

IMPORTANT

This transcript is copyright of the Association of Jewish Refugees.

Access to this interview and transcript is for private research only. Please refer to the AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive prior to any publication or broadcast from this document.

The Association of Jewish Refugees
2 Dollis Park, London N3 1HF
Tel. 020 8385 3070

ajrrefugeevoices.org.uk

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this transcript however, no transcript is an exact translation of the spoken word, and this document is intended to be a guide to the original recording, not replace it. Should you find any errors please inform the AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive.

Interview Transcript Title Page

Collection title:	AJR Refugee Voices Archive
Ref. no:	RV282
Interviewee Surname:	Heinemann
Forename:	Tom
Interviewee Sex:	Male
Interviewee DOB:	26 August 1931
Interviewee POB:	Munich, Germany

Date of Interview:	23 October 2023
Location of Interview:	London
Name of Interviewer:	Dr. Bea Lewkowicz
Total Duration (HH:MM):	2 hours 46 minutes



REFUGEE VOICES

Interview No. RV282
NAME: Tom Heinemann
DATE: 23 October 2023
LOCATION: London
INTERVIEWER: Dr. Bea Lewkowicz

[00:00:00]

Today's the 23rd of October 2023. We're conducting an interview with Mr Tom Heinemann, and my name is Bea Lewkowicz and we're in London. What is your name, please?

My name is Thomas Franz Theobald Heinemann.

And where and when were you born, please?

In Munich in 1931.

Tom, thank you so much for agreeing to be interviewed for the Refugee Voices Archive.

It's a pleasure.

Can you please tell us a little bit about your family background?

Oh, my family, the Heinemann family were art dealers, international art dealers. The main gallery was in Munich. But they had branches in Switzerland, they had – at one time they had a gallery in Nice, in the Southern France. They had a gallery in New York- and I think one in Brussels, I'm not quite sure about that. But basically, they were international art dealers.

They were – it was started by my great-grandfather, who trained as a painter, art painter, and he became a professional portrait painter. And eventually, he decided to become a colorista, as it's called now. And he supported mostly local artists. And he opened again, various galleries in different parts of Germany. And eventually, he settled on Munich because he was born in Augsburg, so he was more or less a local. He was born – very interesting, in Augsburg, the community in Augsburg built a house for the Jewish community. And there were nine families living in this one house in Augsburg, outside Augsburg in Schlipsheim. [00:02:03] That's where he came from originally. And his parents and he grew up in Augsburg, and he came to Munich and he formed this gallery. And in 1902, they had a big house built in Lenbachplatz. And the gallery was on the ground floor and on the mezzanine. And above that my grandparents lived, who ran the gallery then. And we lived on the top floor, where there was a big balcony running this width of the house. And I could look down on the Lenbachplatz. I loved to do that as a child, three, four years old.

So, what was your great-grandfather's name?

David Heinemann. I don't know whether he had another name. David Heinemann.

So, he was the founder of the art gallery?

He was the founder of the gallery. That's right, yes.

And the name of the gallery was...?

Galerie David Heinemann. Very simple. And it was on the Lenbachplatz and it consisted of – when the building was done, it was very modern because the gallery had a glass roof with overlight lighting and very, very modern in its days, by some famous architect.

Because now the Lenbachplatz, there's a museum, isn't there, in the Lenbach...? There's a –

No, I don't think so.

Isn't there?

What happened, after the war, my father had it rebuilt, the house got damaged. And the sh – well, gallery was – Ford had a showroom there, a car showroom [laughs]. And eventually, the house was actually pulled down. The facade is still there, because there was *Denkmalschutz* [protection of historical documents]. But behind, there's an office block now, there's nothing there anymore now of the old gallery.

So, the address was five, Lenbachplatz?

[00:04:02] Five, six and seven, Lenbachplatz, something like that. Yes, opposite the Wittelsbacher Brunnen, where I duly fell in as a small child [laughs].

Okay. We'll come to you in a second. What about your mother's background? Where...?

My mother's background, my mother was born in Berlin. Her father was *Geheimer Sanitätsrat* [Medical Counsellor], Dr Julius Weiler and owner of a private psychiatric care home, hospital, nursing home, put it that way, in Berlin, in Charlottenburg. And where they treated people with psychiatric problems and whatever it is, whatever treatment it was. He was a psychiatrist and a medical doctor. And she was the second child, his second child. She had an older brother, my uncle, called Gerhard Weiler, who became a chemist. And they had this very palatial care home, furnished with antique English furniture and very grand. I've got a catalogue with gardens and grounds, and where they grew their own vegetables and all the rest of it. Very grand in a separate villa, where the very rich tenants – customers used to live and the family lived there. Very grand, and she was brought up together with her brother as a Christian. She was, as was a habit with a lot of Jewish families in those days, she was baptised. And had first communion like they all have. But I don't, in my – to my knowledge, she never practiced any religion that I ever remember. [00:06:01] And nor did my father. But she came from this medical background. The Weiler family came to England. Three, four brothers of my grandfather came to England in 1890 already and started a business here. They had an ostrich farm in South Africa, and they imported ostrich feathers before the First World War. And then after the First World War, when that was dead, they went into the

property business. And they developed St. John's Wood, the man – all those mansion blocks in St John's Wood, were developed by the family then.

The Weilers?

The Weilers, that's right. And of course, the big joke was when Mr Welby became Archbishop, his mother's first husband was a Weiler. And The Sunday Telegraph said – wrote a huge article that Mr Welby was the children of a refug – a child of a – of Jewish refugees, which is a lot of nonsense, because they came in 1890 already [laughs].

Interesting.

Yes. So, he's not a relative. I mean, I used to- my cousin, the Archbishop, but he isn't actually.

But Welby is not an anglicisation of Weiler.

It is.

It is?

Yes.

Oh.

Because one of the Weilers, I've forgotten which one, angl – officially anglicised the name in 1914, from Weiler to Welby. That's how the Welby name came about.

Right.

But his mother, I think, had already divorced the Welby.

The Welby, right.

And she was married to a British Colonel army chap of some kind. [00:08:00] But the Sunday papers made headlines of it. They had a whole family tree of them, with all the pictures and everything.

And how did you – do you know how your parents met?

I don't know. I think they met in Vienna on some – well, my father was maybe studying. I'm not quite sure. My mother died when I was ten years old. I mean, we didn't talk about things like that.

So, tell us more about your parents, about your father.

My father was, as I said, he was an art historian and he ran the gallery in Switzerland. He in fact, grew up in Switzerland, because his parents originally ran the Swiss gallery when an older brother ran the German gallery, the main gallery. When that older brother died, they moved to Swit – to Germany, and my father continued living in Switzerland.

So how many brothers or siblings were running the gallery?

Oh, there was one- the whole family was involved. There were about five children and all but one, were all involved in the business. Either – one went to America and drummed up American business. They were all in the business. There was about five of them. The eldest was Max, Max Heinemann, he ran the Munich side. Then there was one who was in New York. My grandfather, Theobald, was in Switzerland. That's how they ran the business together.

And did they specialise in anything, each gallery? Or was it more...?

They specialised originally in local, German, mainly Bavarian artists. And they wanted to promote something called the Munich School of Art. [00:10:00] I don't think they were very

successful at that particular aspect. But then in later years, they spread their interest in selling not only German art, but also English art, particularly English art. English, Scottish, they had a whole – I think they bought a lot of English paintings here in London, like the Constable, which I ended up with. And so that was the second string to it.

Interesting. So back to your father.

Yes.

Yeah, so tell us a little bit more. So, he was in Switzerland?

He was in Switzerland. I mean, he was, as I said, professionally he was an art historian rather than an art dealer. But he did, he worked as an art dealer too.

And where did he study his art history?

In Munich, I think. I think so. Yes, he wrote a PhD thesis on Titian, the Venetian artist.

So, he was – he grew up in this art world?

Oh, yes, yes. But they all did, they were all working – his younger brother was also. Although he didn't have any qualification. But he went to America to drum – and started a gallery in New York. And so, they were all in the business. It was a real family business. Several of them, but they all died quite young. I mean, mostly before the Nazis ever came to power.

So, your great – your grandfather died?

My great-grandfather died in 1902. My grandfather died in 1929. His elder brother was- I've forgotten the exact dates. I mean, I've got cuttings from the newspapers when they wrote about him.

[00:12:00] *So when the Nazis came to power, who was running the gallery in Munich?*

By that time, my grandmother was running it. Franziska Heinemann, known as Mimi, she was known as Mimi. And she ran the gallery very successfully. She came from this business background, the Schülein family, she was – maiden name was Schülein. Her father was what nowadays you would call a beer baron. He owned several breweries in Munich, including – the only brand that's still in existence is Löwenbräu, which was part of the group. And his eldest son, my – the brother of my grandmother, later was in charge of it. And my great-grandfather retired to another brewery outside of Munich, called Schloss Kaltenberg, where I used to stay as a child. It was a real medieval castle, with a tower and a bridge and a moat around it. Very exciting, and a brewery attached to it.

So that was your grandmother's?

That was my grandmother's family. It was her father who owned that. So, that was another great-grandfather of mine.

Okay, we'll come back to that. So now to you. What are your earliest memories of growing up in Munich?

My earliest memories were in Munich. My parents were very progressive. First of all, they didn't talk German with me. I learned English from child – from babyhood, because they decided it will come in handy. They didn't know [laughs], they didn't know about it. I learned English, I didn't learn any German when I was a small child.

They spoke English to you?

They spoke English, obviously. Well, my father spoke American. But I mean, yeah, they spoke English. And I had a governess called, I've forgotten her name now, but she was Irish actually. She came to England, they hired her. **[00:14:02]** She came to England, she looked after me. And I remember going, early days, she spoke no German, of course. And in Munich, the big park is the Englischer Garten. And my mother said, told the nurse or

governess, 'Take him to the Englischer Garten for a walk.' She said, 'Well, how do I go?' She said, 'Well, he knows, he'll tell you. Get on a tram, number so-and-so and go there.' So, we got on a tram, went out towards Englischer Garten. When it was the right stop, I would tug her hand and say, 'Come on, it's time to go.' And she says, 'Shut up, behave yourself', slapped me right in the face. And continued until we get to the end of the tram, and went back again [laughs]. So, I had this English, this Irish governess. And I don't remember much of Munich really, because a lot of the time, my parents travelled a great deal. In those days, children didn't go with their parents. And I was boarded out to Schloss Kaltenberg, to where my great-grandfather lived. And his wife was dead by then, my great grandmother. I don't know her, I know a picture of her. But she – but they had a manageress or some lady, Tante Juli, who would look after me there. So, I spent a lot of time out in Kaltenberg, in the country, countryside, which was lovely. I mean, I've got pictures in the chicken coop. And I remember hay making, they sat me on the horse in front, because they had – because it was not only a brewery, it was also an agricultural estate, in addition. So, I spent a lot of time there. And in Munich, I don't – from my childhood, I don't remember much in Munich. I remember the flat very well.

[00:16:02] *So tell us more detail about the flat.*

Well, the flat, we lived on the top floor of this place, which is – this building that overlooks the Lenbachplatz. And had a big balcony, long width. And I had a little tricycle and I would run up and down on the tricycle there. And I was watching the world go by. And I remember the big Nazi parades with music, and of course I thought it was very exciting. All these bands in brown and black and whatever it is, with bands and flags, and whatever it is. I remember those parades going past, the Nazi parades, because Hitler was very often in Munich in the Braune Haus anyway. I've been told, I mean, they pulled down the synagogue well before Kristallnacht. It was said, because Hitler, when he came to the Braune Haus, from the station he had to drive past the synagogue. And he hated it so much that he told them, 'Pull that bloody thing down.' And it was already before 1938 that the synagogue was pulled down in Munich, of which my grandparents were founder members. I've still got their receipt with the number of the *Betstuhl* [seat in the synagogue], as they call it.

We're going to look at that. And in fact, the synagogue was near where you lived?

Yes, we – across the square, a couple of turnings, yes. I mean, you could see it, it was a huge building.

It was a very – it had, I read, 1500 people could fit perfectly.

Yes, it was one of the largest synagogues in Germany, I think. Not as big as the one in Berlin, I don't think.

So, it bothered Hitler that this was in the centre of Munich?

Yeah. But anyway, he had it pulled down.

So, you said Braune Haus. What Braune Haus? What do you refer to?

Braune Haus [NSDAP Headquarters in Brienner Straße 34 in Munich] is where Hitler lived when he was in Munich, which was quite often.

[00:18:03] *Where was that?*

Oh...

Because he had a flat in Munich, didn't he?

Yeah.

In Bogenhausen.

It was –

But that's not what you mean?

I'm not quite sure now where it was. I'm not that sure of the geography. I mean, I went after the war, looked at Munich and all the rest of it. But before the war, I don't remember that much about it. I remember the Englischer Garten and I remember the gardens behind, the Wittelsbacher Brunnen there, that sort of immediate neighbourhood and –

You said you fell into the...?

Yeah, well, there was a very low parapet on the Wittelsbacher Brunnen, only about that high. And because like all child's, you want to walk on it, you know. And I duly fell in and of course, they fished me out. And I mean, the house was only across the square, so [laughs] I didn't suffer any hardship. But...

And Tom, you said you saw these parades.

Yes.

I mean, was there any – first of all, were you aware of being Jewish at all?

No.

Was there any fear? Was there any...?

No, no, no. I –

What did...?

I wasn't brought up Jewish, you see. I had no bar mitzvah. I had no Jewish education at all. I never learned Hebrew, nothing. My parents didn't believe in organised religion. Although my mother had been baptised, my father, I don't think so. My father certainly wasn't baptised. But they weren't – they didn't believe in organised religion. And they belonged – they didn't keep anything. They didn't keep any Jewish holidays, nothing. I knew nothing about the

Jewish – the first time I went to synagogue properly was when I married my first wife, in Alyth Gardens in the synagogue [laughs]. And I was terrified because I didn't know what was going on [laughs].

[00:20:00] So when you saw these marches, you didn't think – you didn't feel any sense of danger for yourself?

No, no, no. No, I was totally unaware of these things and –

And did you not hear the parents, your parents talking? Or was there any concern?

No.

Did you have any cons – I mean, you were there. You grew up in the thirties in Munich.

Yeah, that's right. But I mean, I was, you know, from the age of – I mean, I left at the age of seven. So, I wasn't very well – I wasn't aware. I really wasn't aware of what was going on. I mean, you know, the fact that I moved to Switzerland, well, that was just exciting because I went by aeroplane by myself.

Yeah. So, in those days, so you had a happy childhood in Munich?

Yes. I was very, very, very content. I mean, I had this governess, who I think followed us to Switzerland for a while.

What was her name?

No idea. No idea at all. I know I've been told she was actually Irish. Whether she was north or south Irish, I don't know. But no, I think she came to Switzerland with us first, then went back home. That was the end of it.

Any friends, do you remember from that time? Did you have any?

No, no, because I didn't go to school. You see, in Switzerland schools only started at the age of seven, which was the age when I arrived in Switzerland. So, I never went to school in Germany. So, I must have had friends. I mean, there must have been cousins and whatever it is. I've got pictures, photographs of me as a toddler, with various people I don't know. But I don't recall any of it really. I don't have many memories of Munich, really. Apart from I used to love to go down to the gallery. My grandmother had an office there and she was a chain smoker. [00:22:01] She smoked about – my father said over 100 cigarettes a day. And I can remember this thick smoke in her office, everything stinking of cigarettes. And she always had a big dog, a big dog. They always had big dogs. And I used to run up and down the gallery, because that was a big gallery as a child. I used to enjoy that, you know. And but she – they had the big Rottweiler dog at one time. But once, it bit my mother, so they got rid of it. And then they got a boxer. They always had dogs.

Interesting.

That was very nice.

And where did they – the gallery was in the same – in the house where you lived?

In the ground and first floor.

So, did your grandmother also live in the house?

Yes, she lived above the – the grandparents lived above the shop.

And you lived...?

And we lived at the top.

At the top?

On the top floor. Whether anybody lived in between, I don't know. I suspect that probably some other family members, because that's the way they used to run these things.

So, was the gallery quite a big space?

Yes. Oh, yes. It was a large, large – I mean, if you think about it, after the war when it was rebuilt, it was a showroom for Ford Motor Cars. So, it must have been pretty big.

And do you remember the paintings hanging there?

Yes, oh, yes.

Do you want to tell us? Describe it a little bit first.

Well, I remember you – when you came in to the left, there was a staircase going up to a mezzanine. And there was an office, my grandmother's office there. Then there was a long corridor that opened up to another big square room, which led to another big square room, where the glass roof – with lighting from overhead, which was important for the pictures, to see them in the right... And pictures hanging on both sides of the wall. Yes, I remember those. But I've got photographs of it. So, I don't know whether my memory is my memory, or whether it is the photographs [laughs]. **[00:24:00]** It could be either, you know. So, I don't know. But and then downstairs in the basement, when you went into the gallery, the main entrance to the building, there was a courtyard at the back. And there was a goods lift there and that went down into the basement. And there was a carpenter shop there, where they made all the frames. They had a full-time cabinet maker, who made picture frames and packing cases for sending them all over the place. And I loved to go down there as a child, and he tried to teach me some woodwork. That was – I was very happy down there. I used to mess about down there in the carpentry workshop a lot of the time. I used to go up and down on this goods lift, which I shouldn't have done, you know, which went all the way up. I could go to my mother's, to our parents flat with it and all the rest of it. It was very nice. That's one of the nice memories.

So did your parents and your grandma, did they feel very sort of Bavarian? I mean, they felt very rooted or...?

My father always spoke fairly correct German, except when he had a temper, then he swore in Bavarian [laughs]. And of course, my mother came from Berlin. So of course, you know, I was what they call a *Promenadenmischung* [laughs].

Yeah, explain what that is. I know what it is, but...

Father's Bavarian, mother's Prussian, I'm a right mixture.

Yes. But she, I assume, felt very German?

They're all German, they were both German. But I mean, she was Prussian. I mean, the Weiler family came originally from the Harz region [highland area in northern Germany]. They had a department store there. This would be my great, great, great-grandparents, had a department store there. They sold out, they went to Hanover. [00:26:00] From there, they went to Berlin. And in 1890, they emigrated to England. Three brothers and my grandfather and their widowed mother went to London. So, they were proper Prussians, Prussian family, Jewish. And I mean, my uncle was brought up Christian like my mother, her brother. But he married a Christian lady, a doctor. He married a doctor and they moved to – emigrated, they emigrated in '34 to Oxford.

Okay. That was the chemist?

Chemist, yes.

What was his name, please?

Dr Gerhard Weiler.

Okay, we'll speak about him –

And Gerhard Weiler was the oldest sister of my mother, no, older brother of my mother. And he was born in 190 – no, 1899, 1899. Whereas my mother was born in 1903. And he was brought up Christian by his parents. And he studied chemistry, and eventually got his doctorate in chemistry in some analytical process. Don't ask me, I'm not a chemist. And he worked in the hospital, doing blood tests and things like that.

In Munich?

When he was a young man.

Which hospital?

In Berlin.

In Berlin?

In Berlin, and he then developed this scientific analysis of some kind, microanalysis. And he set up together with his wife, a pregnancy testing service, in the villa of his father.

[00:28:07] And, but it was in the name of his wife, because in order to do pregnancy, you had to be a doctor. Well, he wasn't a medical doctor, but his wife was a medical doctor. So, they had this med – this pregnancy research service there, analysis. And then one day, the head of chemistry at chemist – at Oxford University, Professor Sir Robert Robinson, I think he was a Nobel Prize winner, went to Berlin and asked him to open a laboratory at Oxford. It didn't exist in England and he decided that sort of micro analytical laboratory was something that the UK needed for the future war effort and everything. So, in 1934, my uncle decided to emigrate with his father. His mother died long time ago- and his wife and his wife's sister. And they all arrived in Oxford in 1934, where he set up together with a partner, Dr Strauss, a microanalytical laboratory in the university. Which he kept going until 1970s, late seventies, when modern methods superseded what he was doing.

You know, it's really interesting because somebody else in our archive, her mother from Vienna, was invited because she had invented a specific pregnancy test.

Yes.

And she was invited to join the University of Edinburgh.

Really?

Yeah.

Yeah, that's interesting.

Regina Kapeller Adler. Was it Regina? I don't know. But Kapeller Adler was her name.

[00:30:00] I mean, now in – their laboratory was purely commercial. It wasn't part of the university, although it was situated on a university building, Dyson Perrins Laboratory. And he got samples from research laboratories from all over the world. They sent him – little files arrived in wooden boxes. Every morning, the postman came with a big sack full of stuff. And he had a laboratory with about twenty, twenty-five girls. And he had special scales, very accurate scales and apparatus. I don't know, you know. And he was also involved, when they were researching penicillin, he did a lot of the analysis for the development of penicillin during the war.

So, did he work with...?

There's now a plaque somewhere up in where his laboratory was.

Did he work with Chain?

He knew Chain. I mean, I remember at my uncle's house, Professor Chain used to come for supper. Funny little man, he could never sit still. He was always wobbling about [laughs].

Yes.

Okay. We'll come back to that. But we are just still in Germany talking about your grandmother.

Yes.

So, your grandmother must have felt Bavarian, because she was representing –

Oh, yes, she was definitely Bavarian. I mean, she ran the business until 1938. Then she got arrested on some trumped up currency charges, put into prison. They broke into her flat, stole all the paintings or whatever it is, whatever it was. She paid, somebody said to me, a million marks ransom to get out, in return for an exit visa. But was told she's got to sell the gallery, had to be Aryanised. Now, the man who bought it was actually a member of staff, a Mr Zinckgraf, who had been with them for forty years. [00:32:08] The German authorities were very suspicious about this, but eventually they passed it. Now, Zinckgraf didn't have the money. But he had a backer, who was a director of the Reichsbank, who had the money. He gave him the money to buy the gallery for flumpence, ha'penny, in return for profit sharing, or now all the sales. And the Zinckgraf Gallery continued until the middle fifties. When my father went back, he did a deal with him. But he let him do – carry on. Mr Zinckgraf was a decent man.

So, they changed the name?

Well, the gallery was then changed to Galerie Lenbachplatz, because it couldn't be called Galerie Heinemann anymore. But he continued, he carried on from 1938 until he died in 1954. And then everything else was auctioned off and that was the end of everything.

But you said, so your grandmother was allowed or continued to work 'till '38?

Trade, yes.

And you said there was a reason for it? You told me before, because of the cash –

There was a...?

You said there was a reason? Why was she...?

Well, yes, because the reason was, because her younger son was in America, drummed up American business. My father was in Switzerland, around in the Swiss side. So, he got a lot of Swiss business. So, they created Swiss francs and US dollars, which were hard currency. And the German Reich was terribly short of hard currency. So therefore, as an exception, she was allowed to carry on trading until 1938, until Kristallnacht. [00:34:07] And then the German authorities decided enough is enough. And then she paid this fine and got an exit visa and sold the gallery. Of course, she never got that money, that was pocketed but the Nazis. And came to Switzerland, where we lived. She stayed with us for a while, but all her brothers, the Schüleins, were in America and were established already. So, she emigrated to America, where she died in 1940.

And what happened to the brewery?

Well, the brewery, the brewery group that my great-grandfather founded merged with Löwenbräu. And then his son took over, my grandmother's eldest brother, Hermann Schülein, who was a world known expert on running breweries. And he ran the whole brewery concern. And my great-grandfather retired and bought out one small brewery in Kaltenberg, which he ran as his own hobby and he lived there. And Hermann Schülein ran the brewery concern until 1936, when the Nazis kicked him out. He went to America and immediately was snapped up by Liebmann Breweries in New York. And ended up as president of the Liebmann Breweries, because he was a world expert on running breweries. And that was it. You see, so they were all over there. All his brothers were over there, nephews and nieces and all – the whole family had managed to emigrate, because my great-grandfather had, I think, five children. [00:36:12] My grandmother, Hermann Schülein, Fritz Schülein, Elsa

Haas, who married a well-known surgeon with a specialist clinic in Munich. Which reminds me of another story of Munich.

Go on.

In those days, it was very fashionable to have your *Mandeln*, what do you call it?

Oh, what is it? Your – what do you take out from children? Tonsils, tonsils taken.

Tonsils, have your tonsils clipped. When I had to have my tonsils clipped and I had to go to Uncle Alfred's surg – hospital. Terrible. I mean, you know, no anaesthetic. Just sat on the nurse's knee, open your mouth wide, clip, clip, spit out the blood. Off you go [laughs]. I remember that.

I bet you do [laughs].

The only good thing was when I got home, I was allowed to eat ice cream.

So that was a private clinic?

Yes, yes. He was a specialist for goitre, which is a particularly, in Munich, very common, because there's something to do with the water. And since they all drink a lot of beer there, they had a lot of – a lot of people had goitre. He was a specialist on that.

What was his name?

Dr Alfred Haas. He went to America and continued working as a surgeon. And I remember his daughter, I once spoke to her, said, 'Yes, my father is still operating. He is over ninety.' I said, 'If you were the last bloody surgeon in the world, I wouldn't go to him anymore.'

[Laughs] [00:38:00] Yes, that's all my grandmother's family. Elsa Haas was my grandmother's sister, younger sister. She was very strict with me, very strict, because I was a

spoiled brat, I suppose. And I always used to refer to her as “*Böse Tante Elsa*” [laughs].

“*Böse Tante Elsa.*” [Mean Aunt Elsa]

So, your upbringing wasn't strict or...?

No, I mean, I was an only child. I was spoiled, I suppose. I had a good time really. I was treated well. I mean, you see, in 1938, we went to Switzerland. In 1940, my parents divorced because my father loved wine, women and song. Not too much of the song. Mostly wine and women [laughs].

Yeah, so they divorced in Switzerland?

They divorced in Switzerland in 1940 and I moved with my mother to a flat in Switzerland, in Lucerne. Continue to go to school there, primary school. And a year later, my mother died of a form of cancer. And I moved, I was moved back to my father. He was never there, he had a grad flat in those days in Lucerne. And I lived there and I went to school. I don't know, I can't remember he was there, he was forever away. I think the cleaning woman came and made some supper for me [laughs], and for that I was left on my own. It was all right, I enjoyed myself.

And just to come back to leaving Germany –

Yes.

Was there a reason given to you why you were leaving? Or for you, what did you understand? Did you understand anything of the situation?

No, no.

No.

I was just told I was going to fly to Zurich. [00:40:00] That was so exciting. And the exciting thing was on the flight, since I was the only child on there, the pilot asked me to come to the front and I sat on the co-pilot seat. I mean, there was only two pilots in those days and I sat on the co-pilot seat, with this thing in front of me.

And which airline?

This was a Hungarian airline, because Jews weren't allowed to fly on what was Lufthansa in those days.

And how come your mother didn't fly with you or...?

No, she was still packing up in Germany, I think. She came, I mean, she came, she was still packing up. I don't really know exactly the reason, but all I know is I was put on the plane in Munich, and I flew to Zurich. That's how I emigrated.

And by then your father already lived in Zurich?

I beg your pardon.

Was your father already living in Zurich?

Yes. Well, in Lucerne.

Lucerne.

Yeah, we lived in Lucerne.

Yeah.

Lovely town. I had a lovely time, Lucerne was a very nice town. I went to a nice school, was very nice. So, as I'm concerned, it was all right.

Were you upset about leaving Munich or...?

No.

No?

No, no, no, because I had my parents with me, you know. I mean, things started getting difficult once my mother had died. My father was a strange man.

And you were very young. You were young.

I was young, yes. I was not ten yet when my mother died.

No, and was it sudden? Or were you aware that she was ill or...?

Well, I was aware eventually. She was in hospital. She had cancer of the lymph gland, that was not curable in those days and she was in hospital. I know I was sent on holiday with another kid, with some people in the Wallis. And she would send me postcards and all the rest of it. [00:42:06] And I remember visiting her still in hospital, very near the end. But you know, it's – and then she was cremated in Lucerne. But she wasn't buried in the Jewish cemetery. There is a Jewish cemetery in Lucerne, but she was cremated. The funny thing is years later, I happened to be in Switzerland, in Lucerne. So, I thought, well, I must go and see. Of course, in Switzerland, they reuse the graves after twenty-five years. So, they had moved it already. So, I went to the office and I told them. 'Oh, yes, yes, yes. I'll show you what we've done. We've taken the ashes and we've buried it in a communal plot with a little memorial on it.' And I went there, thought about it and that was it. But the actual gravesite doesn't exist anymore.

Yeah. But they got – she died after – they shortly after they got divorced or...?

Oh, yes. I mean, the divorce was about 1940. She died '42. So, I mean, I moved in with my father then, but it was a strange life with him.

Tell us a bit about your schooling and your life in Lucerne.

I went school in Lucerne, primary school. Switzerland consisted of six years of primary school. And it was a *Seminar Übungsschule*. It was for trainee teachers to try to work out. [00:44:00] And it consisted of two classrooms, each with three classes. Class one, two, and three. And then there was another room with class four, five and six. So, you actually got into class one, but with half an ear, you could hear what he was teaching in class two. It was in the same room, or class three, while you were doing some writing. So really, truly, you were taught – got taught the same thing for three years running. Very strange. And of course, as kids when the *Seminaristen*, the trainee teachers came we played havoc with them. We would misbehave to the – the class teacher was at the back watching, you'll see, but he had to let the trainee teacher do it. It was very strange. And then after three years, you moved into the next room. Class four, five and six, there was a different teacher there and the same thing happened again. You moved on from class four, to class five, class six. But basically, you learned the same things three times over. Very strange.

But it was in German? So –

It was all in German.

All in German.

Because in Switzerland, German speaking Switzerland, children had to learn German like a foreign language, because they all spoke *Schwyzerdütsch* [Swiss German] which is a throat disease, actually. [Both laugh] And you know, it's a terrible language. And children had to learn German like a foreign language, but they taught it very intensively. German and French- was taught very intensively from a very early age. I mean, I think from class – from my fourth year onwards, I had to learn French in school. Of course, if you lived in the French speaking part, they would teach German or Italian, depending on where you lived.

[00:46:04] *But you said, so when you came you did...? Was your English still good?
Because you said your parents spoke it with you. Or by then you...?*

Well, I'd forgotten more than I – well, I used more than I thought I'd remembered. I mean, when I came to England, yes, I could speak English of sorts. I mean, I went to school here in England and I did my school certificate. I did my higher school certificate. So, you know.

But so, in Switzerland, there was no problem with the language?

No, there was no problem with the language. I had to learn – I mean, the minute I get to Switzerland, I had to learn German because I only spoke English.

Okay, that's what I mean. So, you –

But as a kid, you pick it up very quickly. Probably, I learned *Schwyzerdütsch*, not German.

But you must have spoken German in Munich somehow, as well.

No, I just spoke English.

But with your, let's say, when you went on the holidays, or when you went with your grandmother?

I only remember speaking English, because that's the only language I knew.

That's quite extraordinary [laughs].

Very strange.

Yeah.

Because my parents thought it might come in handy. Well, it did come in handy, I suppose. So, you know, no, the schooling in Switzerland, and then what happens after the primary school, you take an exam, entrance examination to the *Gymnasium*, which I do, which is the proper – the high school. Which I probably failed, because I was lazy or whatever, whatever the reason was. So, I was sent to *Sekundarschule*, which is a lower grade, which is three years. And by that time, my father then sent me to this boarding school and I did three years there at *Sekundarschule*.

[00:48:00] *But it sounds much that you were sort of left to fend for yourself a little bit.*

To a large extent, yes, yes. I mean, my father, I mean, once my mother died, yes. Luckily, friends of my mother took a great interest in me, because they knew my father from Germany. They were also a very famous German family, called the Rosenthals. They were international antiquarians, very famous ones. And they were friends from Munich already and all the rest of it. And one of the dau – they had a branch in Switzerland too. And they ended up in Switzerland, some of them, and they made friends with my mother and they kept an eye on me. But they hated my father. They thought he was a rogue and a liar. [Laughs] I've got correspondence where they say, 'He's a thief, he's a liar.' Terrible.

Was there no other option for you at that point to go somewhere else or...?

Well, came the end of the war, something had to be done because my father had done a bunk. He disappeared. He was in financial difficulties by then so he went down to the – to Ticino, the Italian part of Switzerland. And went, smuggled himself over the border, joined millions of refugees in Europe and got – made his way back to Germany again. Ended up in Cologne. They arrested him because he didn't have any papers. But he could prove who he was. He had no criminal record, so they said, 'Okay, you're free to go.' So, he settled himself in Germany again.

So, he had to leave Switzerland because of...?

Yeah, well, he didn't want to face the problems and –

To do with...?

Consequently, I got an *Amtsvormund*, a guardian from the city of Lucerne, who took over my financial affairs because the school fees hadn't been paid.

[00:50:05] *And how old were you then?*

Fourteen, fifteen.

So, Tom, in that time, were you – I mean, at that time, you must have been aware of the war and...?

Yeah, oh, yes, yes, yes.

Yeah, so how did it affect you at all in Switzerland?

Well, you watched the war, what was going on. Then, of course, came '45 and it was the end of the war, and that was a great event. I mean, Switzerland during the war, they were very worried in Switzerland during the war. I know – I joined the junior branch of the Boy Scouts when I was still living in Lucerne. And we used to be sent on – at night to watch out for German paratroopers. Watching out for German paratroopers and things like that. They were very worried that the Germans will come. But eventually, of course they didn't.

And what about the Jewish aspect of things?

I can't remember anybody sort of making antisemitic remarks to me. I mean, I was stuck in this boarding school. And of course, once my father had disappeared, I couldn't go anywhere. I didn't have a home. So, I was there in the holidays too. So, I was stuck there. So, I was stuck there in this village called Dietikon.

What was it called?

Dietikon.

Dietikon.

It's near Frauenfeld. It's a village, it's a farm village with this castle, which was a school and a school building, boarding school. And I mean, there were only Swiss kids there. There was one German kid there, whose parents were in Germany. And there was one Jewish kid there in that school and that was – he made problems. He had problems, because he tried to be kosher. [00:52:01] He was Swiss, but his father was a Jewish cattle dealer in Switzerland and he was kosher. And he had trouble. I didn't get any trouble because I didn't say I was Jewish. I didn't know I was Jewish. I had no Jewish education.

But did you at that point, think you were Jewish or...?

Sorry?

Did you at that point, kind of understand a little bit that because you were Jewish, you had to leave Germany or...?

No.

No.

No, no. I was just, you know, I talked *Schwyzerdütsch* like they all do and whatever it is. I was just one of the gang there, you know. And you had your fights and you had your arguments and you had your friends.

So, you didn't have any contact to any Jewish organisations or anything like that?

None at all. None at all. As I said, I mean, in the end, I had this *Amtsvormund* and he took charge of antiques at the store of my mother's still. And they sold some of it to pay the school fees and all the rest of it.

And who was that? Who was it, the Amtsvormund?

He was an official from the city of Lucerne. The city of Lucerne appointed him. Mr Kunz, a very nice, pleasant man. But I mean, he was just a civil servant. He was in charge of the finances and all the rest of it. And then, when the war ended, one friend of my late mother was an English lady who was stuck in Switzerland, because she was married to a Swiss. And went back to England to meet her family as soon as the war was over. And she had a letter from my mother to my uncle in Oxford, to say, 'Your nephew is stuck in Switzerland, you'd better do something about it.'

So, your mother must have been very worried knowing that she was ill, leaving you in this situation.

That's right, very sad for her. [00:54:00] Her biggest wish had been after the war, to go to Oxford to stay with – where her brother lived. She was determined but of course, she never made it. And she wrote some heart rending letters to various members of my father's family and all the rest of it. It was very sad. I've got – I found all these letters after the war.

What did she write?

You know, she's very worried because the father is irresponsible and you must do something about him. And then the American family – oops, the American family and my Oxford family, my mother's family, got together after the war and decided, what are we going to do with this bloody teenager stuck in Switzerland? And at one time I was going to be sent to America. And I've even got a cousin in Washington said, 'Oh yes, I was told I was going to get a little brother.' But probably it was easier to get a visa to England, which still took a nine month or a year.

After the war?

After the war, from – see, my uncle came over to visit, my uncle from Oxford came over to visit me in Switzerland and talk to the *Amtsvormund* in 194 – Christmas 1945, as soon as he could travel and sorted things out. And it was decided I would come to England, because he had no children. They never wanted children. So, they got lumbered with an old teenager, an awkward, difficult teenager in Oxford. So, they organised it. Between my great-uncle in New York and my uncle in Oxford, they decided, well, better get young Tommy over to England.

[00:56:02] *And did you know him when he came? Do you – could you remember?*

I'd never met him before. But when he came, because I never knew him because they'd gone the 1934 to Oxford, and I'd never been to England.

So, you'd never met him?

I'd never met him. He turned up and this uncle, *deus ex machina* [laughs]. And they were very nice. My other uncle, my father's brother from New York, also came to visit me after the war. But he was a bit like my father, rather irresponsible. He promised to do this, promised to do that, in the end he did nothing. All I remember is he bought me a very nice watch [laughs].

Yeah. So, your father sort of deserted you there? I mean, just left you?

Yes.

Yeah.

Yes, yes. I never asked him what happened, I don't know. I know he told a completely different story to his second wife, because he married again in Germany. A very nice German lady, much younger than him. Rather like here [laughs].

What did he tell? What was the story he was – he told?

Well, you see, what happened was he was trying to write this book and he needed a secretary. So, somebody recommended him a lady from Wuppertal. So, she came to Cologne to do the typing for him. And then in the end, they got married. And she was a very nice lady. She looked after him beautifully. She was very kind, very generous. I got on very well with her. I mean, I only saw her once in a blue moon when I went to Germany. She died, I'd say about four or five years, three or four years ago.

So, when did you get back in contact with your father? Or at what point did you see him again?

When I finished school in 1950 in Oxford, my uncle paid for me to travel to Germany to visit my father. [00:58:04] He was living in Munich at the time in the Widenmayerstraße, if that means anything to you, somewhere near the river. And they had a flat there and I met my so-called stepmother for the first time. And I saw him again after many years.

Five years?

Yeah. So, you know, it was all right. He tried to be nice to me. I mean, you know, took me around, took me to Berchtesgaden and various other places. It was all right, you know. I mean, we were civil to each other but we weren't close. Never were, so it was all right. And when I got married, he sent me a long letter saying, 'You're too young, don't get married.' And my uncle in Oxford said, 'It's the wrong sort of woman, don't marry her.' And of course, I was twenty-three and I was going to do what I was going to do, to hell with everything else [laughs]. I was in love and that was it. And I married a very difficult lady, but we were still together for fifty-six years, one way or another. But she died of dementia and Alzheimer's, and all that sort of thing. That's how I met my wife, was her nurse. She came as a carer and for two years, she looked after my wife when she was at home still.

Yeah. Tom, just to go back to the war, to the war. So, when you find yourself there alone in Switzerland –

Yes.

What were you feeling like? I mean, were you resenting your father? Were you...? I mean, how did you manage basically, in the situation?

[01:00:04] Difficult to think back. I just did. I don't know why, maybe I had a survival instinct or something like that. Also, I wasn't really aware of the full- disaster of the situation. Disaster is probably too big a story, because I was looked after. I had my three meals a day and a roof over my head. I mean, the owners of this private school must have been very generous and very kind, because they kept me on, although for a long time they didn't get paid. And you know, they did- they looked – they were very kind really. But I was there 365 days a year. Somehow, I learned to stand on my own feet. I learned to stand – to make my own decisions and to cope with situations, whatever arose. Probably, that's probably why I got married so early, much too early. I was much too young. I was fairly innocent. I was much too – I shouldn't have married. And particularly a very difficult lady who was physically handicapped, because my wife was partially sighted from birth. And generally speaking, she was a difficult lady. But we managed to survive. And I've always had the attitude, you're married for better for worse, you know, the rest and you stick it out.

Yeah. But did you – when you were in Switzerland, did you think – did you have any plans? Did you think oh, once the war is finished, I'll finish my education? I want –

[01:02:00] I would like to – what I would have liked to have done is work in a bookshop. That's all I wanted to do. That was the career outline for myself. In Switzerland, selling books is a career, with a three-year apprenticeship and proper, structured training course. So, when I came to England and I finished my schooling here, that's what I wanted to do. So, my uncle had a friend who was a buyer at Blackwell's University bookshop in Oxford. And he says, 'Go and talk to this man', continental gentleman. Don't know his name anymore. And I said I wanted to work in a bookshop as a career and all the rest of it, and what do you think of it? He says, 'Forget it. There's no career for book selling in England. I have staff who were selling cabbages last week, they're selling potatoes next week in another job. They never open a book, they don't know what's in it, it's useless.' He talked me out of it and I still regret

it to this bloody day now, that he talked me out of going into the book trade. That's all I wanted to do.

Why did you want to go into the book trade? Did you like reading?

I loved reading. I mean, I was a voracious reader anyway. I was – everywhere, I was always reading. But you know, it's something I regretted. In fact, years later, halfway through my career as a manufacturer's agent, I suddenly decided I'm going to chuck it in. I'm going to go and – I'm going to open a bookshop. And I went to the Booksellers Association here and told them about it. And they sent me lots of information, very good, the Booksellers Association. And in the end, I came to the conclusion, I would earn even less than I was earning now. So, I gave that up again. [01:04:00] So I ended up staying in the leather goods trade, which I ended up in for the rest of my life.

What books were you reading in Switzerland? Do you remember any of the books you read?

Mostly history. History, factual history, history and historical novels, that type of thing. History was my strong interest.

And Tom, tell us a little bit about coming to England.

Yes.

How did you come? So, you got a visa, your uncle...?

I got the visa. And one day, Mr Kunz came to me, my guardian, and said 'Here's a ticket to London. Pack up.' I said, 'Well, I need some clothes.' So, he gave me some money. I was allowed to go to a shop in Frauenfeld and buy myself some – my first long pair of trousers, because in Switzerland during the war everybody was – children were wearing knickerbockers, if you know what I mean.

Yeah.

And he gave me a ticket and I went to Zurich. I got on a plane, Swiss airplane. And the only food you got on it was one apple [laughs]. This was in 1947. I had a visa, I arrived in Northolt airport, because the airport was Northolt in those days. And the immigration officer sat me down, asked me lots of questions, and was desperate to find out any reason he could send me back, because they had the power to do it. Visa or no visa. And he interviewed me. And there was an English lady who sat next to me on the plane, who chatted to me. And she saw me being interviewed. [01:06:00] She sat down next to me and the immigration officer said, 'Well, who is she?' She said, 'No, if you're interviewing a child, I will sit here and translate for him.' She was a total stranger. Anyway, he couldn't find anything wrong. Then he sent me to the doctors there, to see whether I had any dreadful disease. And all the while, my uncle and aunt were waiting. Nobody told them, hours. Eventually, they couldn't find any reasons for not letting me in and I was taken in. And I met my uncle and his wife, who I'd never met before. They had a car, that was already something. And they took me to London, to show me London. And we had tea at a very posh tea place in Curzon Street, some tea place. And dinner at the Corner House in Coventry Street. And then he drove me back to Oxford.

Lyons Corner House, that?

Yeah.

Yeah. And were you pleased to come to England?

Well, at least it was a home. It's the first time I had a home since my mother died, basically. I mean, you know, they had a house in Banbury Road, plenty of room. I had a room in the front of the house, that little room to myself. I was all right. My uncle was very strict. You know, first of all, he sent me to private classes to catch up on Latin, because I'd never learned Latin. And school in those days, you had to have Latin. And see, originally, I was going to go to Magdalen College School. And they sent examination papers to Switzerland to the school, which I did in Switzerland. [01:08:00] And I got an entrance, but the visa took so long, the place was gone. So, then my uncle found this other school, St Edward's School, which was a

good school. They got me two years through school certificate, higher school certificate. So, it must have been a good school. I mean, it was only ten minutes' walk from where I lived. I was a day boy there, but I was there from eight in the morning 'till ten at night.

But you said you were a difficult teenager or...?

Well, yes. After all these upsets, I think. It must have been very difficult for my uncle and aunt. They were married same time as my parents. Never wanted children, never had children. And suddenly, they were lumbered with a sixteen-year-old teenager. Not easy, not easy. But they were kind. I mean, my uncle was strict but they were kind. My aunt was a cold fish. She was nice, pleasant, very nice. But she was a bit of a cold fish. But she was all right. They had a big house in Banbury Road. They entertained a great deal. They had lots of parties, lots of visitors. Scientific people, friends from Germany, and so on, so forth. You know, there were – in those days, there was quite a German community still in Oxford.

Yeah. Well, that's what I was going to ask you. So, was there quite a refugee community?

Yes. I mean, anything that was not Jewish. I mean, there were – I mean, they weren't Jewish. My aunt wasn't Jewish anyway. So, you know, I was happy there, it was all right. I got on all right.

What were your first impressions of England? I mean, compared to Switzerland.

[01:10:00] Well, I remember London, seeing these very old taxis from 1930s onwards, things like that, that fascinated me. Oxford was very nice. I mean Oxford is a lovely town. I mean, I used to get a – I had a bicycle and used to cycle around. And I made friends with people at the school. I had a couple of good friends. One was a day boy who lived up the road, one was another one. I know we went on cycling holidays together during the holidays, stayed in youth hostels and things like that. So, you know, it was all right. I stayed there for two-and-a-half years until my schooling was finished. And then the book business didn't – never came off and I didn't know what to do. And my uncle had a friend who had a business in – businessman in London. And he went to my uncle, 'I need an office boy, what's Tom doing?'

So, my uncle came to me and he said, 'Mr Popper would like you as an office boy. I'll give you thirty seconds to give me ten good reasons why you shouldn't take a job.' That's another examination I failed. So, I was on the next coach to London to be a tea boy or office boy to this Mr Popper for one pound two and six pence a week.

And living where?

At digs. He sent me up to Hampstead and various other places to look for a room. I found a room in Belsize Park with a very nice Czech lady, Mrs Kötzel.

Kötzel?

Kötzel and –

Address? Do you remember the address?

[01:12:01] Glenilla Road. Glenilla Road. She lived in a – lived in a little house. I think she'd lived with somebody or other during the war, who died after the war and she was living in the house. It wasn't her house. She took one other lodger and me. Room and breakfast, for one pound – I can't remember how much I paid.

Glenilla Road, which number?

Sixteen. It was a pair of small – pair of semi-detached houses on the right-hand side, in Glenilla Road. I had a little room there. And there was one other man, a Mr Holt, who had another room there. And I was very jealous because, sometimes he obviously had his girlfriend staying there, because her knickers were hanging out to the window to dry [laughs]. Yes, Mrs Kötzel was very nice. She said, 'Look, you can do anything you want in this house. So, you're free to do – go, come and go. There's one thing I draw the line at. I don't serve breakfast for two [both laugh]. So that was that.

And there was no – you didn't want to go to university? Or that wasn't an option at the time?

No, it wasn't an option at the time anymore. You know, you see, for one thing, my uncle would have had to pay for it. And I was beginning to be conscious that he'd paid for the school already, together with my uncle. I think they shared it with my great-uncle in America. Just because St Edward's School was a private school. And he's already paid in for my keep and all the rest of it. And although he was comfortably off, he wasn't a millionaire. So, I was also conscious that university would cost him a lot of money. [01:14:03] But in those days, to get to universities, you had to have Latin and math in your school certificate or higher school certificate, to get to a good university. And my uncle would never think of red brick universities. No, that wouldn't do, it would only be Oxford, Cambridge or London, you know. Well, I didn't have math or Latin in my high school certificate, failed both of them. So, I would have to go to school for another year to catch up on that and I was too lazy. I was so lazy. I was glad to get out of school, so I was an office boy.

And so, when you came to London, so you moved to Glenilla. Did you – that was quite a sort of refugee area, Belsize Park.

Yes.

Did you encounter other refugees?

No, I didn't, no, no.

Or join any youth movements or...?

My contact came about, my boss lived in Golders Green with, what I would later know, my wife's grandparents. In the house upstairs, there was two flats. And he was renting the upstairs flat. And my boss's wife knew that the old lady downstairs had two great-daughters who belong to some Jewish club. And they thought, well, maybe if it's not too Jewish [laughs], because that's the way they were all thinking, these people, perhaps I might find some friends there. So, I was introduced to these two girls one day, Lore and Liesel Benjamin. And they *schleped* me to this club, which was a group, a youth group for children

whose parents had not survived. [01:16:04] It was founded by Bloomsbury House. And they met in various places in the synagogue and Soho, and upstairs and places like that. They were all kids whose parents never survived.

What was it called, do you remember?

Achdut.

Achdut?

And I joined there and that became my family. And those are people, I still have friends now seventy years later, one friend, lives in Chiswick.

From that Achdut?

From those days. And I went there, that was my – the first real social contact. And I met all these people and we kept in contact. I mean, the Achdut, after everybody had married everybody else, it closed down. But as adults, we kept in contact with each other all through life.

And that was your first contact to anything Jewish, I suppose?

Yes. I mean –

What does it...?

We didn't practice anything.

No.

I mean, there was no – it was purely social.

Yes. But what did it feel like for you to suddenly meet...?

Oh, just a social club. I mean, you know, by that time, of course, I was nineteen, twenty. I mean, of course, I know – I knew I was Jewish and I knew the implication and all the rest of it, obviously. I mean, I had learned a little bit about it, you know. Not much. But I mean, I didn't belong to any synagogue or anything. And the club was not attached to any synagogue or anything like that.

It was –

It was a lady from Bloomsbury House that used to supervise it, and I can't remember her name. She founded the thing. It was for kids whose parents never survived.

Yeah, no, I heard about it. What does Achdut...? It's not Achdut, what does it mean in Hebrew, Achdut? [Unity]

[01:18:00] I don't know, I never learned Hebrew, you tell me [both laugh].

Interesting. I thought it – I know the word, I thought it's responsibility but it's not, it's not, Achdut. I don't know. We'll check it later, yeah.

Yeah. No, so I was very happy there.

And where were the meetings, all over the place or...?

Well, originally, I used to remember it upstairs from the Soho synagogue. In – and then various other places, we moved to various other places over the years. And by about 19 – in the early fifties, the thing really, everybody had married everybody else, with one or two exceptions who never got married. And that was it.

And everyone who came had lost both parents?

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Maybe one or two might have had a parent, I'm not quite sure anymore. No, not all of them. I mean, this friend I was talking about, Hans Danziger, who lives in Chiswick, his parents actually survived underground in Berlin.

Yeah, we know him, we interviewed him.

Oh, so you know Hans Danziger?

Yes, we do.

He's my oldest friend.

Is he?

From those days, from 1950 I've known him. I see him regularly.

You can give him our regards. Yeah.

Yes, Hans Danziger. Yeah, he came to my first wedding, took all the photographs. All the photographs had the toilet window as the background outside the synagogue [laughs].

He is from Berlin, yeah, Hans?

Hm?

Berlin, Hans?

He comes from Berlin, yes.

Yeah, yeah, I remember his story very well.

Yes, yes.

Yeah.

He's a lovely man. I've seen him, I meet him also in Ealing when the AJR meets, he usually comes.

So that's where you met, in Achdut, you met your first wife?

[01:20:01] Yes, I met my first wife. We started to become a pair and eventually, we got engaged. I mean, '54 we got married. So, you know, it's –

But you said your family wasn't very for it?

No, my uncle was very much against it. Various reasons. I mean, he judged a character better than I could judge my wife's future character. He knew it was going to be difficult. And also, he would say, 'Why do you have to marry into Jewish whatnot?

Did he say that?

Yes. You know, I was very upset. I fell out with him, in fact, over this issue. I didn't see him. I mean, he came to the wedding reluctantly. But otherwise, I didn't see him for a couple of years, because I really fell out with his attitude. Then after two years, I decided this is ridiculous. And I phoned him up, I said, 'Listen, I want to come and see you.' I went to Oxford and I said, 'Sorry, I think you didn't – you weren't very nice to me and I was not very nice to you. Let's call it quits and be friends again.'

And your wife's background? She'd come on the Kindertransport?

She came with the Kindertransport, promising she would stay with her family, because the Rosenfelder family were already here. But of course, she was sent to a – she went to somewhere in Oxted, some school and home there or something like that. And eventually, she ended up in the, what's the Jewish school? Bunce Court. She ended up in Bunce Court

with her sister. But she didn't get much schooling, because she was partially sighted. In one eye she had a very rare disease, they didn't know what to do with it. [01:22:03] The optic nerve didn't function from birth. And through the immigration, it got worse and worse. And she had a lot of visits to the eye hospital, so she got a very bad education because she couldn't see properly. But she was the life and soul of the party, and all the rest of it.

She lost her parents? Ah ha.

That's her.

If you've got –

That's on her 60th birthday.

No, no, you can show it. Just hold it the back so the camera can see it, yeah.

That's on her 60th, on her 60th birthday. That's me then and that's her sister she came over with. That's her brother-in-law, sister's husband. That's my nephew, that's their son and that's my son.

Hold it up a bit. Okay. We're going to look at it properly later.

Yeah. So, you know, yes, she came over. And she had a succession of jobs from her various relatives, really charity just to keep her – give her something to do. But she couldn't really hold down a job properly, because she couldn't see properly. So, she was physically scarred. And as it turned out later, because of the immigration and loss of parents, psychologically scarred. She suffered from lifelong depressions, very severe depressions, which they managed to keep under control until she was quite old. When she was quite old, it was hopeless anymore. And then it developed into dementia and Alzheimer's, and all the rest of it.

[01:24:00] *I mean, did you feel there was enough support for, you know, some of the Kinder who had problems after the war? Or not only Kinder, you know, refugees in general.*

I mean, as far as – I don't really know how other people managed. Everybody had their own problems. I mean, I had to sort myself out, I didn't have any help really. We just had to find help and see where you can do it. I mean, I've been – we were members of the AJR, we were members of – we asked all sorts of people for all sorts of things. But asking around, you got help in the end. But it was, you really had to use your what not, to try to find ways to cope. I managed- I was – I had to cope. That's all there is to it. You know, I mean, for many years I was carer, I wasn't a husband anymore. Because with dementia – hello. With – for dementia you lose people. It's very sad, it's a terrible disease. And I remember my uncle and I looked after him in his old age, I used to look after him, same as he looked after me when I was young, because he was widowed. And he used to ask me, 'Am I getting dementia? Am I getting dementia?' I said, 'As long as you ask me, you haven't got it.' [Both laugh] He was the same age as I am now. So, I'm still asking her, 'Am I getting dementia?' [Laughs] Yes. But no, you see, you just had to cope. Because you didn't have any – didn't have any parents or grandparents to think who could help. It's very difficult. We were, like all these people in the Achdut, we were alone. [01:26:08] And you had to use your own *sechel-* [wit] to cope with whatever happened to you. And that made you, I don't know, it just made you cope. And I didn't ask, I didn't ask myself the question whether I was suffering or whatever, not suffering. Just got on with life and you had to earn a living. And that wasn't easy, either. I mean, you know.

So, what happened to you after? You started as an office boy?

I started as an office boy and I was there for three years, for flumpence, ha'penny most of the time. But he taught me how to run a business. He was a very clever businessman and I won't bother you with this history. He was quite – a very clever businessman and he taught me how to run this business. In fact, when he used to go on business trips, in the end, I used to run his office. But then after three years, I needed more money and I found a job. I was earning five pounds in those days, I was offered a job for seven pounds. So, I went back to him and said, 'I've got offered a job for seven pounds, will you pay me seven pounds?' And he roared at me, 'You're not worth a penny more than that, than what I'm paying you.' So, I said, 'Bye, bye.' Went off to some Polish company, exporting bicycles to Mexico [laughs]. God knows.

And then I got a job, a recommendation of one of my mother's friends, to a handbag company here in England, a big one. Bond Street premises, one of the leading handbag manufacturers, importers, wholesalers in this country. And I had a recommendation. In those days if you were a Jewish firm and somebody said, 'I know a young man who needs a job', it was very hard for them to refuse to take them in. [01:28:07] It was quite a big firm. So, I was there, had an interview. They said, 'How much do you earn?' I said, 'Seven pounds.' He said, 'All right, I'll pay you seven pounds, ten shillings a week. You can come next week.' He had no job for me. So, I mooched around there for a month or two, packing parcels, helping, helping with that. Looking at what they were doing. Then I saw their stock record system was peculiar. And I'd learned from my first job how to do a proper stock record system. I went to the boss and I said, you know, told him. He said, 'Show me.' Set it up. 'Right, you're my stock keeper now.' He thought, thank God, I've found – he found himself a job. So, for three, several years, I was stock keeper. The world's most boring job you can imagine. But I could see the only ones who are making real money were the agents. They were driving around in big cars, they were staying in posh hotels. They were traveling all over the place. They were earning big money. I could see all this, this is the life. So, I said, 'I also want to become an agent.' So, I had to wait 'till one day he called me in and said, 'So-and-so is leaving. You can start next week. I'll pay you 'till Friday. From next week onwards, we'll pay you a commission only every three months. Expenses are all your own. Go and buy your car. Yes, or no?' Bom, bom. I said, 'Yes', went home. I was married by then, told my wife and she nearly had a canary on the spot. 'You, salesman? We'll starve to death. You must be a *meshugge*. Phone him up now, phone your boss up now. Tell him you're sorry and can you have your job back?' [01:30:02] Well, for once I didn't do what my wife tells me [laughs] and the rest is history. I knew that was one of the leading firms in the handbag trade. You can't go wrong. Became an agent for him, worked for many years for him and in the end, had a fall out. I set up my own business as a manufacturer's agent for foreign leather goods manufacturers. Found a Swiss agency, then a German agency, I had American agencies, all sorts of things, right through 'till 2006. And then my wife had this dementia and needed full-time looking after. And I packed it in, I retired. But from 1970 to 2006, I ran my own business.

What was it called?

Lorna Leather Goods.

Lorna?

Lorna, after Lorna Doone, the book [laughs]. Or Lorna –

Lorna Leather Goods, yeah.

Yes. And I ran that business, I had a partner at one time. A very nice Englishman. Unfortunately, he had a heart attack in Regent Street and died. And otherwise, I was on my own. I had a part-time secretary at different times, I had a showroom in the West End. Later on, I worked from home.

Mostly only leather goods or...?

Only leather goods. And it was mostly in the end, luggage, briefcases, wallets, small leather goods, that sort of thing. Non-fashion things, I got out of handbags, because handbags you had to – you're only good as your current half seasons range. And leather goods is different.

So, you're representing international companies?

Yes, that's right, yes. **[01:32:00]** Basically, I was a salesman. A posh way of calling it is a manufacturer's agent, but self-employed.

Yeah, where did you settle with your wife? Where did you live?

Well, when we first got married, we had a dreadful basement flat, which was all we could afford, in Elgin Avenue in Maida Vale. The back part of a basement, the toilet was on the front of the house. And the passageway from the basement to the garden was converted into a kitchen-cum-bathroom. One room, you could lie in the bath and stir the soup with your toes [laughs]. And a garden, terrible place. That was two years, three years we were there. Then

we had a mansion flat around the corner, Castellain Mansions, lovely third floor, big flat. Four rooms, kitchen and bath. That was nice. Three pounds a week rent. We sublet one room. We even sublet one room to a lodger for two pounds, it only cost us a pound a week. And then, when my first child came along, my only child, Julian, we decided we needed a third floor. You couldn't leave everything downstairs. We needed a house and all our friends, lots of our friends lived in Wembley Park. So, we looked for a house in Wembley Park. So, in 1961 we moved into Wembley Park, three-bedroom, detached house. And I lived there 'till 2021, sixty years, man and boy. It was all right. First – we managed it and then when she died, I mean, my son lived with us. [01:34:02] My son never wanted, well, my wife never wanted him to leave home. She said, 'He can live here forever.' I mean, he was a bachelor. He lived with us, you see. So well, when I looked after my wife and then we are carers, lots of carers, Daria was the last one in the queue. And she was better than any other carer we ever had. So professional, was fantastic. I phoned up the agents and I said, 'Don't send anybody else. It's the only – she's heads and foot above it.' And she looked after Lore for two years and Julian lived with us. And her husband died of cancer while she was working for us, and here in England. And eventually, my wife had to go to the hospital. She had a fall, she went to hospital. They said, 'You can't take her in, you've got to do a nursing home.' She was in a nursing home. That's where she died in the end, in Harrow. But we were friends still, she was – I mean, two years, every day coming in, you get to know a person. And we were just – we got on very well. I mean, it wasn't as if – I mean, there was no hanky panky or anything like that. It was perfectly professional, because I knew if I did an inappropriate move, she might walk out. And then I lost – then I would lose the best agent – carer that I've ever had. So, I behaved myself, which was very difficult [laughs]. Oh dear. And then that was it. So, you know, then she passed away and we still stayed friends. And then we got better friends. And then one day I said, 'Come and move in with me.' [01:36:02] And then my son said, 'In that case, I'll move out.' I said, you don't have to, the three of us live here.' No, he decided to move out. He was in his fifties by the, time he moved out. I mean, I would have kicked him out a lot earlier. But his mother always said, 'No, no, no. Julian can live here forever and a day.' They got on like thieves, those two. I think she loved him much more than me [laughs]. Good for her, I'm not jealous. So that was that. So then, yeah, then she moved in and we went skiing together. Because every year, I still used to go skiing. That was still my –

To where?

Switzerland, mostly. There was a particular hotel in Switzerland where I went year after year, much to her disgust, it was always the same place. But we still went there, loved it. And in my eighties, I gave up skiing in the end. But then, yeah, after a while, I said, 'Will you marry me?' So, we got married in Wembley, in the Civic Centre. You can see lots of pictures.

Okay, we're going to look at the photos. I wanted to ask you, how do you think – was your parenting affected by your own experience? Or your wife's parenting, you said she was very close to your son, by her, you know, refugee experience?

Well, she was much more – she had a real refugee experience, my wife. I mean, she came over with the Kindertransport. She was eight, eight years old. Was it ten? Maybe ten, I can't remember now. And she had a very rough time, because she was shunted to various hostels, from one to the other. [01:38:00] And you know, and her parents had originally told her, 'You will go and see – go and live with Grandma and Grandpa.' And nothing of the sort happened. And when she was an adult and started work of sorts, she didn't really get on with her parents- with her grandparents. She was always the rebel. Her sister was a goody-goody, she lived with the grandparents. But she was always the rebel, my wife, so she didn't get on too well with her grandma. I mean, we still had to go every Saturday or Sunday to visit Oma. That was – still had to do with that, you know. Grandma was a lovely person. I should have married her, actually [laughs].

And they had come – when had they come, the grandma, her...?

They came in '38. No, I don't know. Probably '38, not quite sure when they came. But they came because various cousins in the Rosenfelder family had married into English-Jewish people. Sissy Rosenfelder was English born and so, she could arrange for a lot of the Rosenfelders from Germany, for their family to come over here. So, there was a big English family in Golders Green already.

Yes, but you said she was from Cologne?

She was from Cologne. They originally came from Bamberg.

She didn't come with the Jawne School, did she?

No, but she went to school with – she did go to school with a school in Cologne, Lore did.

Yeah, with the Jawne?

Yes. Yes, she went there. And I heard a lot from, what's his name?

Kurt?

Kurt.

Kurt Marx.

Kurt Marx.

About the Jawne School?

Yes.

Yeah.

She was, yeah, she went to the Jawne School in Cologne, because she was that much older than – because she was two years older than me, you see. [01:40:06] I never went to school in Germany, but she went to school there still.

But she didn't go out with the school?

No.

Not on that Kindertransport?

No, no, no, no. She came with the Kindertransport, I don't know which one, together with her sister in thirty – May '38. No, I'm not sure about that date, 1938. I don't remember now the month. Yeah. And, but then, she was shunted to various hostels, from one to the other and all the rest of it. She had a rough time. Whereas her sister, who was fully able bodied, had a much better life. She was in Bunce Court most – she had most of her education in Bunce Court and then became a pattern cutter and had various jobs. But she continued to live with Oma in Golders Green.

It's actually an interesting topic, you know, disability and Kindertransport.

Yeah.

Their – yeah, and whether –

When the Kindertransport reunion was first mooted by, was it Bea Green?

Yeah, or Bertha Leverton.

Or Bertha Leverton, Lore was very active, helping to set it up. She was, in fact, I got a scrapbook which I gave to the AJR, which she made at the time. She was very active, raising money, writing to people in America to contribute money to get the first reunion going. With Bertha Leverton she was – because Bertha Leverton also came from Munich.

Yes, she did.

I met her a few times, but you didn't show a great interest in talking to me. [01:42:01] So yeah, Lore was very interested in helping to set up the –

The reunion?

The reunion, the first reunion.

Yeah, in 1988.

Yes, she made a big scrapbook, newspaper cuttings and all sorts of things. And I donated it to the AJR actually, recently.

So, did Laura speak about her experiences to your son? Did you speak about your experiences?

Oh, yes, yes. She reckoned I was spoiled and lucky and not deserving [laughs].

But you – so, you are not to sort of proper refugee in that sense?

No. Well, I tell people now I'm not a refugee. I'm an immigrant.

Do you feel – what do you feel like today? Would you consider yourself...?

Look, I'll tell you something. You can never become English unless you're born in this country. You can become British, but you're never English in all the tea in China. I mean, I go around now and I've lived here since 1947, and I meet total strangers and talk to them. And they say, 'Where do you come from?' I say, 'Wembley.' 'No, no, no, where do you actually come from?' You know, and you can't quite get rid of it. It's something, that guttural sound. It's not the accent, it's the intonation that gives you a way in the end. And you cannot imitate that real English feeling. I don't regret it. I don't care. I think England is the last civilised country in the world and I don't want to live anywhere else. I'm very proud and very happy to live here. I've lived here since 1947, seventy years along. I'm very happy. But you never become English, you're British. I've got a British passport to show for it. But you're not English. **[01:44:01]** I mean, there's people with musical ears can tell in the intonation, that somehow, it's not quite there. Now, Lore, you could cut her English with a knife. She never

learned properly English. Her sister, her two years younger sister, spoke English to such an extent that you never – nobody ever knew that she wasn't English.

[Coughs] *Excuse me. So, did you ever consider yourself a refugee or not? You said you say you're an immigrant?*

No, I don't feel an – I don't feel a refugee. I mean, I came here by airplane, for God's sake. You know, a Swiss Air flight or whatever it is. How can I be an immigrant? You know, compared with the terrible things that happened to real immigrants before the war, during the war and now again, oops, now again after the war. I mean, there are terrible things happening. You know, I feel terrible for these people. I'm a lucky boy. I came here by aeroplane. I came to a settled family. I came to a good school. I married here, I had a child. I married, she died. I married again. I'm again a lucky boy. Heck, what more do I want out of life? I should get up every morning and say, 'Thank God.' And I'm an optimist, you see, I'm an optimist. People say, 'You got married again at eighty-odd?' I said, 'Yes. I'm an optimist.' For me, the glass is always half full and I like life, and to the best of it. [01:46:00] And if I'm too old fashioned, she reminds me, 'You're old fashioned.' I said, 'Yes. I'm old, I'm old fashioned. I know, you don't have to tell me.' [Laughs]

And how do you think your own experience has impacted your life?

It taught me how to learn to stand on my own feet. You see, it's like when my wife had to go into a care home, the Health Service refused to pay. So, I appealed, so they refused again. I had to go in front of a committee, make your presentation. There were eight people sitting around the table, you have to make a presentation, why the Health Service should pay for the care home. So, president of the meeting says – points to a man, 'You're a doctor, what do you think?' You know what, he turned around, he said, 'I'm not a psychiatrist. I can't tell.' And I nearly said, 'What the fucking hell are you doing on this committee in that case?' But of course, you don't, you mind your Ps and Qs. You had to find out how you can finance that sort of thing. You've got to think about things. I've managed to do all that by asking around, by asking here, asking there. I went on a course, who was funding the course? The Health Service running a course for carers of people with dementia. I went on that course. I learned

from how other people are coping. You have to be practical and you've got to learn. And well, I'm boasting really, I think I've managed to get through all these crises one way or another and find some sort of answer. And in the end, I think I've had a reward.

Yeah.

You see, I'm not religious. I mean, as I said, I was only a member of Belsize Square Synagogue once Julian had to have his – learn his bar – for his bar mitzvah for about two years, and I went to his bar mit – we had his bar mitzvah and all the rest of it, which was very nice. [01:48:20] And he still goes to synagogue on the High Holidays. He's – although... But –

You wanted to give him some Jewish upbringing? Or your wife wanted to?

My attitude, apart from – my wife, first of all, felt very strongly that he should have a Jewish education. I mean, she had a Jewish education. So, she felt much stronger about it. My attitude was he's Jewish, so he might as well know what it's about, being Jewish. Not like me, who was ignorant. He might as well learn what it's about. What he does with it is his business. So, once he had his bar mitzvah, I washed my hands of the thing. He can do what he likes. Yeah, it's all right. I don't need it. I don't need it. I don't have that need for that mental support. I've learned to stand on my own feet and make my own decisions.

What I wanted to ask you was about going back to Munich.

Yes.

So, you said you went back to Munich to visit your father.

A number of times.

What was it like for you the first time coming back to Munich?

Fascinating, because I remember enough of it that at least the areas that I would have known as a child, I remembered. There was the Englischer Garten, I remember. And there's Lenbachplatz, of course, with the Wittelsbacher fountain and the gardens behind. And the building with the gallery. [01:50:01] And the walk from the station there and all the rest of it. I did remember enough of Munich. But of course, the first time I went there in 1950, there was still a lot of destruction there. I mean, my father who'd gone back there was actually on a commission, on an artistic commission for rebuilding Munich. Because he'd grown up there and that was his hometown. Although he lived in Switzerland a long time, because his parents at one time ran the Swiss gallery. So, he grew up part of his youth in Switzerland. But of course, mostly in Germany, Munich. So, he showed me Munich, he showed me sites to see. And I went out to Kaltenberg where the brewery was, where my great-grandfather was and things like that. That was 1950.

And what about restitution? You said he sold the gallery or –

Well, the gallery was sold.

The gallery was sold? So –

And of course, my father, when he came back, negotiated with the owner, let's say, who was a past employee. Of course, they knew each other. And his brother came from America, the three of them, and he allowed him to continue trading under his name. They divided up some of the stock, they did a deal, in other words. But of course, they got the house back in Lenbachplatz, that was the main thing and various other properties around Munich. But Mr Zinckgraf, who's the one who bought it, who was the owner then, he did a – they cut a deal with him. And it was fair enough. And there was my father, his brother, Paul, who came from America, and Mr Zinckgraf. [01:52:04] Between the three of them, they did a deal. I don't know what the deal was. They got the property back. They lived- my father lived in the flat again. You see, he had it rebuilt, the damage. A bomb had gone down the lift shaft, but hadn't done an awful lot of damage. In fact, in 1950, I climbed up on the scaffolding from the outside and got into my grandmother's flat, of the bombed-out building. And there was still furniture there, rain soaked because the staircase had gone, so you couldn't get at it. It was

still there, the green upholstered furni – velvet furniture from her sitting room was still there, that I could remember as a child.

And what did it feel like to...? That was, let's say you came in 1950.

Yeah. That was when –

So almost fifteen years later, after you left almost.

Yes, '38. Yeah, that's – yeah. But it's fascinating. And my father took me out to Kaltenberg, which was the brewery of my great-grandfather. And I – which I remember well, because as a child, I used to get boarded out there. Which was a lovely place for a child, big agricultural estate, brewery.

And did you remember – I mean, what did you feel like coming back to Germany? And what did people say? Did people...?

I didn't really mind. I didn't have – I had no personal hatred or anything like that because I didn't – I personally hadn't lost anybody. My parents had emigrated. My grandparents had emigrated to Switzerland and then to America. My American – my grandmother's family, the Schüleins were all in America, they'd all got out. [01:54:00] Only one sister of my grandfather had stayed behind in Germany. And she got sent to, what's in Czechoslovakia?

The –

Terezin.

Yeah, and she died there. But that's the only one in our family who died. Therefore, I'm very careful about not saying too much, because our family was very lucky. They were able to emigrate once they could. They either had the foresight or whatever it is.

And what about your father? Was he happy to be there in Munich? I mean, in the fifties.

Well, you see, he fled Switzerland as a bankrupt in a way, because he loved wine, women and song. And art business in Switzerland during the war was probably not very prosperous. They had a gallery there, but there wasn't much doing. And what was I going to say? I've lost track.

About whether your father was happy in Munich. I mean, to be there.

He was happy, I think, because- he had nothing in Switzerland, because he went bankrupt there. But in Germany he could – he got the property back. Big five storey, six storey building on the Lenbachplatz and part of the gallery and everything else. He was in the money again.

Yeah. Did he have any contact at all with the Jewish community, do you think or not?

No.

No.

No, but he met this – introduced a secretary who he married. And Chris, she was a lovely lady. She came from Wuppertal and she was very nice lady. But, you know, they moved from various places in Germany, in southern Germany. And eventually, when everything was sorted out in Germany, that's right- the property in Germany inherited from his mother, jointly with his brother. [01:56:16] It was a joint ownership. Now, he and his brother, Paul, who spent the war in America, had a falling out. And they couldn't get on and there was a lot of problems about the property. So, they couldn't sell the property. So, he was stuck in Germany. Eventually, Paul died. And then my father could sell the property on the Lenbachplatz, sold it and went back to Switzerland again, because he had plenty of money. I mean, it's like having a five, six-storey building on the Lenbachplatz in the centre of Munich, that was worth a lot of money. So, he went back to Switzerland again with his new wife. And he bought a flat in Locarno and they lived in Locarno. They had another flat in Meran and they had – and all the – they had a place in... where she came from. From... It will come to

me in a minute. So, there we are. So, he lived happily ever after and she looked after the money, so he wasn't going to go bankrupt again.

And he continued his work as an art historian or...?

Sorry?

He still was an art historian? Did he...?

Yeah, he worked as an art historian all the time. I mean, art dealing, I think, was not his forte. [01:58:00] You see, he had a cousin, Rudolf Heinemann, who was a much more successful international art dealer, a very famous one. But he was – I don't know how good a dealer he was. He was basically art historian. And, his life's work consisted of a catalogue raisonné on Giovanni Bellini and his family. I've got a copy of it here. Big two-volume thing. That's what he worked on all his life. But he had enough money to live on, because he'd sold the property in Munich, so he could semi-retire. He had this flat in Locarno. I used to go and visit him every two or three years in Switzerland. And he liked Switzerland because as a youth, he was in Switzerland when his parents ran the Swiss offshoot of the Munich gallery.

Yeah. Okay, anything else which I haven't asked you? Anything else you'd like to add?

I don't know. I'm thinking.

I mean, what I'd like to ask, do you think sometimes your life would have been different –

Oh, completely different.

If you hadn't emigrated?

If the Nazis hadn't come to power, of course, my life would have been quite different. My life would have been in Munich, my first wife would have been in Cologne [laughs]. We certainly wouldn't have met, because they lived in Cologne. And I probably, since everybody

in the family went to university, I suppose I would have gone. They would have pushed me into a university or something like that. And I would have been something in Germany, you know. I mean, all the family were in Germany. There was a big – it was a big family after all.

Yeah, you might have become an art dealer, do you think?

[02:00:00] Who knows? Who knows? I mean, I'm interested in art in the sense that I like looking at art. I'm still interested in art. I read about it and I mean, I don't – but I don't – I'm not trained. I once applied for a job in England, when I was at an art gallery here in England, in London. But there were lots of applicants and I didn't pass muster. But I still go to – one of my hobbies now is to go to art exhibitions. I still go. It's very nice and the AJR sometimes has art outings and I go to those.

So, when did you join the AJR?

Well, what happened was- Lore's grandparents were members of the AJR, obviously. And when they died, that was it. The then chairman of the AJR, Kurt Marx, lived around the corner from us in Wembley and we used to meet him occasionally on –

Theo Marx?

Theo Marx, not Kurt Marx. Theo Marx, thank you. And Lore used to know him, because the Marx family was somehow related in a very distant way to Laura's family. And they used to say hello, meet him. And every time he mentioned, 'Have you joined the AJR? Have you joined the AJR?' And after a year or two, I got tired of asking this, so I said we'd join, all right. And I've been a member ever since. So, you know, I'm not a member of a Jewish organisation. The only other thing I'm a member of is B'nai B'rith because, again, one of Lore's innumerable cousins *schleped* me to one of their meetings that were at the Leo Baeck Lodge at the time. [02:02:07] It doesn't exist anymore, that lodge. And then phoned me up every six weeks saying, 'Have you joined yet? Have you joined yet?' And after about a year or two, I ran out of excuses, so I joined [laughs]. But I didn't like the Leo Baeck Lodge very

much. They were all old emigrés and I didn't have much in common with them. And then a friend of mine, Peter Fabian, a good friend, switched lodges from Leo Baeck to Jerusalem Lodge in Wembley. So, I said, 'I'll join the Jerusalem Lodge.' Then my wife also joined the Jerusalem Lodge. And very soon they roped me into their committee and before I knew, I was their Chair. And I was their Chair for eleven years and they only folded when I resigned [laughs]. So, there we are. So that's my only contact really with Jewish things. After the Achdut group, this youth group had dissolved- Leo Baeck, the B'nai B'rith was really the only Jewish activity, because I feel I don't mind supporting a Jewish organisation. But I don't want a religious organisation. I'm not a religious man. I'm totally non-religious. And I had a lot of arguments with my wife about that, who was – who had a Jewish education in Golders Green and I didn't. And I enjoyed B'nai B'rith because it's a charitable organisation, as far as I'm concerned, without being religious. [02:04:02] They take anybody. Idiots like me, who can't speak Hebrew and everything else, and *Frumers* or whatever. But otherwise, you know, I still go to the – as I said, I remain member of the AJR and I go to the Achdut, and that's about it. Not the Achdut, B'nai B'rith. But even there, this lodge is closing down, virtually closing down now.

Not enough people, no? Yeah.

Yeah, they're old. It's something for old people, for that generation. The younger generation, I'm talking about fifty-year-olds, sixty-year-olds, they're involved with synagogues. And the synagogues do the same thing as what B'nai B'rith does, charitable work.

Yeah. And Tom, how would you see the future, for example, of the AJR? How do you see – do you think there is something...?

Well, the AJR has done a clever thing, in that it's actively looking for second and third generation. So, I suppose they will continue. Whereas B'nai B'rith I fear will not continue when the current generation of people are out. See, there are no fifty, sixty-year-olds joining. If I ask my son, who's sixty-two, 'Come and join, come to a B'nai B'rith meeting with me', 'Oh, no, Dad', he says, 'that's your thing.' You know, and yet on the High Holidays, he still goes to synagogue, which is more than I bloody well do.

And from where do you feel you belong? Do you feel that you belong here? [02:06:00] Or do you have a sense of belonging?

Look, in England, unless you're actually born here and born of English parents, you're never English. There's always somebody who can hear that foreign accent, even intonation. You can become British, but not English. But I'm happy with the situation, I don't care. I'm very happy here, I've lived here since 1947 and I'm very happy here. I still consider the UK one of the last bastions of civilised living, compared with Europe. I mean, I go to Germany on business or on holiday, I go to Switzerland. I lived nine years in Switzerland. I wouldn't want to live there. It's lovely for holidays and I pretend I can talk *Schwyzerdütsch*, which I can't. But I'm a foreigner there. I've lived here since 1947, so I've gone to school here. I'm quite happy here, you know, but always with the proviso that I'm not English. I'm British and happy to be that, and I don't care.

And what about, do you see yourself as a "Münchner"? Or I don't know.

Not really.

No.

Not really. I mean, I was seven when I left. You know, it's – and I go, I went there all these years, many times now to Munich, both visiting and also on passing through, on holidays and things like that. It's very nice. But it's just another holiday resort. It's not a – I don't feel at home there. [02:08:00] I feel at home here now, in Ealing in this lovely tiny, little flat.

But you've given some family documents to the Munich Archives, you said?

Yes, my father once – I once asked my father on a visit about his background. And he said, 'Oh, I don't want to talk about it. But here's a folder, you have it.' I've got a folder here and there's lots of things in there. A lot of it in German script, which I can't read because I never learned it in Swiss schools. They never taught it. And I look at these things and I find it

interesting, purely as a historical fact. I'm born there, but I'm not German. I don't have any connection with German. When I'm in Germany, I feel a foreigner. I'm a tourist or I'm a businessman there. I mean, I'm doing business, for many years, I did business with German companies. They're very nice. They're very polite, because they know my background. So, they're ultra-polite. I mean, they're all post-war generation, they're all younger than I am. You know, and I get on very well with them. But it's all right. But they're – but I'm not German anymore, you know, and I'm not Swiss. And here I am, a naturalised British, *Britisch* [emphasised German accent].

[Laughs] *Yeah, yeah.*

But I'm happy. I mean, you know, I don't want to live anywhere else. I mean, my wife would love to go – take me back to Poland, you know, and live in Poland. But I mean, I've been there on visits to her family and we've been there. It's very nice. Their family is very nice to me, they treat me as, really as one of the family. [02:10:03] I get on very well with him. She's got some lovely children, two children, grandchildren, two grandchildren. So, I'm a step-grandfather to these Polish children. Can't speak to them [laughs], not a word.

Tom, are you worried about recent Middle East, I guess, recent war and how it affects the situation of Jews in England? Or is it something which worries you?

No, not really. I think Jewish life in England is fairly safe, I think, you know. I mean, you know, if there's one antisemite in the world, there will be one antisemite, there always be antisemites. So what? You've got to accept it and live with it. And ignore them when you can. I mean, I've been lucky, I've had no antisemitic events against me. I escaped Germany as a seven-year-old and really didn't know much about the whys and wherefores. And in Switzerland during the war, yes, they used to call me a *Saujude* at boarding school, because that was the lingua franca that happened there. Nobody, you know, they don't care. So what? You know, I don't care, one has to accept the fact that there will be antisemites in this world. And I put up with it. So what? You know, it's – but this is one of the last civilised countries to live in and I love living here. And I've here since '47 now, you know, it's a long time. [02:12:02] And my German gets worse.

But do you still speak German?

I can still speak German, yes.

Do you read German?

Yes. I make a point of, at least- I'm a big reader. Every other second or third book must be a German book. I always make sure of it. Oh, yes, and I did all the restitution correspondence for my wife, for my – for her sister. At different times for her grandparents, grandmother.

You did it?

I did all that. And, you know, and then all the various correspondence with the German authorities. There's – they have published the – an institute in Nuremberg has published a history of the Heinemann family and gallery. And it's in print and I asked – I gave a lot of information there and they gave me a lot of information. And the – all the records of the gallery are now on a computer at this institute in Nuremberg. So, I can look up who bought and sold and God knows what. And I'm still in touch with these organisations, you know.

Yeah. So, speaking German is quite – you like it? Or it's important for you?

I can cope with it. I mean, you know, I talk – I mean, my father laughs, used to laugh at my German, said, 'You've got a horrible English accent.' I can't hear it. But I mean, you know, I can talk German and I write in German. I mean, I did restitution correspondence for my late wife and her family all in German, together with somebody here in England. [02:14:05] I did my own correspondence. And of course, when I was working with German companies, it was all in German. I mean, I represented for many years as an agent, German companies here. Because I started off when I was independent, first with an English company as an agent. Then I left them after seven years, we had a fall out. Then I had some Swiss companies I was aging for, all done in German. Then the Swiss franc got too expensive, so I went to Germany. I worked with German companies. Then I worked with American companies and

Scandinavian companies, all sorts of people. But I did all the correspondence in German with German companies. German business visitors used to come, talk in German to them, you know. You know, I was quite comfortable. You see, I don't have a hatred for Germans. It's a different generation. I say to myself what the Germans did to the Jews, they did to that generation. But the people I know now, one, one-and-a-half, two generations later, I'm not going to hold them responsible. I'm not going to bear them any grudge. They're just Germans to me. Okay, so what? That's my attitude. But it's easy for me to talk, because I didn't suffer, I didn't lose anybody. My family, my late wife lost her parents to them, you know, lost lots of other people. They suffered, they had to emigrate and all the rest of it. I had a cushy live in Switzerland, and then in England.

And Tom, I wanted to ask you, so you left before Kristallnacht?

[02:16:00] Sorry?

Did you leave before Kristallnacht or after?

I went May '38.

Yeah, so that's before.

Yeah, yeah.

Yeah, Kristallnacht was in November.

November, yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

And that synagogue I think was destroyed in June of that year.

That's right, it was before Kristallnacht.

So, when you left that synagogue, the synagogue was still standing?

Yes.

And you heard recently –

I mean, I never went there.

No.

Never went there.

So that's –

My parents were, I think I'd call them agnostic.

Agnostic, but you saw it from outside?

Oh, yes.

It was a big building?

Yes, yes. It's a big building and I remember after the war, they got a memorial stone there.

Quite a small, a small one, the memorial stone.

Yes. And of course, the Reichenbach synagogue, I went to, because the city of Munich once invited me. See, what happened was I had all these documents and I offered them to the city archives, because I said, 'These documents, family documents which my father had given

me, they are – they to do no good under my desk. I'll give them to the to the city archives in Munich.' I got in touch with them. As a result, they invited me to visit Munich at their expense. And I went to Munich with my wife and we had a very nice week there, very hospitable. And I donated all the original documents, I've got photocopies here and photocopies, I kept. Donated them all to the to the archives in Munich. And the interesting thing is- I didn't know this at the time- I'm getting now a financial benefit of it. Because what happens is, in Germany, any work of art that gets sold at auction, they have to do the research work, where it came from. [02:18:08] If it leads back to the Galerie Heinemann, they get in touch with me. And I can do a deal with them financially when it gets sold at auction, that I get a percentage after all these years. It's quite incredible. And I've had three or four instances now where pictures have turned up, which were part of the Galerie Heinemann.

So, the paintings which were confiscated at the time or...?

Well, not necessarily, because Mr Zinckgraf who took it over, traded with them. Even if Mr Zinckgraf sold it, they reckon they were sold below par and therefore, I'm entitled to something. So, I get from the auction house in – auction house a letter saying, would you like – would you agree to make an agreement to that effect that you get X percentage out of the sale? I've even had one now, which came to Christie's in New York. A picture that came from Munich and I'm now waiting for a 10% stake. The auction was yesterday or the day before.

And what is it? What is the painting?

It's a 1920s landscape artist, I've forgotten their name now, I can tell you. I mean you know, it's quite incredible because Christie's in New York, via Christie's in London, got in touch with – it's quite incredible. And these things turn up, so suddenly I'm making money out of the Galerie Heinemann from – which didn't exist since 1938. [02:20:08] It's a mad world.

But this is justice, isn't it? Or what do you think?

Well, I don't deserve it. I haven't done anything- I haven't lost anybody. One sister of my grandparents died in –

You said.

Died in Czechoslovakia, whatnot. But you know, I didn't suffer anything. I went as a child, I had a perfectly good childhood in Switzerland. All right, my mother died, my father buggered off. It was a bit of a rough time. But I came to a nice family, my uncle and aunt in Oxford. I've had, compared with all the other – everybody else, I've had a marvellous life. I don't deserve it, but I get it just the same.

But do you – I mean, there's been a lot of work in art restitution.

Yes.

That people are getting back paintings, or families are getting back paintings. What do you think about that?

I mean, I'm – I was offered – the German Finanzamt many years ago sent me a detail of a painting that had been confiscated and was hanging in a public gallery. So, the *Finanzamt* [tax office] in Berlin wrote to me, whether I'm – whether I would like to have it back, because it was confiscated. There's one trouble, every heir has to partake. Now, this was done before the war. There were two heirs of my grandmother, my father and his brother. They were joint heirs. My father is entitled to 50%. The brother, who has died meanwhile, is entitled to the other 50%. [02:22:08] But he left in his will 20% to me of his assets, he was a bachelor, and 80% to various other people. Now, all these other people would have been entitled to it. So, we had to get – and these are people who are dead, or children of children. And the German government says unless everybody gets traced and agrees to take a percentage, nobody gets it. And some of these people, they had a minority interest, they couldn't be bothered. It's not – it wasn't like it was a Rembrandt. It was a – I've forgotten the name now. Never mind, it will come to me in a minute. And in the end, what happened? The German government or the gallery got to keep the picture, because not everybody can produce a will or assignment and all the rest of it. Because there's generations and generations. So, you know, what can you do? And I mean, I negotiated with a cousin of mine

in America. He was lovely. He's the one who owned this picture here. He said, 'Okay', but in the end he also said, 'Get a life.' As they say in America, forget it. But no, but the auction houses have different standards altogether. They have established me as an heir to the Galerie Heinemann. And if there's any other heirs entitled to it, it's up to me to share it. [02:24:04]
So they –

They accept you as a direct descendant?

Yes.

Because you're probably the one closest to the original...?

Well, yes. I mean, it was my grandmother who was the last owner of the gallery.

Yeah, yeah.

So, you know, I get involved with these things. But every now and again, I get a letter. I'm waiting now from Christie's to hear, because they auctioned something two days ago in New York. A picture that was part of the Galerie Heinemann.

So, are you planning to go back to Munich at all?

I'd like to tell my – show my wife now. She has never been. My son actually has never been.

Never been to Munich?

No. Whenever I talk about these things he says, 'That's your thing, Dad.' [Laughs] I get on very well with him, he's all right. But yeah, I think one of these days we are planning to go into Munich. But it's not easy for me to see anymore. I can go, show the house, but it's only the facade. That's all there is. And Kaltenberg the brewery, my great-grandfather, which now belongs to Prince something-or-other, Wittelsbach, one of the Wittelsbach princes, who bought the whole thing after the war. I mean, the family got it back in America. And they

sold it eventually to the Wittelsbach family. And there's Prince something-or-other, who resides there now.

And what – because you got in touch with us because we featured that story.

Yes.

They found these remnants of the original synagogue in the Isar.

That's right, yes.

I mean, what – it is an amazing thing that after so many years they –

Absolutely.

Pulled this out.

[02:26:00] Yes. I mean, I got no nearer to that synagogue than the memorial stone that's there now in the square. Because my grandparents, I mean, I can show you afterwards, I've got the actual photocopies now of the actual membership, which they joined when they built when the thing was built, the big synagogue. Lost the war, when I went back to hand them this, these documents, they invited me to the city of Munich. And actually, I felt, God knows why, my wife and I, we decided since they've invited us on Friday evening, we'll go to the synagogue. I never go to synagogue in my life.

But you did?

I went to the synagogue.

Reichenbachstraße?

Yes. And the – I was introduced to [inaudible] and he fetched the rabbi and said, ‘Oh’, whatnot. This terrible man appeared, some dirty little man, with half his menu from yesterday’s supper on his lapel [laughs] and gave a limp handshake. Then another man came. ‘Oh, you’re from London?’ I said, ‘I’m here, a visitor here from London.’ ‘Which synagogues you belong to?’ I said, ‘None.’ He turned on his heels and walked away. He couldn’t even say hello [laughs]. *Ultra-Frum.*

Yeah. But of course, Munich now, you know, was – has a new Synagogue.

Yeah, I didn’t –

And what...?

I said at the time, when they invest – when they inaugurate it, I will come to Munich. But they never let me know in the end. But I still get their monthly thing, you know, their – I’m on their mailing list.

And I think now strangely, Munich has now a higher Jewish population than pre-war.

[02:28:05] I wasn’t very big, the Jewish population before the war.

It was about 10,000, wasn’t it? 10,000 Jews.

Yeah, but they’re mostly from the east.

Yeah.

I remember in 1950 when I was there, when you went to the, what’s a market called? There were these *Frumers* standing around everywhere. Oh, terrible.

Doing – because there were so many people in Munich from the DP – displaced, thousands who came to Munich.

Yes, that's right. Yes, that's right. Yeah. Yeah, you come from Munich too?

I was born in Munich.

You were born in Munich?

Mm hm. We can talk about it –

You're a different generation. That's all I can say.

Slightly different generation. Slightly different generation. Tom, is there anything else that you – we haven't covered you'd like to add? Or also, have you got a message for anyone who might watch the interview in the future?

I would say remember your past and be proud of it. Don't deny it. I mean, I am not Jewish at all, in the sense that I'm not a member of a synagogue. I don't keep anything. I'm married to a Catholic, to a Polish Catholic. When all these Poles, Catholic, were temporary antisemites, anyway [laughs]. You know, and I can't talk but I think, remember your past and be proud of it. I mean, I don't try to be English. I'll never been English in my life. And I haven't got that far to go, I'm ninety-two, crikey. But remember it and remember, if you can, some happy times. [02:30:04] I think that's – there's no more I can say really. I mean, I'm not proud to be Jewish, I'm simply myself. But I like – I'm proud to have been associated with Munich in a way. It's a lovely city. I mean, it is beautiful. I know most of it is facades of the old buildings. Most of the stuff has been bombed to pieces. But I've been there several times on holidays, visiting family, or traveling through, or even on business. Tried to do business there. It's a nice place, it's a nice town. The only trouble is there's too many Germans there [laughs].

What do you think about the fact that, I think, Munich is one of the only cities in Germany which doesn't have Stolpersteine, you know?

Really?

Yeah.

I didn't know that.

Yeah, that's why otherwise there would be probably Stolperstein for yourself, or for your parents or grandparents.

Probably, yes.

Because –

Certainly, for my grandparents and great-grandparents, I would do it. My parents, I don't think – they weren't – they were so getting away from Jewishness, in a way.

Nothing to do with Jewishness. It's for, I mean, people who had to emigrate.

Yeah, anyway.

Yeah. So, no Stolperstein in Munich at this point. But maybe in the future.

I could in Berlin for my mother's family.

Yes, yeah.

I mean, they were active in Jewish life. I mean, my mother's family, they had – my grandfather had this clinic.

Yeah. Maybe there is a Stolperstein, you could check it on –

There isn't one, I don't think.

Have you checked it?

No. My uncle, who's my mother's older brother, never wanted to go back to Berlin.

[02:32:00] He was not interested. He's very un-Jewish, too. He didn't practice anything, he was brought up Christian. His mother-in-law lived, actually survived the war in Germany in Usedom, which is on a Baltic Island, where she and her sister lived, because my aunt comes from this family, Thünke. And he never wanted to go back, but he did go back eventually. And I got some photographs. I got a big album of the thing, it was an enormous place that they had in Berlin. And there, it was Dr Sanitätsrat, Dr Julius Weiler and as my uncle says, it catered for people who thought they were ill, but there was nothing wrong with them [laughs]. As long as they had lots of money, that's all they needed. There was a big sanatorium and a villa and grounds, and God knows what. And it is still a sanatorium now.

Oh, what's it called now?

State owned. I can, oh, I'd have to tell you. I've forgotten now.

Yeah, what was it called then? You mentioned it.

Dr Weiler's Sanatorium, Dr Weiler, something like that.

Okay. Okay, Tom, so anything else you'd like to-?

No, you're the one who's going to ask questions. I –

No, I think we've covered –

I kept forgetting things. I'm old and I forget things.

That's okay. I think we've –

Probably tomorrow or the day after, I'll say, 'Oh, I should have mentioned that. Oh, I should have mentioned that.'

Well, I think you've done well and we've covered many, many –

So, I don't know, you know. [02:34:00] It's – I mean, I've got albums, photo albums there from childhood. I've got things out there. I've got to sort it out for you to look at.

Yeah, we're going to look at photographs now. So, in the meantime, I'd like to say thank you so much for this interview and for sharing your story with us.

I enjoyed it very much. Thank you very much and it's nice to meet somebody from Munich. They're not many of us around.

[Laughs] *No, we can have a conversation now about that.*

Can you still speak the Bavarian dialect?

One second, one second.

[Pause]

This is David Heinemann. He was born in Schlipshheim, near Augsburg and became a professional portrait painter. And studied at the academy in Munich and acted as painter, as portrait painter in Munich. And later started a gallery in different parts of Germany and later in Europe, supporting mostly young local artists, Bavarian or Munich artists. [02:36:03] Eventually, he founded the Galerie Heinemann, D. Heinemann *am* Lenbachplatz, in Lucerne [Munich]. And where he showed his works and also lots of works by English artists, which is – which was another specialisation of the gallery.

And his relationship to you?

He's my great-grandfather.

Thank you.

This is a picture of a regular annual birthday dinner for my great-grandfather, the one who was my grandmother's father called Joseph Schülein, who lived on Schloss Kaltenberg outside Munich, where he had his own private brewery, apart from the breweries which he owned in Munich. And I used to go and stay out there with him. Joseph Schülein, *Brauereidirektor* [brewery director].

Where in the picture is he?

Sorry?

Where in the photograph is he?

Where is he?

Where in the photograph?

Oh, in the centre, front row, the gentleman with the moustache.

Right. This is Joseph Schülein, my great-grandfather. He was the owner of several breweries in Munich. He was one of only two Jewish brewery owners in Munich. And eventually, he retired to Schloss Kaltenberg and bought the brewery there, and retired there.

Yes, the Nazis?

„Kauf kein Judenbier“. [Don't buy Jewish beer]. And they claimed that Jewish beer was watered down, which was a lie. And they had to go to court to prove it, that their beer was not watered down. But then eventually, of course, the Nazis kicked all the Schüleins out of the management and they went to America. [02:38:08] But my great-grandfather died in his own

bed, unmolested in 1939, because he was friends out Kaltenberg with the local Nazi bosses. So, they left him alone.

Right, this is Great-grandfather David Heinemann, in one of his earlier galleries before he – before the one in Lenbachplatz, the main gallery, was acquired. And he had galleries in different parts of Germany. I believe in Bad Kissingen and elsewhere, but I don't remember them all. And eventually, they all went to Munich.

This is – shows my grandparents, Theobald Heinemann and Franziska Heinemann, his wife, known as Mimi. Theobald died in 1929, before the Nazis came to power. And his wife, Mimi or Franziska, conducted the business and ran the gallery very efficiently until 1938, 'till it was aryanised.

Thank you.

This represents the Lenbachplatz, number five in the centre. The house with a balcony on top was the house that was designed by Munich – a well-known Munich artist, 1902. On the ground floor and first floor was a gallery. Above that, my grandparents lived, Theobald Heinemann and Franziska Heinemann. And on the top floor by the balconies, that's where I lived with my parents. On the right, you see the Wittelsbacher fountain with a low rim, where as a three, four or five-year-old, I duly fell in. [02:40:00] But that was my home until I was seven years old and emigrated with my parents to Switzerland in 1938.

Yes.

This is the interior of the gallery of David Heinemann, when it was built, newly built in about 1902 with the latest idea with light coming from above.

A picture of my parents, Dr Fritz Heinemann and Sybille Heinemann, before they were – two years before they were married, at a *Faschingsparty* [carnival party] somewhere, I don't know where it is, in 1927.

Thank you.

A picture of myself, about three, four years old. And the amusing thing is, nobody called me Thomas or Thomas in those days. I had a pet name called *Wutzi* and *Wutzi* was – is Bavarian dialect for pig, which is appropriate for a Jewish household.

Wutzi?

Wutzi. Everybody – I was known as *Wutzi*. Don't ask. Yes, this is myself hiking somewhere in Switzerland around about 1935, '36. Place unknown [laughs].

The Lederhosen?

No, no, great comment there. I mean, that's just me in Munich, possibly the Englische Garten, dressed up in Bavarian local, not uniform- what's the word?

Lederhosen?

Lederho – in *Lederhosen* and whatnot, yes.

On the left, you see my mother's brother, Dr Gerhard Weiler, who had a microanalytical laboratory, which was unique in it's time at the University in Oxford. And on the right, you see his father, in other words, my maternal grandfather with me, at – not at all bored, just sitting there. [02:42:05]

This is a post-war shot. On the left is my father. On the right is his brother, Paul Heinemann, and in the middle is his second wife, Christa, née Langenbach, who came from Wuppertal, whom he married in 1948.

And where are they standing?

They're standing with the ruin of the Frauenkirche, which is the emblem of Munich, in the background.

This represents the 25th of March 1954, when I married Miss Lore Benjamin at Alyth Gardens Synagogue, in Temple Fortune. Rabbi Van der Zyl officiating. A day to remember.

And who took the photo?

Oh, Hans, my best friend, Hans Danziger took the photograph. Luckily, that's one not with a toilet window in the background, as most of the other ones are [laughs]. Oh, never lived that down.

He reminded – this is Julian Stephen Heinemann, my son, at the age of about five, by a professional photographer, not here.

Which year?

About 1965, roughly.

This shows my happy day, when I married Daria Juda, my second wife, on the 3rd of May 2014 at Wembley Civic Centre. And it was – the sun was shining and everything was beautiful. Thank you very much [laughs]. **[02:44:00]**

Grandfather's – right. This is this certificate, a purchase certificate. When the new synagogue was built in the 1880s in Munich, the big one, and my grandparents, Theobald Heinemann and his wife, Franziska Heinemann, each had to buy a chair, a seat in the synagogue with a specific number on it. And they paid it off over five years. And the interesting thing is that the men's seat was more expensive than the ladies' seat because they sat upstairs, it was cheaper upstairs.

This represents the purchase certificate for my grandmother, Franziska Heinemann for the upstairs, a certain seat at the new synagogue, which was built in the 1880s.

This is the receipt for the seat in the new synagogue, and as you can see, it was paid off over one, two, three, four, five years. So, they bought their seats on a never-never. But that was for the upstairs seat, which was a little bit cheaper than downstairs for the men. The women paid less.

Ah, this represents the family tree of the family Heinemann, from my great-grandfather, David Heinemann, and his wife, right down to my son, Julian Heinemann. The only one who is not on there as my second wife, Daria Juda, who deserves to be on there too. Thank you.

*Tom, thank you so much again, for showing us the photographs and for telling us your story.
Thank you.*

Good. I'm glad, I'm very happy to do it. Very happy. I mean, you know, I feel- it's like these documents, they were for years under my desk. My father gave me a lot of these documents and I thought, what do I do with them? I talked to my son and I said, 'Look, do you want...? If I photocopy everything for us, do you mind if I give the originals to the city archive in Munich?' He said, 'Fine, at least...'. And funnily enough, I get a financial benefit from it.

You told us. Thank you so much.

That's all right.

[02:46:28]

[End of transcript]