marvellous. So they were in town. They had to take ...

AG: What was it called, the school?

HW: Glasgow High School for Girls. There was one Glasgow High School for Boys. Very good school. Gillian, when she was born, pressure was brought to bear by the community, we started her at Jewish school in Glasgow, Cawl Wood Lodge.

**Tape 3: 15 minutes 56 seconds**

AG: What was it called?

HW: Cawl Wood Lodge. It is now a mixed school but that started as a Jewish primary school. And she started at that primary school for the first few years. She went to that school for the first five or six years of her life, which gave her a very good Jewish background, Jewish education as well. And they both grew up. Both went to ... they did quite well at school, reasonably well, Hillary not so academic as the younger daughter, but it depends on your teacher. She said, 'Well, it doesn't matter if I become a hair dresser.' I said, 'You can be a hair dresser. It is not a problem. Whatever you have to do I can cope with all that.' Till she got a new teacher, a Miss Cameron, who I can only liken to Miss Brodie, absolutely. Miss Cameron, you see, Miss Cameron has taught me what to do right. You see, my girls, that was typical, and of course we got the blame that her English wasn't that good having foreign parents, which of course is not true. But anyway, she went to university, to Stirling, also a new university. As she started Stirling was quite new. She studied economics and was always interested in the commercial field, joined Marks and Spencer's thirty-one years ago and has just resigned a few weeks ago after thirty-one years with Marks and Spencer.

AG: What rank did she rise to?

HW: Well, she did not want to ... she certainly didn't want staff management. She said, 'I have got enough of my own problems.' She went into commercial management. She was in various shops in Edinburgh. She lived in Edinburgh for a while. She was in various stores and eventually she went to the head office and she was with various departments. You know how they go through the mill of various things, and latterly the last year she had – this is why she now left, she said, 'What will I do after that?' When they took on Vittorio Radice to found this Marks and Spencer lifestyle in Gateshead, she

was on a team of twenty-five to get this whole scheme going, and she said to me, 'Dad, you know, I am the oldest person on the team.' I mean she is fifty-one, but that's how things are nowadays. So after that she said, 'enough', and she has now resigned after thirty-one years, which is ... She made a wonderful career. She survived all the clear outs in Marks and Spencer, yes, which was not easy. The younger daughter, she lives in London ...

**Tape 3: 18 minutes 30 seconds**

AG: Can I just finish on your elder daughter. I have got two questions. The first one is, did she go to Marks and Spencer's because it was a Jewish firm?

HW: No. She liked their training methods. She joined as a school girl. She did her holiday jobs in Marks and Spencer, and she said, 'That is the firm I would like to work for.'

AG: The other thing is whether she is married and has a family of her own.

HW: Yes, she is married to a neighbour's son from Polish Hills called Paul Hoddesman. He is not Jewish, but that is by the by. He comes from a catholic family. They ... he was in the music business. He studied architecture. He never found a job in architecture. At the time he was finished no council would employ him, anybody, ... you know how these things are. He went into the music business, the recording studios. Eventually he started his own advertising agency, which he does now music orientated in a way. And they live ... they started off in Kilburn and then they moved to Kent, that's right, first to one house and then to another house in Trevellian Avenue. They have two sons, Peter, who is now twenty-one, studying graphics, and film making at Chislehurst in south London, and a younger son, which is twelve, thirteen, no ... Alistair is thirteen or fourteen, he is fourteen. He goes to Haberdasher's. He is very musical. He is ... Peter is a lovely boy, Peter is very good, but Alistair is sunny gap, no intermissions. He gets on with everybody, very nice. Two very nice guys in London.

AG: You were going to tell me about your second daughter?

HW: The second daughter, Gillian, married to David Field, a dentist from Glasgow, from a Glasgow Jewish family. They met when they were at university ... they met in Colwood [?]-Lodge. You know, I think they met here in Glasgow clubs.

**Tape 3: 20 minutes 47 seconds**

AG: Which university did she go to?

HW: She went to Glasgow University. She went to Glasgow University. She stayed at home, she had no intentions of moving out. She said, 'Why should I move out? I have got my board and lodging here.' Most move away, but there you are. When she studied she started off with pharmacology and the professors said to her, 'If you want to do

pharmacology, by all means, but you will never find a job here.' By that time she was friendly with David. Because there are no pharmacological firms, you will have to move to London or Switzerland. So she changed to bio chemistry and she did an honours degree and won two John Hunter medals at Glasgow University, started as a clinical bio chemist in Western Infirmary in Edinburgh and moved on to various commercial firms after that. Fermentation firms, lately she was with a firm that makes fish food, a world wide firm from Norway and Sweden. They were here for six years, and then they went back to Norway to do with government money. Wherever you get a subsidy you move back. And she wound up that whole lab here, and she was in charge of their world wide lab here in Livingstone, and now she is with a firm called Quintiles, again a firm in the medical business doing editing ... not editing, doing auditing of drugs that if you want to manufacture a new drug you have to see how they work, and they take the blood and they examine the blood, and they do this sort of thing, auditing for the pharmaceutical industry. And she lives in Edinburgh, got two sons, she lives in Edinburgh and works in Livingston. She travels quite a bit for that firm. Two children, Richard Field, who – both children go to George Watson's College - Richard was Bar Mitzvahed two years ago in Edinburgh. He is into climbing. He is reasonably academic. He has to work hard. It doesn't come so easily. The younger one, Jonathan, is only eleven, he finds it much easier to study. But he is still a little boy, a school boy, but they are very nice children. We have a lot ... we go to Edinburgh quite often. We go to London quite often. And we have quite an input into our grandchildren. We often go on holiday with the children without their parents. To Aviemore, to the Highlands, skiing, walking, so we've had quite a lot of input into the grand children's life. We are very close.

**Tape 3: 23 minutes 19 seconds**

AG: I believe you are keen on skiing? Could you tell me a bit about that?

HW: Yes, very keen on skiing. I'll need to show you a photograph later of early skiing. As a young boy at home in Nürnberg when I was twelve, before my Bar Mitzvah, I went skiing. I went skiing with a girl who lived with us and I liked that. And from that moment on this was what I liked. But I never had any more opportunity to do that. When I was in Glasgow then during the war, when the first snow fell, believe it or not, we went to a hire shop, Ingrid and I were married by that time. Ingrid and I, we went to a hire shop and we hired a pair of skis and we took the tram to the local park, Lynn Park, not far from where we live now. And I was skiing in Plus fours as it was then, a man took a photograph, nobody had ever skied in a Glasgow park before. So skiing all of a sudden interested us. Then we went with the Scottish youth hostel association into Glen Ilar, skiing on Glen Ilar, where Ingrid on the first day broke her ankle and ended up in Dundee Royal Infirmary for a week. It took six hours to get her to Dundee Royal Infirmary. In these days I mean it just wasn't the done thing, it was rickety. The story was in the local newspaper because it was news. And we had left our elder daughter with Inge's mother, and the neighbours saw the newspaper and ran down, 'Mrs. Wolff, Mrs. Wolff, do you know your daughter is in hospital?' Oh dear, dear. And when we came home after a week, Inge then obviously in plaster, the eighteen month old daughter didn't want to go anywhere near her. 'This is not my mother.' And from that day on we always went on ski

holidays, I am glad to say, as a family with our daughters. When they had boyfriends the boyfriends came. When they got married their husbands came, when the children arrived the grandchildren came. So, for the last, I would say, for the last thirty years, thirty years, yes, we've gone skiing as a family at least once a year. All the ten of us now. So this is an annual event.

AG: Where do you go?

HW: Where do we go? We usually go a lot to Austria and Switzerland, to Verbier, to St. Johann, to Davos, to ... Oh, yes, it's an annual event, this is absolutely ... and the grandchildren enjoy that. So we are really a skiing family. This is our main sport, our only sport.

**Tape 3: 26 minutes 24 seconds**

AG: Does this have any connection with the charity work that I know you do?

HW: Yes, yes, it has a connection with the charity work. During my skiing years, I often skied with people, I have seen people, I've skied with blind people, I've skied with amputees, you learn these things, and when I joined the British ski bob association ...

AG: Ski bob?

HW: Ski bob association. As in, not in bob-sleigh, as in ski bob. I will show you one afterwards. A ski bob is a – imagine a bicycle frame with skis, two skis on. You have a short ski on your feet, you have a handle bar, but it has ... that is it. I mean velocity carries you down the hill, you turn and you sideslip. So it is quite a ..., yes it's quite something. Finding ski biking somewhat easier than ski, and eventually I got Ingrid to join in. At first she wouldn't do that. And my daughters in Verbier, and they all became ski bobs. And through the ski bob association obviously you know people, and the leader of this, the secretary of this association became ill. The doctor didn't allow him to go to the Alps any more, and he said, 'Henry, can you take over from me?' And I was thrown in at the deep end, it must have been in eighty-seven. I was still working in eighty-six. I joined the British limb ex-servicemen association as a skiing instructor, a ski bob instructor. And I have done this now with my wife, she comes with me, we have done this ever since, and eventually I became instructor in chief. You know, you remember, it is army based. Never having been in the army before, I said, 'Why ..., why ...?' He said, 'Wait till you see.' When a little rebellion occurred the business landed on my desk. I had to make a decision, should we ski today, there was a snow storm on. I said, 'No, safety first,' and everybody rebelled. But when I made a decision 'no' and being instructor in chief, the wall collapsed, typically army. I had to learn all that. But it has been associated with this crowd of people, these young men has given us the most wonderful retirement. It's a rehabilitation exercise we do annually in the Alps. We now go, we have been to various places but we now go to Sölden, and we have got to know a crowd of young men who we have trained now as instructors. They are unbelievable. Amputees, one leg off, both legs off, no arms, I mean unbelievably courageous people,

who they have sailed around the world in time and tide. They entered the Fasnet race two years ago on a boat completely crewed by disabled, and we have gained many great friends among these young people - they are all young people, obviously.

**Tape 3: 29 minutes 35 seconds**

One I remember, Win Lewis was nineteen, RAF regiment, he was shot by the IRA in Holland, and he became a wonderful skier. Unbelievable people, they really are. They try their best, they bite their upper lip and they say, 'We want to do it better than able bodied people.' This is their motto. And it's great to be with them, and we become so friendly with them. Last year, for example, I resigned two years ago. We have now more disabled instructors than ... We have more officers than soldiers, if you know what I mean. So I said to myself, 'Enough, get out while the going is good,' and we resigned. This year they invited us for my eightieth birthday, which was great, wonderful ski sponsorship put down, it was really marvellous. And before we went with them, two of the soldiers, two of our friends, I must call them friends, 'Can we come skiing with you?' I said, 'You don't want ... what do you want an old couple like that ...?' 'No, no.' So we went together for a week, skiing with their wives and Ingrid and I before we all joined the Blesmu group in Austria. So we've had a lot of input in there. It's given us a tremendous retirement. Ingrid is known as the mother superior of the group, yes, because it's very ..., really, they are marvellous. I mean the army, being from the army, she was anti, being from the army, these boys, obviously, certain things you do, last night, prize giving night, you come down in collar and tie and tie and chatting. I mean there are certain standards to be kept up. So, knock on the door, 'Ingrid, could I get a look at your iron. I need to iron my shirt.' It's really, I mean, great. We were in St. Johann, in the Tirol, which is a bit low lying, and it became a bit icy, and eventually we moved to the Ötztal, which is much higher, it's two glaciers, and we have been there now for the last ten years in this one hotel, which is ... I found that hotel for the association because we are dealing with charity money, and Sölden itself is very expensive, up-market-y. So, Zwieselstein is 10 kilometres further up the valley, and we found a hotel which is excellent. And we need cars in any case. You know we come with cars, and somebody drives our own ski bikes. And it's a wonderful arrangement, and we are in touch with many of these people. We have been invited to some of their weddings. Two of the soldiers' weddings we have attended. One here in Glasgow, he, in spite of one leg, he is absolutely getting married in a kilt, no problem. Takes courage, yes, oh yes. They are great people, tremendous.

**Tape 3: 32 minutes 35 seconds**

AG: Have you had any recognition of the work you have done in England with the ex-servicemen?

HW: Yes I am very honoured to have received that honour from her majesty the queen, an MBE for services to sport for the disabled, which was wonderful. And not only, the investiture was three years ago, I think, four years ago, doesn't matter, but the investiture was in the palace of Holyroodhouse House again, which is much better than Buckingham Palace. It's in a beautiful setting, in a park, and there are only seventy people, only about



seventy of us. It was very nice. I was allowed to invite my two daughters, and Ingrid. And afterwards the family came, and we went out for lunch. You get nothing to eat or drink. It's not a garden party, it's an investiture. You can get Malvern water or orange juice, full stop. It was a great experience, a wonderful experience. Another chap from Plesma was there at the same time and the secretary from Edinburgh. He got an MBE too. It was really wonderful to see that and to be received like that. It is quite strange. You are well drilled of course. You are told what to do, what not to do, when to bow, when to step forward. And at the end the Queen will shake your hand in no uncertain manner. They give you a little push, 'Your time is up, please step back.' And beside me was a – a little story I must tell you. There is a little publication, again, this could only happen in Britain, a little children's book called *The Queen's Knickers*. It's really, it's fantastic, *The Queen's Knickers*. There are woolly knickers for Balmoral, there are silk knickers for the palace, there are knickers imprinted with holly for Christmas which she doesn't have to sit too long, there are knickers for all the different ... I mean, a little booklet, wonderful. And a lady looks after the knickers and the lady is called Phyllis, right. Now, when I got my MBE, in the morning, we stayed in Edinburgh. I am trying on my morning suit, because, again, you can come in a lounge suit, but being from army connection, I was told, 'Wear a proper morning suit.' When I put on my top hat, it must be four years, five years ago, now, Jonathan was small. When I put on my top hat in the morning, Jonathan said to me, 'Opa, are you going to perform magic?' You follow, this is the only thing they can associate ... Fine, I stood beside a lady. W – I was last. After me was a lady, two policemen. And this lady was very fidgety and people were nodding to her. And I said to her, 'Are you associated with the palace?' She said, 'Yes, I am the Queen's dresser when she is in Scotland.' So she got a personal award. So when I came home I said to Jonathan, 'I was standing beside Phyllis, the woman that looks after the Queen's knickers.' Now that he will remember about the investiture, the rest he won't remember. But the top hat and the lady who looks after the Queen's knickers from my grandfather, that is, it's kind of incredible, isn't it. I was very, very honoured to receive that, very nice indeed. And not only that, who were we shown to our seat, well Inge was shown to her seat, and I was later led out by Sir Malcolm Rifkin, who is ... First of all, we know Malcolm Rifkin, and he is in the Queen's honour guard. You know, the royal company of archers), two of the feathers sticking out, in their tartan trousers. It was a very British occasion, wonderful.

AG: How did you feel about that as a former refugee of Jewish ...?

HW: Great. Absolutely wonderful that this ... There is no distinction. If you do a good deed you are put forward and this is what happens. So I am very honoured to receive that.

**Tape 3: 36 minutes 39seconds**

AG: Since we touched on relations with actually the Queen of Britain perhaps I could switch to the other side and ask what your feelings are towards your native country, towards Germany?

HW: Ha! All right, native country, true it is my native country. Feelings are very mixed in this respect. We did go back to Germany quite a few times while the people that were

alive that rescued my mother, particularly this Fanny Rippel and her father, and Dr. Kröner, this Monsignor, who run all these old age homes, who was a wonderful man, a very nice man. Other than that, if we meet people our age we try to keep our distance, young people I have an open mind to. I mean it's a democracy, things have changed tremendously. You go Austria, no difference. I was skiing in Austria, the same sort of thing, yes. People my age, what did you do. Keep a little removed, but the younger people you have to keep an open mind, because younger people are changing, things are changing. But this Dr. Kröner, to give you an illustration, we were so friendly that he came to stay with us in Glasgow. And we went on holiday to the island of Arran. And he is a Monsignor but he comes in civvies, you see. You will be aware of that. In Scotland to this day, catholic clergymen do not wear civvies, absolutely not. This is how far back we are. I am sorry I am saying all this, but this is how it is. So they wear dog collar. 'Where can I say mass?' I said, 'I will take you down.' There is St. Leo's church around the corner from where we stayed in gap. So I took him to a big church to see a parish priest, a lady opens the door, and when he saw, when this father Fitzgerald or whatever his name was, when he saw Monsignor Kröner, he had on his bearer ring, he bent down and kissed the ring. He said to me, 'What's he doing?' I said, 'You are in Scotland.' I mean it's the same church, yes. He was amazed, how ... When we got to the isle of Arran, I didn't realize either that Arran is absolutely non catholic, yes. When we got off the boat in Arran, he said to somebody, 'Where can I say mass here?' The man looked him in the face and said, 'There is no chapel here! Way back to gap.' Oh! The hostility was ... The hostility was ... 'I don't have to have a chapel. I can say whatever I need to say in a garden.' So he met this, as a man dressed in civilian clothes, he met this hostility here in Glasgow, where people are very friendly. But this, unfortunately, this is the case.

### **Tape 3: 39 minutes 31 seconds**

AG: When did you first go back to Germany after the war yourself?

HW: After the war ... when my mother came here after three or four years. Must have been 1953, ten, 1961, 62, 63. We went a few times when my mother came from America, and we both went together and we visited Nürnberg.

AG: What was it like for you going back to the town of your birth and childhood?

HW: Well, we went to visit the school I went to. The building is still there, in Fürth. We looked at where we used to live, which has now been pulled down. Hilary, the elder daughter, and Gillian was with us too. I showed them the castle and certain museums, went to the opera, believe it or not. This is another story I didn't tell you. My family is not musical but I always liked music, and it somehow or other, while I was still in Nürnberg after crystal night, after crystal night, yes. They were playing *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* for Hans Sachs 400<sup>th</sup> celebration. And I said to myself, 'I am going.' 'You can't go, you are Jews.' And I said, 'I am going.' And as a fourteen year old I went alone against my mother's wishes to the theatre for this spectacular performance. And I sat up in the gods like this, and who would recognize me anyway, I was only fourteen, I did go because I was going to defy them to do that. And I did go. It was great.

But on this occasion, when we went back to Nürnberg, we went to the opera, same opera house. Proper seat in the opera house. What are they playing? You will not guess. They are playing Albert Hering, Benjamin Britton, in German, with a stiff audience, a long time ago. Nobody laughed, because they don't have this kind of humour. Albert Hering was exactly the wrong thing to show them. They really could not understand that. That was funny. The other opera story I have as we go, because we are regular opera goers. When Hillary left university, before she joined Marks and Spencer, she went a year to Hamburg. We have a cousin there who got her a job in the Shanghai Banking Corporation. She worked there for a year. She said, 'There I learned to work.' And when we came to visit her she had bought tickets for the opera, Nabucco. Now, Hamburg State Opera, great company, but in these days, a long time ago, it was also fairly stately and old fashioned. The main characters came to the front of the stage and belted out their song, and during the interval you can see in the foyer a ... This is incredible ... you promenade. Man promeniert sich. And people are walking down in their dark suits, and 'Herr Doktor, Frau Doktor', it is really unbelievable. And I said to Hillary, I said, 'Now look here', I said, 'I'll tell you something. If I would have a whistle - I wouldn't do that or I'd be arrested - and blow my whistle and shout "half-time", they will all turn round and walk, walk ...' I am quite convinced of that. They are so, they can be so stiff, they can be so stiff, it's laughable.

### **Tape 3: 42 minutes 53 seconds**

AG: When you went back to Nürnberg did you ever meet people that you knew? I don't mean the lady that saved your mother, but school friends.

HW: No, all my school friends had left. They all emigrated. United States, Great Britain. One of my school friends was here in Leicestershire. We met them here. No, I had nobody to go to, and may I also say this. People ask me, 'Do you remember such and such and such and such?' I left school at the age of fourteen. Now from fourteen to fifteen and a half, in the last year and a half, you are a bit more mature, you make friendships, you remember things. I was taken out of this class just as I had formed nice friendships to be sent to Baden Baden, so that made ... On the other hand, Nürnberg is twinned with Glasgow. But I have never made myself known, and I have no wish to be involved in that.

AG: And the city of Nürnberg hasn't invited you back?

HW: The city of Nürnberg hasn't invited me back, and I haven't asked to be invited back. They have invited, mind you, we've had, I have got a picture hanging in the dining room, when my mother was here, the Oberbürgermeister of Nürnberg came to visit her. He did, yes, he came to our house, yes, he was with us. But I never asked to be invited. Ingrid was invited back to Dortmund, and we went, and she hated every minute of it. Again, because Friedrichstadtstrasse, she does not mind, they were her cousins, she spent holidays there. When she got to Dortmund, other than the empty flat they lived in, there was nothing, no, absolutely. She couldn't get out quickly enough. We were well treated, we were received by the town council and all these sorts of things, but it didn't click.

Many people went back. If you go back with a whole group of people of your family and friends, that is a different matter.

AG: And what about your family members that were in Heilbronn? What became of them?

HW: What became of them? Believe it or not, they all, they all survived. Quite incredible. My uncle, who was the youngest of the family, I will show you a picture afterwards, three girls and my uncle, my uncle took over the brewery Adlerbrauerei Heilbronn, which they didn't brew any more. He became representative for Baden Württemberg, for Hofbräuhaus München. And as a child I used to go round with him selling beer to the various pubs and restaurants. He then emigrated to Israel, sponsored by William Youngers, to start the brewing industry in Israel, and he established the Kapier brewery in Badyam and he lived in Israel for many, many years. When he retired he moved to the United States.

### **Tape 3: 45 minutes 53 seconds**

His, my mother's sister, they all went to Paris, they all somehow got to Paris. Then when the Nazis came and Vichy France, they were chased out. They got to Goes, they got out of Goes, they got to Bordeaux and got a boat to the United States, with their daughter and a two year old child. The daughter's husband was in the French army. My third aunt, Aunty Fanny, she emigrated to ... Their daughter studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, and somehow they got through Vichy France. They crossed the Pyrenees into Spain and into northern Spain and got a boat to the United States. Quite incredible how they all escaped. Even so that was quite a tough time. But their protection was that her son, who also left Heilbronn in 1932 or 33, to move to France to learn the silk business, Bacharach, the family Bacharach, so he was in the French army, he was a French soldier, so was the other son in law. They were German Jews but they were French soldiers, so that helped them a little to get out, and that's how they survived.

AG: You were telling me about an uncle ...?

HW: Uncle, yes. They were in Heilbronn in the leather business by the name of Adler, Adolf Adler. He was arrested, allegedly for smuggling money into Switzerland, and he was jailed, and a few weeks afterwards they phoned them to collect the body. He had died in jail. He was beaten to death. My mother went to collect the body. These were traumatic things. Some of their children went to ... his daughter here, Gummersheimer, she found a guarantor for me in Glasgow. The other daughter lived in Switzerland. We had ... there was a great Würzburger clan in Switzerland, in Lausanne. There were ... my grandfather was one of thirteen children, that's how it was in these days, who all went all over the globe, yes. Montevideo, United States, France, all over, but this is how families are, some of them are ... Paul Würzburger was a very nice man, he settled in ..., his father settled in Cleveland, Ohio, but he had a house in Paris, he had a house in St. Tropez, very well to do. He gave twenty million dollars to the Salk foundation to research Polio, but when my mother and her sister, his aunts, worked in Brooklyn, you know, I

mean cleaning, as domestics, you know, they were women in their sixties, Paul certainly sent them something but instead of sending them food or grocery baskets, he sent them two dozens red roses. This is a different mind set, you see. It never dawned on him that people can be hard up and hungry. They weren't hungry but they found it hard to make ends meet.

**Tape 3: 49 minutes 38 seconds**

AG: Going back to yourself I'd like to ask you about how you see yourself, how you see your identity. British or German Jewish or British German Jewish?

HW: My identity is British German Jewish. I think that would encapsulate it. Definitely I feel at home here. I have lived here most of my life. This is the country I do not wish to move away from. People said, 'When you retire, where are you going to move to?' I said, 'Exactly here. This is where my friends are, where my family are.' No idea of moving to South Spain or something like that. We travel a lot, we like to see gap. I feel myself, my roots, my early roots, obviously, German Jewish, but here I belong, and here we made our home, and my children feel exactly the same.

AG: What are your feelings about Britain and the British, how they behaved towards you since, well, many years now that you've been living here?

HW: Britain behaved very well towards us, I find. It has always been a fairly inclusive and democratic society, particularly in Scotland. I think in Scotland we had it even a little easier. The Church of Scotland being, electing a Moderator once a year, it's always somebody different, don't create a hierarchy with bishops and underlings, they also have a more open mind. May I point out that many Jewish doctors, now doctors from the United States, where did they study? They studied in Edinburgh and Glasgow because no English university would take them. There was no numerus clausus here. So we always, I always felt this is a good thing to live here, a wonderful country. Glasgow – wonderful. First of all, Phoenix rising from the ashes. It's also easy to get out of. We have mountains and seaside within forty minutes of our house. But generally I feel good here. Lately, of course, with the problems with immigration, illegal immigration, this has created problems, created frictions, which are inevitable. And the tabloids whipping it up, of course, always underlining the bad points, and not the good points. On the other hand, the Scottish executives say, 'We have to have more people in, people with skills from whatever country they are from.' People realize that. But the tabloids are pushing it, and there is at the moment a little ill feeling. And with the Palestinian problem there is also a little anti-Jewish feeling, yes, there is this anti-science feeling from the universities and so. It has come to the fore quite a bit.

AG: Have you experienced anything similar to this in previous decades?

HW: No, now you feel a bit ... Now, all of a sudden you are beginning to feel it. Obviously, Israel – Palestine, this is a problem that has gone on for many years now, and it's not going away, and there seems to be very little resolution about it. And you do feel

when you read the press, open the paper and things anything to do with Israel, Zionism; you feel the pressure as there. So don't let's forget. These things do and can happen again.

**Tape 3: 53 minutes 0 second**

AG: Have you ever been to Israel?

HW: Yes, a few times. We have family in Israel. Our son in law David Field from Edinburgh, his sister is married in Israel and lives there with three of her children, the eldest being twenty-two. She made alia (?) many years ago and married an Israeli. Well, yes, an Israeli in the family, came from Iran originally. So they have settled in Israel, in the Galilee, and we've been there, we visited them and stayed with them. And we've also been to Israel with a group from AGR, remember we had a group of about eleven (?), we went together with that and, what's his name, he came with us, the man that saved the children from Prague?

AG: Nicolas Winton?

HW: Sir Nicolas Winton, he was with us when we were there. It was a very interesting trip.

AG: But you never thought of ...?

HW: I never thought of emigrating to Israel. My mother wanted us to emigrate to the United States but I didn't want to do that either. Perfectly happy here ... I shall outlive my existence here, I think, yes.

AG: Well, that's a nice note perhaps to end on unless there is anything else that you would like to tell me that I haven't asked you?

HW: No, I think we have pretty well covered everything. Too much detail, if I may say so, quite, but you will edit that, yes.

AG: I just wondered if there was anything that you would like to say to any grandchildren or other family members that might watch a video of this interview, if you have any sort of message about what you have learned from your life or anything that you would like to say by way of conclusion?

HW: Yes, as I said to you, we have written this little booklet, yes, in the form of a letter to the grandchildren to show them where we came from and what our ethos was, and I would say to them, the ... being from a Jewish mother, not a Jewish father not particularly religious but they know who they are. They celebrate festivals, not a problem. I will say to them, 'Never forget what happened, and what happened to your grandparents, and under certain circumstances, these things can, God forbid that they ever should, but they can happen again. Always think of this, always. Don't feel one

hundred percent that things will not happen again. Always keep that in mind and learn from what you ... learn how to comport yourself and be a decent citizen and not stir the pot too heavily.'

AG: Right, well, Henry Wuga, I'll say thank you very much indeed for doing the interview. Thank you.

HW: Pleasure. Thank you.

**Tape 3: 56 minutes 5 seconds**

**TAPE 4**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

AG: Henry Wuga, tape four. Could you tell me who are the people in this photograph please?

HW: This is my mother and father, taken in Nürnberg in 1938 just before I left for Great Britain. Notice the bow tie. I've inherited various bow ties from my father, who always wore bow ties.

AG: Thank you very much.

**Tape 4: 0 minutes 35 seconds**

AG: What is this object please?

HW: This is the Kiddush cup, the Becher presented to me on my Bar Mitzvah in Nürnberg in 1938. This was made by a silversmith who the family, all our things were made by this silversmith. His name was Fassbinder.

AG: Thank you very much.

**Tape 4: 1 minute 4 seconds**

AG: What is this document please?

HW: Every child arriving on the Kindertransport had this card with them as a

**Tape black**

**Tape 4: 2 minutes 10 seconds**

AG: Who are the people in this photograph please?

HW: This is Ingrid and my wedding photograph, 27 of December 1944, in the synagogue in Glasgow. As you see, no wedding dress because we could only afford coupons for a normal dress, which could be worn later as well.

AG: Thank you very much.

**Tape 4: 2 minutes 35 seconds**

AG: Who are the people in this photograph please?

HW: The girl in the white hat is my younger daughter Gillian Field. And on the other side Hillary Hoddesman. Gillian lives in Edinburgh, Hillary lives in London. And this picture was taken in the gardens of the palace of Holyroodhouse House in Edinburgh after the investiture.

AG: What were you being invested with?

HW: I was being invested with an MBE for services to sport for the disabled, which gave me a lot of pleasure to do something voluntarily to help other people.

AG: And what was the date of your investiture?

HW: The day of the investiture was 6 June I think 1989.

AG: Thank you very much.

**Tape 4: 3 minutes 35 seconds**

AG: Who are the people in this photograph please?

HW: Her majesty the queen presenting me with my MBE to be honoured at Holyroodhouse House in Edinburgh. It was a very emotional occasion. It was very nice indeed. You have a little chat with her majesty, for about forty seconds, and then you are sent back in bow and the next person comes along.

AG: Thank you very much.

**Tape 4: 4 minutes 8 seconds**

AG: Who are the people in this photograph?

HW: This is our family on their annual ski holiday. This was taken in Verbier, Switzerland, last year, 2003. Two daughters, two sons in law, four grandsons, and Ingrid and myself, which is a wonderful occasion for the family to be together. And if you look at the right hand side of the picture you will see two ski bobs, which are held one by me



and one by Ingrid. That's what we do. The children ski but we ski bob. A lovely family outing.

AG: Thank you very much indeed.

**Tape 4: 4 minutes 47 seconds**