

IMPORTANT

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Interview Transcript Title Page

Collection title:	AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive
Ref. no:	190

Interviewee Surname:	Hutter
Forename:	Professor Otto
Interviewee Sex:	Male
Interviewee DOB:	29 February 1924
Interviewee POB:	Vienna, Austria

Date of Interview:	13 September 2016
Location of Interview:	Bournemouth
Name of Interviewer:	Dr. Bea Lewkowicz
Total Duration (HH:MM):	3 hours 2 minutes

**REFUGEE VOICES**

Interview No. RV190
NAME: Professor Otto Hutter
DATE: 13th September 2016
LOCATION: Bournemouth, UK
INTERVIEWER: Dr. Bea Lewkowicz

[Part One]

[0:00:00]

Today is the 13th of September 2016. We are doing an interview with Professor Otto Hutter. And my name is Bea Lewkowicz and we are in Bournemouth.

Can you please tell me your name?

Otto - Fred - Hutter

And where were you born?

At Vienna, at home, at 3 Lilienbrunnngasse.

And when were you born?

On the 29th of February 1924. So, I'm only just 23.

Excellent age...

Ah?

Excellent age...

Ex...?

Excellent age...

...Yes, yes. Yes.

Professor Hutter, thank you very much for agreeing to be interviewed for the Refugee Voices Project. Can you tell me a little bit about your background- your family background?

Well, my father *zikhrono livrakha* – [of blessed memory] came to Vienna from Lvov, at about the age of nineteen or twenty I would say, to study law at the university there. And he had progressed to about the third or fourth year by 1914. But then, like so many other young men, joined up as *Einjähriger Freiwilliger* [Freiwilliger], which was a one-year officer's course at the beginning of the war. After all, at the beginning of the war they all thought it would be over by Christmas. But it wasn't – right? Now, during the war, he met my mother because he had contracted typhus on the front. He fought on the Italian front. And she was one of the volunteer nurses like other young women during the war. They fell in love and... there's a photo of them up there at that time. And they married in 1919. Now, my mother was already born in Vienna. And comes - on her mother's side - I think, they had already been in Vienna a generation or so longer. My maternal grandfather comes from Kattowitz [Katowice, Poland], and he was a draper. I- I don't really know much about him, but I would image that he came to Vienna sometimes in the 1870's or 60s probably just with a tray of buttons... to sell. But by the time he- he married my maternal grandmother, he had a little shop in the Landstraße. A- a draper's shop. So, my mother was thoroughly Viennese. She... enjoyed the opera, operettas and all- all things associated with Vienna. Also, a very good Viennese cook. Now... So that's the background of my parents.

[0:03:18]

What was the name of the draper's shop? You said he had a shop- Do you remember?

Oh, I don't think it had any particular- I can't remember what shop- what the name of the shop was. It was one of those shops which sold everything useful from tapes to... buttons to needles...to all the things which are stocked in a draper's shop. The great event, I remember,

was always stocktaking after Christmas. Because drapers never know how they've done. They sell things in such small quantities, that they have to take stock and- and... But anyway, it...I don't really- My grandfather, maternal grandfather, he used to come and visit us every Sunday. In fact, he gave his flat in the Lilienbrunnngasse, which was a very nice flat at the top end, right by the Marienbrücke. I don't know whether you know the district. He gave it...

Which district?

Mnn?

Which district?

In the- in the *Mazzesinseln*. In the Second- Leopoldstadt – the Second. But near the Danube Canal. Just, just behind what was Hotel Dianabad, which had a swimming pool, in which I learned how to swim. But anyway... he gave that flat to my mother as a dowry when she married... my, my father. My father was in the army throughout the war, and... quite highly distinguished. He had a Great Silver medal twice, with bar. He was eventually acting Captain of a machine gun company. The only- I don't know very much about his wartime experience. You know parents don't talk. The one thing which I do remember him telling me, that the one time when he was frightened was when he... had to cross a river on the Italian front on the back of his horse, and rely on the horse to swim, because he himself could not swim. That was his most frightening experience. Of course, in the Austrian Army the, the officers always had horses and the rest of the company marched on foot.

[0:05:44]

Yeah... yeah. And they married- When did they marry, your parents?

Oh, in Vienna. I'm not too sure where- which synagogue, or whether- you know. ...You don't learn things like that when you are... in your teens still.

No...

They- but except that they married on the twen... Maybe- sorry I think I told you earlier wrongly. My mother's birthday was the 21st of June. And they married on the 20th of June. They married on the 20th of June, because my mother wanted to be a year earlier when she got married. In those days, girls prided themselves on getting married young, right? So, they married on the 21st of June 1919. That is fairly soon after the end of the war, when people got demobilised. I think for the first few years after the war, my fa- father and the family was- did reasonably well. I mean, to judge from the clothes which we wore and the, and the photographs and so on. As then, in the, as the 1930s progressed, of course things got much worse. Because being in the- in the estate business, everybody wanted to sell, nobody wanted to buy. And...so income disappeared, and gradually- my- My mother had all the accoutrements of a lady, you know, the fox fur and the- the nutria coat with a beaver collar. But I, but many of these things- and a Persian carpet on the- on the floor of the living room. These things disappeared in the, in 1936-37 because money just became very- very scarce. And there had, there were times when we had *Kümmelsuppe*. *Kümmelsuppe* is the cheapest form of, of- *Kümmelsuppe* and bread- brown bread for lunch, coming back from school. Because there wasn't very much else to eat. Toward- towards the end of the time, I think that was the experience of many Viennese families. Towards...things were very hard.

And did you stay in the same flat the whole time?

Yes, we- we stayed in the same flat because that was of course my grandfather's flat still, so that was reasonably safe as a roof...over our head.

And can you describe it a little bit? What did it look like?

Oh, it was a- for a child, it seemed to be large enough, right? I tell this now, to some of my grandchildren who are worried, living in Israel- worried about living in a small flat with two small children. I tell them that so long as children have love and security, they don't seem to mind if the flat is a little bit small. Actually, our flat was two very nice large rooms, facing the front. One room was the living room. The other room was the bedroom for the family. And then hallway and a kitchen. And then a room behind the kitchen, in which the maid lived. The astonishing thing was that the middle-class families in Vienna, we certainly, up to about 1934 or so, we had maids who came from Czechoslovakia. Farmer's girls. Two of them. The- the elder sister was with us from- for four or five years, until about 1930. And she

then married a fellow who went - took her to America. And then her sister till about 1934 or perhaps '35 or '36. They- It's astonishing. I mean the... Their accommodation and for that matter the salary must have been very small. But these girls were sent in order to learn from ladies how to do things, as part of their - the farm girls - as part of their education in Vienna.

So, you had one of...?

[0:10:04]

We had- we had maids I would say till about '35 or something like that. And when I was a baby, I had a nurse, properly dressed as a nurse. And there are photos of me as a chubby baby, looked after by- by a nurse. So, as I say, in the 20s and early- well, to give you an illustration, when I was eight, in 1932, I still had a big birthday party, right? By 1936 I can hardly- I can't really remember the party. It was no longer a big affair.

And what are your earliest memories of growing up in Vienna?

Perhaps the... parks. And now...I forget the name of the park along the Danube Canal. It's now covered by a motorway when I was once in Vienna. But...

Is it the... Auerpark [Augarten]?

No, it was...

No?

...just the other- it- Around the Franz-Josefs-Kai. Around, on the side. That was a park which was the sort of regular park. I remember... pushing, playing fathers and mothers with a girl - Alma - at about the age of four. I- I remember playing, well, playing football or however not playing football, because I was not much good. And the, the two captains used to look at all the boys and choose them one after the other to join in their- in their team. And I was always amongst the ones left behind. Just divided amongst- I was not a great... football player in the park. I can remember more formal walks to the Stadtpark, which isn't very far. Past the Urania [Observatory], and around the Ringstrasse to the Stadtpark where- where Schubert

used to perform and play. My mother used to tell a naughty tale of how when she was a girl, and she wanted to get a- a seat, one of those chairs near the *Kapelle [orchestra, band]*, where the music was from. If there was- if there was one girl who- who found a seat, then she, or the other way around, came along and asked her, "How are you?" And she said, "Yes, we are fine. But unfortunately, my brother has scarlet fever." Right? Whereupon the person sitting next to you...[laughing] would immediately leave the seat... [both laugh]

Yeah...

[0:13:05]

...for fear of, of catching scarlet fever. Which of course in those days, I mean diphtheria and scarlet fever- these were great fears of, of mother's and we were- my mother was a very good children's nurse. And I can remember, I was quite a sickly child often with sore throats and angina, they used to call it. Eventually I had my tonsils taken out. But whenever you had a high temperature, you had to undergo *Wickeln* [compresses] Now, *Wickeln* was- no, no, you had cold- A cold sheet that the hot child, right, when your temperature had got to about 102 or something like that. The, the body of the hot child was wrapped in a cold- sheet with- in cold water then a blanket all the way around. And that's why it's called *Wickeln*. And you were left like that for a couple of hours until the heat of your body had gone into the- into the *Wickel*. And then you were undone and rubbed down, and you felt much better. That was the way to bring down the temperature...

Yeah!

...of, of young children. That certainly was a traumatic experience which I can remember.

Yeah... yeah. And tell us a little bit about- how Jewish was your household, or how...? What did...?

Well, my... Look, Vienna was not a kosher town. Right? There, I think was the complaint, I think, at the time of the First or Second or Third Zionist Conference in Vienna, still under Herzl, that there wasn't a kosher restaurant in Vienna, right? So, we weren't strictly kosher except over Pesach. Right? Over Pesach we were- we were more, more kosher. But my father

obviously had had a good Jewish education. And he made a beautiful Seder every year. And I still learned from him, and I hope I also make good Seders like, like he made. I- I try. Otherwise, I don't think he was a- he went to synagogue more often than not. But on the other hand, I went to cheder and I quite enjoyed cheder. I had some very good teachers in the cheder in the, the cheder of the Polnischen Tempel. In the- just beyond the Karmelitenplatz [Karmeliterplatz]- I forget now the name of the street. When, when I visited Vienna that once, and I tried to find it, in 1953, it was a warehouse without a sign of its origin. But anyway- So I was quite a religious boy. And after my Bar Mitzvah, I used to go to the little shtiebel around the corner in the Hammer-Purgstall-Gasse. It was just off the Lilienbrunnengasse where, a very beautifully white-haired, bearded man was – Silberstein I think was his name – was the *Gabbai*. And the *minyán* was made up of a few old men and a few young boys. And I think that's how it should be. It is a communication between the young and the old, right? And I used to go every morning before school after – after thirteen. This didn't last very long, because I left within a year or so. But on, on Crystal Nacht, I- I had there... the... the volume of the Five Megillot. Which- The rest of which I still have in my bookshelf in the other room but – the rest of the Tanakh. But that volume of the Five Megillot was in the- in the shtiebel when it was destroyed. And so that is a gap in my Bar Mitzvah Tanakh, because the Five Megillot were destroyed on Kristallnacht. And poor Mr. Silberstein was taken away from his flat. This was one of those shtiebels where one room of a large flat, was reserved for, for shul.

And the name of the shtiebel?

I-hmm?

What was the name of the shtiebel?

What was the name of the *shtiebel*?

Oh, I don't suppose it even had a name. It was a- it was just the nearest *minyán*- the nearest *minyán* to where we lived. Where- where somebody...

Yeah... And where was your Bar Mitzvah? You said you had a Bar Mitzvah.

[0:17:59]

Ah, well my Bar Mitzvah, oddly enough, was in the Turkish Temple, which is also now the Sephardi Temple. The reason was that my father had a good friend who was a good friend of the family. And as I told you, by 1937, money was short. And he was a- a benefactor of the family, as it were. And he sponsored my Bar Mitzvah in his temple or the Turkischen [Türkischen] Tempel. It wasn't a big affair. It- it wasn't a big affair. And... Again, those were already- already bad times. [19]'37 was already bad.

So, when did things change? When did you feel a change in...?

You mean when did things change from good to better- worse?

Yes. Mn-hnn...

I wouldn't- I would have - I think, that probably those kind of... possessions of the family, et cetera, probably lasted until about '36 or so, right? It was the last two years that- it was the last two years that my father was at home much too much. I mean, normally he would spend his time in the *Kaffeehaus*, because that was the way in which business was done in Vienna, right?

Yeah...

You had your *Stammtisch* [a table in a pub reserved to a group of people on certain days/times –traditionally very male institution]. And people who were looking for you, came to the *Stammtisch* and you did your business there. Maybe the formal part of business was done in some office somewhere or other. But that was not the really important part. The, the, the- the *Kaffeehäuser* in Vienna were part of the commercial activity. Not just- not just- Otto Deutsch has got this all wrong when he talks about coffee houses. I heard him once.

This is "My Film". In "My Film".

Yeah- yeah.

Have you seen it?

I, I haven't seen the film, but I heard him talk. And his idea that *Kaffeehäuser*-s were just for pleasure and treating children and having cakes and coffees and so on. It's wrong; they were functional places, where people did their business.

Which coffee house did your father go to? Or did you- Do you remember any names?

Oh, it was up in the Rotenturmstrasse somewhere. Maybe I- if it still exists, I could tell you. But it was really rather- I think people took perhaps two cups of coffee a day and sat there most of the time, reading their newspapers and meeting, meeting their business associates. I can't remember the name any more.

Yeah. But your father used to go?

Yes, but you see, as I say, towards the end of- of the time, '37, '38 - right? - he was at home quite a bit, which was a bad sign. Because it meant that there was nothing... That it was both too expensive to go to a *Kaffehaus*, and that there was nothing doing there.

[0:21:09]

Yeah. And what about your schooling?

Schooling, I suppose I was quite lucky. We- the system in Vienna was that, first of all, school didn't start until six, right? And that meant that you were- that you were, that your mother played an important part in your schooling, right? And indeed, I learnt a lot from my mother. I mentioned to you how at Pesach, then we were kosher, and my mother used to go to the kosher butcher and... choose a chicken. I learned that in choosing a chicken, you must look at its legs. It's the leg which gives away the age of the chicken. If it's nice and white, then it's a young chicken. But if it's horny and unpleasant...then don't look at it. Anyway. But when she brought the chicken home, it had still got its feathers on of course. And you had to pluck it. Sear it under the... the gas stove. You get a very strange smell that is when you sear the feathers off a chicken. But then, she had to draw the chicken. Again, that is a skilled job, because you must be careful not to damage the gallbladder. Because if you damage the

gallbladder, the whole of the chicken liver – which is one of the most precious parts of the chicken - got spoiled. But anyway, when all the- when all the inside of the chicken were out, I, being a somewhat curious boy, used to start dissecting it. Stretching it out – right? – all along. My mother used to know enough biology to be able to tell me what part was doing what. And for instance, to point out the stones and the gizzard, which were there to grind the corn. Right? The gizzard, incidentally, was the one piece of the chicken which my mother always reserved to it-herself. Somehow or other, the gizzard is now known to be very- one of the richest sources of vitamin B12. And somehow or other, there was an old woman's tale, which said that the chicken- that gizzards are good for women. Which is of course completely right. How that old woman's...

What is gizzard? I don't know- I don't know what it is. What is it?

The gizzard... in a bird...

Yeah...?

There- there are two parts of the upper gut. One is the crop, in which the food is stored, right? That is, that hasn't got much muscle, right? Then below the crop- and the crop is not kosher. That's taken out, right? Below the crop is the gizzard which is, has got the- which acts- is very muscular, right? Very dark red meat... and which acts as a mill, grinding the corn, right? And that you usually used to get with your offals if your offals were properly given to you, right? And that is a very nutritious part, because vitamin- it contains vitamin B12. And B12 is the agent which prevents pernicious anaemia, right? And it's very good for- for women. And I still try to get gizzards if I can, especially turkey gizzards which are of course much larger, and wonderful... meat.

[00:24:40]

So that's what your mother used to eat?

No, no, no. I'm merely telling you that my mother knew enough biology, right? So, when I dissected the innards of the chicken, to first of all explain to me about the bile bladder, how careful you have to be. To cut it out without spilling the bile. And secondly, she did not mind

me looking at the guts and all the bits and pieces. And for that matter, the egg stock. Right? Because these were usually hens, which we bought. I mean, because we didn't roast chicken. Chickens were- were for - boiled for chicken soup, and the meat eaten, right? You can't get a decent chicken these days and actually make decent chicken soup. Because they're not- the chicken isn't fed properly, right? So, the meat is tasteless. It's all artificial. You need proper corn and, and, and so on, to get proper chicken. But anyway, I mention this because also Pesach time were also carp- Sweet-sour... carp is a dish. Filled carp.

Yeah...

Now carp has got very big eyes, right? And my mother used to take out the eyes, and you put a raisin in instead of the eyes. Because if you cook fish, the eyes start to look very ugly and white, you see? So always take- enucleate the, the eyes of a fish. And then I would dissect that too and get hold of the lens inside. So, I'm saying this, because these were the beginnings of my education as a biologist, you see, in my mother's kitchen, before the age of six at school. So, coming back to your question, at long last, right?

Yes?

[00:26:46]

At the age of six you go to public school, and that was... half a mile or so down from where we lived in the Kleine Sperlgasse. And in Vienna, one teacher took the class through- for four years. And really got to know... the children well. She was a good teacher. The one memory though, which I have, was in fact the day after my eighth birthday party, which I mentioned to you, when the teacher had me up in front of the class. And she threw my notebook, my writing notebook at me, saying that it was disgraceful for an eight-year-old to have such bad handwriting, right? And I'm afraid my handwriting is still very bad. So, I was disgraced in front of the whole class at the age of eight, plus one day. Then.... the question was, which... school- which higher school to go to. And of course, the ambition was to go to a... a *Gymnasium* [similar to grammar school]. My parents were a little doubtful whether the Chajes Gymnasium was the ideal, because it did not have a very great reputation for discipline. Discipline was the thing, the horrible thing which was so much valued, in Austria as in Germany, right? But at the- at the Chajes, being a Jewish school, people didn't kind of

stand to attention the moment teacher came into the class. It was a much more friendly atmosphere. But eventually of course were much more important considerations, they- I went to the Chajes Gymnasium. But not of course before first having to pass the entrance examination, which was rather like the 11-plus here to grammar school. And it was... quite a formidable examination... which involved mathematics. So, a question: "*A train starts from point A to go to point B. Train 1 starts there, travelling at so many miles an hour- kilometres per hour. Another train starts from point 2- in the opposite direction. When will they meet?*"

Yeah...

I mean, these are simultaneous equations which I think these days, in the British curriculum, are not taught until about the age of twelve. We had to solve them by the age of ten-plus. So... It was my, my elder sister who helped and coached me. She was four years older than I, Rita, for the eleven-plus examination. I, I somehow scraped through. And then went to the Chajes Gymnasium from age eleven to fourteen.

[sound break]

[00:30:02]

The Chajes Realgymnasium. That's what we were talking about.

Well, you know, it's really, quite a large story- long story. And I have written about it.

Yeah...

Can we somehow short-circuit this by me giving you... the...?

The summary? I'm afraid not. You just can- we don't have to go into the detail, but you just tell us a little bit about it.

OK. Well, the Chajes Gymnasium was of course the only and prime Jewish secondary school. It was founded by the Chief Rabbi Chajes just after the war, with Viktor Kellner as the first and only Director. Viktor Kellner had been teaching at the Herzl Gymnasium in...

Tel Aviv, so he had much experience. And... As with all... nascent Jewish schools, he was short of money, but he wasn't short of talent as far as teachers goes, because Vienna had a surfeit of Jewish graduates. Many of whom- PhDs- many of whom were well qualified for university appointments, right? But because of the inherent anti-Semitism of Austrian universities, never got their university appointment. So, they became what we used to call 'Professors', in the, the high schools and the grammar schools. And they were of course highly respected and regarded... people. We, so we had-we had very good teachers. Although very often they were very poorly paid.

Yes...

Now... I have... The Chajes Gymnasium was different from other schools in that it taught English as its second language, whereas most of the schools in- in Austria at the time, still taught French. We- we were taught English, because of the Zionist outlook of the school and, and possibility that some of us would make *Aliyah* at the time when of course Palestine was a British mandate. And we were lucky also with our English teacher. A young woman... I can't- the name will come back to me. But she had just been to England to perfect her English. And... I remember our first English lesson was her telling us, "Just repeat after me: Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water." The idea was that we should learn the sound and, and pronunciation of English. That that was more important than anything else. I'm afraid she was a failure [laughingly] with me, and I still have got... a central European accent. Because you need to have a good enough musical ear to pick up these things, and obviously I haven't got that quality. But then we had also very good history teachers, and a Latin teacher. A Doktor Gabe, who later on, became the headmaster of a school in Venezuela, in Caracas. And I was in Caracas at a time when he was still there, but I didn't know- well, for a conference. I didn't know about Gabe was there. I was heartbroken, that I missed the opportunity to meet my old Latin master again. My father as law student and jurist up to a point, had very good Latin, right? And he tutored me in Latin for a couple of years or so, the first two years. Even more in Latin than in Hebrew. But, but... so... Yes...

[00:34:33]

But you said it was a- had a Zionist outlook, the...?

Oh, very definitely - very definitely a Zionist outlook. And we learned Hebrew of course. And we had... a- there were- one, one lesson a day more than ordinary schools. And so our school day lasted from, whatever it was, eight o'clock, till two o'clock in the afternoon, rather than one o'clock for ordinary schools. The education authority wasn't all that pleased; they thought that we were being overloaded. But never mind. We kids seemed to manage perfectly well with the extra hour for, for Hebrew or religious studies during the week.

And do you think it was lucky in a way to be in a Jewish school, because then you didn't have to face the discriminatory behaviour?

Well, we- exactly. I mean, when it came to the Anschluss, the- we really were relatively unaffected. I mean, other boys from other schools came to our school and joined our school because they had been expelled.

Yeah...

And they had been admitted. But we were still in, in... safety there. Kellner was a remarkable man and he's well known for his last, last speech to the *Matura* [Higher school leaving certification in Austria] students. And it has been much quoted. It ran something like that. I have to put it into English. I can't put it in German. "Ladies and Gentlemen...", he addressed his eighteen-year-olds, right? "I do not know what the future holds for you..." 'Ihnen' [formal address "you"] he used, right? "...what the future holds for you. But one thing I can tell you with certainty. One will say 'Shema Israel' much longer than 'Heil Hitler'." And that he said with an SA guard standing outside the Chajes Gymnasium... school.

When did he say that?

At the- at the leave-taking ceremony of the eighteen-year-old *Maturanten*, in 1938. It has been much quoted. You will find many people- many articles. "*Ich habe- ich kann Ihnen nicht sagen was die „Fortschung“...“* Future?

Was die Zukunft...

Zukunft. "Was die Zukunft für Ihnen halt. Aber wann- eines kann ich Ihnen mit Sicherheit sagen. Man wird... „Shema Israel sagen viel langer denn Heil Hitler."

Yeah...

Yeah? And the whole...

He was right.

Eh?

And he is right- he was right.

[00:37:29]

He was right. He was right. He... post-1930- well, I left of course in December 1938. The school fell to pieces in.... early 1939, because the individual teachers had to each run for their own safety, right? And so, the whole place- the whole thing quickly became... dissolved. Some of the teachers managed to get out. I mean our mathematics teacher, Jakob Bovich I think his name was, got a job in America. Because mathematics teachers are worth their weight in gold anywhere in the world, right? The history teacher was not so lucky, and he was a... a victim in the Holocaust I'm afraid. And as I say, the Latin teacher managed to get out. Hannah, Hannah her name was, our English teacher. She managed to get out, right? And as I say, I researched much later, the history of my own classmates. And a very large proportion managed to get out, although we had some very nasty- very sad casualties also.

Yeah...yeah. And you said- So it didn't affect you in school, the Anschluss. But how do you remember the Anschluss?

Mainly... Well of course... Mainly because having to pass a newsstand... where Streicher's "[Der] Stürmer" was...was always on the way - in the most ugly fashion. That was a daily trauma. But of course, when it came to Crystal Nacht, my father was rounded up, together with other Jewish men. And he was incarcerated for... a week or so. During which time I remember my mother aging by about ten years. I mean she was a young-looking woman,

but...but that was a terrible time. He got out eventually, because at that time, the Viennese or the Nazis, still respected the war record, right? And when he came out, he told us, perhaps a little bragging, that when a young Nazi tried to speak to him, right? He told him to stand “*Hab Acht*”, which means to “Stand to attention! You’re speaking to an officer!”, right? So, I mean he, he- and I must admit that him having told us this, all during the war, when we in England really weren’t told anything of what was going on, right? All during the war, I felt quite confident that he would be alright some... that somehow or other, on the strength of his war-time record and his general ability to handle things. But of course, I was wrong. But we didn’t- I mean, this is a separate chapter of how little we were told about what was going on, on the continent during the war.

[00:41:04]

Yeah... Yeah... So, did the Anschluss- That was Kristallnacht, but the Anschluss actually, you said, what... what...?

You know... All right, well there were- I don’t know whether it was during the Anschluss, or afterwards. The- we were at the top end of Lilienbrunnngasse, overlooking what was the Gretelstraße [Gredlerstraße]. The Gretelstraße [Gredlerstraße] ran from the Marienbrücke which is straight down from the Rotenturmstraße, around towards the Taborstraße. And this was part of the route for these ‘*Fackel*’ marches. You know, they had a very strange habit of wear- of carrying torches through the town. I suspect that this was really a relic of the time when the- the mob carried torches and then set things alight with those torches, right? But they were slightly modified in those days. It was just- just carrying them. And they used to, to come, more or less diagonally past our flat. But the- we had those big wooden shutters on the flats. And whenever there was any kind of disturbance, and there were even earlier in 1938 during the Dollfuss affair, when the Marienbrücke was closed by machineguns and so on. Because this was a strategic part. I have a picture somewhere here of, of Marienbrücke, and the district where we lived. And so... for safety’s sake – right? - we always shut the wooden shutters of the flat. Just in case... of any problems. Yes, I think that when you do come to take photographs, that I have a picture taken of this part of the world immediately after the war, when it was still- you still see the destruction. Because the flat had– Lilienbrunnngasse *drei*, the house, that was destroyed...during the fighting with, with the Russians. Because as I say, it was strategically across the Donaubrücke. And... it was re-built. It is now –

Lilienbrunnngasse *drei* –now a very ugly post- post-war building. Not the same as the surrounding buildings. And that is where- I know this because six or seven years ago, I went to Vienna to install one of these *Stolpersteine*. And... surprisingly, many of my children and grandchildren badly wanted to come with me. And they did. And so, we have got quite a little record. And a video which our grandsons did of that event, and also a little talk.

[00:44:04]

And where did you put the Stolpersteine?

Eh?

Where did you put the...?

In the- at the entrance, the present entrance but of Lilienbrunnngasse *drei*. But as I say, it's not the same building. It's not the same entrance.

So, did you feel the persecution following the Anschluss and then Kristallnacht? Did you personally?

Well, I personally was lucky, you see? I was at school. In a Jewish school. I wasn't there for that long. I was only- I got out already in December. I know that some of my other school friends who were there even until April and May. Things got worse with every day, new decrees of – of which parks you were allowed to go to, which benches you were allowed to sit in, whether or not you could buy vegetables and- and things like it. It got worse day, day by day. I mean my- my sister Rita was eighteen at the time. She was sitting *Matura* that year, right? Now, the girls were still allowed - she was in a girls' school – they were still allowed to sit *Matura*, right? But- and she got- but in the certificate, they all got '*genügend*'-s [satisfactory – the minimum pass grade] I mean- you know, which is a low grade. Uniformly '*genügend*'. Other than a '*Religionsgeschichte*' [religious history] could get a better. So, I mean... that was then June, July, right? I mean Rita was quite a clever girl. And she could have expected to go to university, right? But I don't know whether you'll give me opportunity to talk about my sister. I mean... She...She...

Tell us now.

Well, I mean, I'm afraid I had all the luck. She didn't have any luck. First of all, she was too old to go by- to go by Kindertransport. And eventually she got to England on a domestic permit, like so many other girls of her age. And- but she was, she didn't know how to make a cup of tea or boil an egg. I mean, she was- never had done anything like that. And she was really thoroughly traumatised... through that. She was brought over, by a very well-meaning Philadelphian family, who made it their business to ask for permits for girls to come across- Jewish girls to come from Austria and Germany. Then they passed them on to other people for- as- as domestics. But she was quite hopeless at that. And then, this wonderful family of the Blaxills, of which also I can tell you more. At the beginning of war, Rita was in Birmingham with some family. And he decided that well, we better be together because we don't know what would happen. So, he fetched Rita and brought her to Colchester. And she stayed there for some length of time being kind of restored by Mrs Blaxill to- to normality. And then, again, like many other girls at the beginning of the war, she went into nursing, because nursing gave you a home and, and a roof over- you know.

Yes...

And a profession. And- she was not cut out to be a nurse, again. But she started out with children's nursing. And then she came with a- with a group of refugee children, evacuated from the East End, to Bishop Stortford, where I was at school, you see? And finished her training as a children's nurse first. And then as a nurse and- and mid-midwife at Hertfordshire Hospital. But... sometime in the 1950s late- she contracted some nervous disease, which eventually, I forget what the syndrome is called. It's a little bit like disseminated sclerosis but with slower progress. Eventually, she was confined to a wheelchair and she was still- ran a convalescent home in down in Benham Hold – down in Surrey somewhere, as a- as the Matron there. But she got progressively worse and was hospitalised for the last fifteen years of her life. She- she never married. She never had a home of her own. It- she really had a pretty miserable life - right? – when, when- when all is said and done, right?

[00:49:16]

Yeah... What was her name?

Rita Hutter.

Yeah... And when...

It was always her name. She's buried here in, in- in Bournemouth, because I was... She broke her hip and it never healed. She was- she didn't quite make the century. She was- died in December or November 1999 and at the age of seventy-nine, right? And...

Yeah...

Now my question is, does AJR have a... Are they interested not just in Kindertransport but in this group of girls who came- who came as domestics?

Yes. Yeah, absolutely. The Refugee Voices, we have definitely done quite a few of...

Because I could give you information on ...my sister. I have a lot of stuff from her if you want it.

OK... Let's go back to you, and to the circumstances which led to the Kindertransport.

[00:50:29]

What circumstances? Oh!

Yes, what...

Oh, well that is a ...strange story. In- on the critical day was the 4th of December 1938, right? It was a relatively warm Sunday, and I went out as usual still, to play or whatever in that park I described to you by the side of the Donaukanal. On the way back – of course I was expected home well before dark. And at about four o'clock in this- in December I was on my way back across the Marienbrücke within 100 yards or so of our house, right? When, coming the other way was a friend of mine; Bobby Mütz, his name was. We- he was... attended the same

cheder as I did. And as we passed, he says, “Hello Otto, bye-bye. I’m off to England this week.” And I said, “How on earth are you going off to England? How do you do it?” He said, “Well, people- children are being registered in the Hotel Metropole...” – that was the Gestapo headquarters – “...to go to England.” And I said, “Well, the Hotel Metropole, you know it’s just around the corner, a couple of squares away.” So, I turned around and I ran to Hotel Metropole and I joined the queue. It was quite an elaborate procedure. I underwent a medical examination and overall general questions. And in the end was handed papers, telling me that I would- whatever I needed to take with me in my suitcase and so on. And that there would be a transport at the end of that week. I mean, I’m not sure exactly what information. But of course, it, this had taken till about eight o’clock at night. And I hadn’t told my parents anything. I mean, I should of course have gone home and told them what Bobby Mütz had told me, but my reflex was to act immediately. And just as well, because that day, I was number 300 and... 359... out of 360... recruited that day. So, if I hadn’t turned around and ran to the Hotel Metropole, I would be pulling out teeth in Treblinka or something. Right? That... So, it was just sheer luck, right?

What happened when you came home?

And when I- when I came home, I remember we were on the second floor. And I remember walking up the stairs feeling proud, and satisfied with myself at what I had achieved, you see? I knocked on the door. Mama opened it. I was slapped on both sides, right? “Where have you been? What have you done? At a time like this, to be...!” You know, she roared immediately... When I told her what happened, and she started to cry. [with emotion] So we were both crying...

So, you organised your own Kindertransport, so to speak.

Yeah... yeah. Now...

And they didn’t have to sign anything?

[00:54:06]

Oh, yes. Oh, yes, yes, yes. They had- they then had to sign and to agree and so on. But- But I had- I had taken the initiative. And quite honestly, if I hadn't, I don't suppose I ever would have got out - for two reasons. First of all, time was essential... as I told you. Secondly, in the later transports, people had to have a guarantor. Somebody had to be prepared to take them. The first transports, they just collected boys and girls together, and especially boys of my age group. Because they realised that within another year or two, we would be liable for forced labour and things like that, right? So, boys at fourteen, fifteen, who were still considered as children, but who were near- nearly grown up, were given preference. But- but that was only for the first, or maybe the second. But very early transports, very soon afterwards, people had to have some guarantor or depositor who had to give fifty pounds in England. We had no connections with abroad. We had no relations. Many people did. And Matz [Mütz?]- and how the information was spread in the first few days about the Kindertransport was also I think much was through the internal network. And a lot of *Mischlinge* ["half-castes"], because the lady who organised this was a- was a- negotiated with...with Eichmann, right? The Dutch lady. Again, you know whom I'm referring to.

Yes. Trude- Trude Weissmuller [Geertruida Wijsmuller-Meijer].

That's right, yes. I mean she was a, a Quaker right? And I think the Quakers were informed- The *Mischlinge* were informed earlier, through the Quakers. And also, other people who had connections with the Kultusgemeinde got word earlier. We would never have had the word, and I would never have got out... and- because I had- we had no... foreign contacts.

And what- how did your- were they supportive? Did your parents think you should definitely...?

What?

Did your parents think you should definitely get out and...?

Well, yes, of course. I mean, parents did. And, and, and... my- my father was a big Anglophile. And like... The one thing I remember - talking about him being an Anglophile - was how pained he was, when the Duke of Windsor- Edward... VIII - right? - he was. Not sure... He wasn't crowned of course. But when he and, and Mrs Simpson visited Hitler in

Berchtesgaden in 1937, this- this upset him terribly, right? But... anyway, yes, they, they agreed. And they then later agreed to of course to send my- my sister to England. But ...And, and then- then they tried to save themselves just before the war. My father's family was in Poland, right? And Poland was by then divided, right? And they escaped to the Russian side of Poland by train just before the outbreak of war. That's another big story, right?

[00:57:50]

Let's come back to your parents a bit later.

I beg your pardon?

Let's stick with your story, now... and the Kindertransport. How, how- how do you remember your journey?

The Kindertransport? Well, for me, this was a great adventure. You know, I mean, boys at fourteen years, you don't really have any finer sensibilities. I mean... You- to go to England, to travel, to- this was a big adventure. And, and- and when I remember, I mean I tell this story to my children. That when my father took me to the station – only one person was allowed- one parent, was allowed to take you- that I was just terribly keen to get onto the train and rush away. And he held me back to.... [with emotion] to give me his blessing. He- he could see the future better than I could see. So, one... One doesn't... looked back from the eyes of an adult many years later, one was really very sorry. One hasn't got the sensibilities as a, as a, as a fourteen-year-old boy, right? And... So- And... I knew how to look after myself always. And I remember climbing into the luggage rack. It was a night train. Left late at night, right? And I – I always needed my beauty sleep. [laughing] And so I – I climbed into the luggage rack and... had a little bit of sleep up there. This was important, because Moshe Aberbach, who was from the same class, was also in the same train, right? And he walked through the train to try and gather together more religious Jewish boys, so as to make sure that they would have kosher food and go to religious quarters. He tried- He never found me... you see, because I was asleep... in the luggage rack. Had I not been asleep in the luggage rack I might very well have assented- agreed to put myself onto his list. And my whole future in England would have been completely different, you see. So, these little things... determine

the future. You know the story of how the flapping of a wing somewhere in the Amazon jungle can alter the course of world history? I mean... [laughing]

Yes- Yes...

There's a lot of truth in that.

So, you climbed into the luggage rack?

That's right.

And which station? Where was it in Vienna? Which station? Do you remember?

[01:00:38]

There is a conflict in this information...

Yeah...

Some people say it was the Westbahnhof, and other people say it was some peripheral station. I can't vouch for one or the other. I don't really know. I know that- that there are two stories as to which station it was, and I can't tell you which.

Yeah...And did you know anyone?

Hmm?

Did you know- were you with other people you knew, or did you- when you went on to...?

I don't think I knew anyone on the train. I know that another sign of my... state of mind at the time. Right? You know how in Vienna each block of flats, no matter even if quite small, had a *Hauswirt*...

Yeah...

Now who- a concierge who has a little window to the gangway. Who would know who comes and who goes, right?

Yes...

We also had such a *Hauswirt*. And he had seen me grow up from a baby to a child, and he was quite friendly, right? And... the day of the Kindertransport, he came out and gave me a chain with a St Christopher. St Christopher is the...the saint of ...travelling, I think. He guards travellers – right - in Catholic mythology. And he gave it to me, but...but I didn't like it. I mean, I was, you know... And I'm afraid I threw it out of the window when we crossed...

When?

When we crossed at the... the border, right? But... again, I kind of proudly told this to my father and mother in one of the letters. And my father told me, "No, you shouldn't have done that." It was – you know – it was the wrong thing to- to have done. It was meant well, and so on. But- but it just shows you how... you don't have necessarily fine judgment on things like that when you are a fourteen-year-old. You, you feel that- angry at what has happened and, and you... you react in...

Yeah. And what was it like to cross the border?

Eh?

What was it like? Where did the journey take you from Vienna...?

[01:03:10]

Well, there again... Again, a well-known story, I mean, how... once we were in Holland, we were received by ladies who gave us refreshments and who made us feel at ease. And generally, you really did feel that you had escaped. I mean the Nazi guards did go through the carriages, and, and you know they- they were liable to inspect luggage and so on. You were strictly told- I mean, some children had their violins confiscated and things like that. I mean,

again, I can't remember being singled out for... I was a very young-looking innocent-looking young boy.

What did you take? Do you remember any things you took in your luggage?

Well, yes, yes, yes. I mean- and I still have got my case, which I- which is in the garage. You know, the one case I came from Vienna with. I use it as a prop- well, the few times I've given my talk on this, I used this case as my prop as proof that I am genuine.

Yes?

Oh, I took my *Lederhosen* [traditional leather trousers] ... which were the kind of things which Viennese boys used to wear. And you know you started wearing it at about six or seven. And then as you grew larger, extra pieces of leather were let in to the trousers. And the dirtier and greasier the trousers were the more treasured were these- these *Lederhosen*. So, I took my *Lederhosen* and I- and just before leaving Vienna, my father fitted me out with a pair of boots. A heavy pair of boots, and a big coat. He kind of... thought perhaps that it might have happened that I might very well have to march...distances and- and winter was coming. That coat I wore for many years and it is now an exhibit in the...museum- in the War Museum, right?

The Imperial War Museum?

In the- In the Imperial War Museum. Yes, you can find it on the- on the internet. I just saw it yesterday because I was trying to find things... related to your interview. And I- I- of course I took my tefillin, and these tefillin were... were the ones which my father had with him all during the First World War. Right? I still have got them- still the only pair. And... Well, I don't know whether they're still kosher or not. But my- I thought that I would pass them on to my eldest great-grandson, but fortunately I actually saw his Bar Mitzvah. And now the next one is, is, is coming. So, I will pass them on to our youngest great-grandson... whose...

Your oldest already had his Bar Mitzvah... your grand- your great-grandson?

Our eldest great-grandson had his Bar Mitzvah last August. And our second eldest great-grandson from another side, of another sister of the family, of, of the father- who fathered the first one- has his Bar Mitzvah in- this January. And I'm hoping to go to Israel to be there again.

Yeah... So, you have those tefillin you brought with you?

Yes, yes, yes. The...I had a little tallit but that was a silk one which fell to pieces.

[01:07:05]

Yeah... yeah. So, what happened- what do you remember when you crossed- the boat, and...?

Well, look, it was night time. And we, we- being landlubbers in, in the central Europe. I mean this was the first time one had been on sea, or even seeing the sea, right? But it was night time; I couldn't see very much. What I do remember is, is getting the- I have these documents somewhere, but I couldn't- having- being given the first-class passenger ticket and having a first-class cabin all to myself. Comfortable bed. Across from, from, from Harwich. So again, I was- I was lucky.

I've never heard that- I've never heard of anyone that- who got first class tickets. I've never heard that. Who gave it to you?

Well, they- they just hand- you see, they had to. I forget what name the motor vessel was. 'Harwich', or something. Again, it's on the pass. But they had to distribute the children into the different cabins, right?

Yeah.

They couldn't leave the first-class cabins empty.

Right.

So, somebody had to be lucky, to get the first-class cabin, right? And, and I don't know how many first-class cabins there were in comparison to the- to the other class cabins. But I had a first-class cabin, with a single bed. And - did I say? - tea and biscuits brought by the steward in the morning. Like a first-class passenger!

Fantastic!

So, I mean...

And then what were your first impressions of England, when you disembarked?

[01:08:50]

Well... I can't- I can't really tell you. The, the- the first impressions of course were from- mainly from Dovercourt [inaudible]. ...You could hardly call this England because- Oh, well, yes. Because the first- from one point of view, yes. It was all a refugee community, so I mean you weren't really in England, despite the fact that you were geographically in England.

Yes...

Except for one thing. The good Lowestoft people, the first breakfast we had there, gave us kippers. And not just good Lowestoft kippers, not boiled kippers, but roasted kippers. We thought this was an attempt to poison us. [both laughs] You know, in Vienna we never had anything like a, like a roasted kipper. Well, maybe that's my first English experience. But- Or to express this another way is... We were then of course after- you know the story that it got too cold for- the, the huts were unheated, and the winter turned quite cold. And they had to evacuate us from Dovercourt camp to different places. My group went to Broadstairs, which meant going- arriving at Liverpool Street, and then being bussed across to Charing Cross Station to go down on the Kent line to Broadstairs. Now that...

One moment.

[sound interruption]

Yes please.

When we arrived at Charing Cross Station, we were treated to a Christmas tea in the Charing Cross Hotel, right? With all the pre-war Christmas treats of mince pies, and Christmas cake and trifle. And everything that a good hotel could lay on for a party of children. And that was the first time that we had eaten anything so wonderful as that. That was certainly a memory I can remember, right? Of that wonderful Christmas tea we had in- on our- before setting out for Broadstairs.

[01:11:05]

Coming from Dovercourt?

Coming from Dovercourt, yes.

Can I ask you before you continue, was the issue of kosher food- was that a problem for you?

Well, it- it wasn't. As I told you, that Vienna was not strictly kosher. And- although I think that- I can't really remember ever being given pork or en-enquiring about it. I mean... There was no real question of, of strict observance, of, of kashrut.

So, it wasn't a problem... Yeah...

And it wasn't really a problem for me, not considering my, my general upbringing as a- as a Viennese Jew, right? The *kashrut* has always been more of an obsession in England than on the continent, I'm afraid.

Yeah...

I don't know quite why. Now...

Anyway.

When we- when we did get to... Broadstairs, there was the second attempt at poisoning us, right? And that was that the good boarding house keeper had made kedgerree for us. Now, kedgerree is made with smoked cod, rice, peas and... boiled egg. It's a Indian dish by origin. But again, with this strong smoked fish. I love it now, and I make it often. [with laughter] It's a beautiful dish, and I like it. But at that time, again, we didn't know what we were having. It's a very good dish when you have visitors and you don't know exactly when they will arrive. It keeps very well, you see? It can be put together very quickly, the fish, and the rice, and the eggs and the peas. It just takes a few minutes to put the originals, the, the elements together. But- and then we were in Broadstairs for about a month or two during the winter. There were still communications to the, to the... continent at the time. I mean it was- It was early January 1939. And I think it was about that time that my parents then sent me my Bar Mitzvah books and various other things across from Vienna. I had- which I have still here.

And what sort of- It was a hostel? What was it...?

[01:13:39]

It was- well, it worked as a hostel, but I suspect that it was actually a boarding house. I mean a summer visitor's boarding house. But- but during the winter of course the proprietors were perfectly willing to rent out their facilities to... groups like us. I mean, at the larger towns like Brighton and, and Southampton they have TUC conferences and Labour conferences [laughing] out of season, you see.

Yes. So, who- which organisation ran this?

It was still the...the Bloomsbury House lot.

Was it Bloomsbury House...

And actually, we had- we had one youth leader with us. And somewhere in my papers, I have a very interesting report, first-hand report of that youth leader. On... his experiences with this group of boys and so on... which is- which is well worth keeping. I, I really- I must go through a lot of papers yet, and sort them out. And- and I think I will send them to the Wiener Library as I said, because I have kept quite a lot of material.

[01:15:03]

Right. And what was the atmosphere like in...in Broadhurst [Broadstairs]? What... Did people- what was the aim? Did people try- were there foster families coming in, or...?

Well, not- it was, again- it was- I think it was like a sort of youth club. I mean it was a- we were all boys, about twenty or so, right? With one youth leader. The one thing I can remember is- well the one way in which you could get money, is for your parents to send international postage... coupons. And those could be exchanged for about sixpence or something like that, right? And sixpence was enough... to buy a large tin of cubed pineapples in Woolworths in Broadstairs at the time. And again, this was a new experience. In Vienna, pineapples were a luxury. You know - landlocked. Nobody ate- nobody ate pineapples. I never had had... tinned pineapples before. In England they were commonplace. And I remember buying a tin of pineapples and enjoying it with my friends, thanks to the sixpence which I had been sent.

And was there any schooling or anything?

What?

Any schooling?

I think there were some attempts... There were some attempts, but... to- to help us learn English or so on. But I was again lucky, you see. I had two years of English in the Chajes Gymnasium. So, one picked up the language comparatively quickly. At that age you still...

Yeah...

...manage it. Better - younger.

So, you managed it. And you had communication with your parents at that point.

Yes. Yes. And I- and I have a... Actually, in this box here, right? Which I got out of this cupboard. In this box, I have a collection of letters from my mother, right? Mostly from my mother because she wrote most. My father, just a few short notes. And... I've kept them, but I've never been- so far, brought myself to look at them again, right? I really need to sort them out and... And again, this is of course something I will keep in the family. But they- they are- they are parents' letters to children, which... Perhaps they should be copied, and... and...

Yeah. You can digitise them and keep the originals. The Wiener Library would definitely be interested - or the Imperial War Museum.

Yes... yes. Now I also...

But you've never read- you haven't read them? Or you have read...?

[01:18:06]

Not- I just haven't been able to bring myself to do it. There is also a beautiful letter which my father wrote to Mr Blaxill, right? And which Mr Blaxill then gave to me many years later, to keep.

Tell us about the Blaxills. We haven't- you haven't told us about the Blaxills yet.

Well... Mr Blaxill was- came from a civically distinguished family in...in Colchester. His father had been the mayor of Colchester. He was a councillor, I think. And he was also very active. He- he was a chief air-raid warden. And he ran a very early blood transfusion service. So, he was a man who did an immense amount of public work. By way of, of- of business, he was a director of a builder's merchant company. Kent Blaxill in Colchester. And... he- this was a... non-conformist East Anglian family, right? And he, I think, was the main mover of the... appeal of- from the old boys of Bishop Stortford College to collect funds for the education of two refugee boys. And I can't remember whether it was in Dovercourt or exactly where. But my father had written letters to me, such as he wrote, that I must try to go to school. You know the- the organisers of the Kindertransport tried to get us apprenticed somewhere or other. They had to get us off their hands. And so, you got offers to... to become a trouser presser or- or go to Montague Burtons in Leeds as many of the children did. Perhaps

even to become a jeweller's apprentice, right? Or a cobbler's apprentice. But I rejected them all, and I was a nuisance. But then, eventually, two gentlemen, distinguished looking gentlemen such as I had never seen before in my context as a refugee boy, arrived at Dovercourt or wherever it was, to select two boys for education at Bishop Stortford College. And having been such a nuisance and not wanting to do anything else - right? -I was presented to them. And they interviewed me briefly, and, and Mr Blaxill chose me. I think he probably had the idea that he was choosing a Viennese choirboy. [laughs] Because I think that is what he most knew about Vienna. You know that in England the, the - the boys' choir always toured England at Christmas. The Viennese Boys' Choir [Wiener Sangerknaben]. And Vienna was well known in England in those years, through the, through the boys' choir. But never mind. That's...

[01:21:39]

Could you sing?

No... Because I remember him asking me whether I could sing, [with laughter] and I said, "No. Sorry." But... Anyway. It was a wonderful family; they had a very nice house. And when I was brought there, the, he and his wife had three children. Alison, who was three years younger. Christopher, who was four-and-a-half years younger. And Janet, who was about eight years younger than I, so quite a small girl. And also, there was Bruce, who was a large retriever dog. The dog, friendly- a children-friendly dog. And they really made me... feel at home as much as they possibly could.

Did they take you in, or the other boy went to another family?

Oh, the other boy, Paul Solomon was his name, went- was taken by Mr Harrington who was a solicitor - London solicitor. And who together with, with Blaxill had organised that appeal. I was not at Colchester for very long, because term started in - whenever it did - April or... end of March, and I was taken to Bishop Stortford first to the- to the outfitters. And there I got grey flannels and a blue blazer. And a tuck box. And, and what was called a barge, you know, a straw hat with a school house hat band. So somewhere in April 1939, I was fitted out like an English public school - boy to go to school at Bishop Stortford. And as I told you, that

I- when I tried to tell the boys what my name was, and I tried to insist on my name being pronounced as “Hutter”, right? They immediately said, “Hutter? Hooter? Honk?!” And so ever since, I was called ‘Honk’ at school. And still today, if I do have any contact with anybody – I have only with very few - I’m still addressed as, as ‘Honk’. [with laughter] But that’s fine.

And what was it like as a refugee boy to be in that public-school environment?

[01:24:23]

I was treated very kindly by the boys. They...they... They seemed to take it all in their stride. I don’t know whether any of the masters ever told them anything about us, to prepare them. I wouldn’t know that. But... I was accepted perfectly normally, and I had to- I think I settled down reasonably well. If there were some things of course which were a bit strange. I mean, you know, having to have a cold bath every morning... was not exactly my domestic practise. I mean, at that time, the- the bathroom at dormitory, outside the dormitory, the big bath was filled with water at night, right? If there was ice over the water – the windows were open, right? - then you didn’t need to have a cold bath. But if the- regardless- so long as the, the bath hadn’t frozen over, you had to dip in. There was a technique of holding the sides of the bath, lifting your fingers- your, your legs, slip into the bath and out the other side, right? And then you could rub yourself down, right? That was the, the first- the way that they started, right? And then you dressed yourself quickly and chased down the stairs to be there before roll-call. And you prided yourself on how few minutes it took between the time that you jumped out of bed and the time you were downstairs at your desk... dressed. With...with ...ready for roll-call.

[01:26:20]

The... Eleven o’clock you were turned out of your classrooms for PT, and you had to do at least four exercises during each week, which meant either you played rugby or... whatever was in season, or you had ...to run three times around, six times around the track, which was both counted as an exercise and also handed out as a punishment if you had done something wrong. For instance, if you hadn’t changed your shoes into slippers before supper, and the monitor spotted this when you walked into the assembly room, then you got six tracks

automatically. But I only got whacked once I think, with a slipper. So, I wasn't too bad. But of course, the war came soon, right? And then things changed, and rather than sleeping upstairs in the dormitory we had to sleep on mattresses underneath the dining room tables... for quite- a year or two. Once the Blitz had started, I remember seeing the, the fires over, over London from Bishop Stortford during 1940. So, at that, although there were air raid shelters in the school buildings, they were too damp for the children to use at night. So that's how we coped. And... But life went on. The school went on. And... some teachers of course were called up, but others took their place.

I think there's somebody at the door.

My wife?

[audio break]

[01:28:25]

Yes...

Cold baths... But all this is actually well designed to strengthen the immune system. And it's a great shame that I think it's got largely out of fashion these days. I think the boys- I'm not sure that they're not too 'colly-moddled'...

Yeah...

... these days. In fact, these public school practices were established way back in Victorian days and they- nowadays we know from scientific evidence, that that kind of thing is very good in strengthening the immune system. And that- and so... it reduces the amount of infection in schools. The only sort of infections from which one suffers is... 'toe-wart', as we used to call it, which is *tinea pedis*, right? Which is the result of too much swimming and not-water, and not drying in between your toes sufficiently.

Yes... At that point, were you still in touch with your parents, or at that point you didn't...?

No, when I- of course at the beginning of the war, the, the communication ceased. Until, or rather, the only communication was through the Red Cross. And I have here looked out for you actually, some of the letters, Red Cross letters, which we did receive. And the last one, in May 1942, was actually addressed to my sister who was by then also in Bishop Stortford as I mentioned. And- and the inquiry was, "*Was wird der Otto nach der Schule tun?*" Right? Because they knew that I was due to leave school at eighteen, in 1942, and obviously they wanted to have some idea. Even if I had joined up into the Army, I could scarcely have said so in a mail to occupied Poland. Right? But they were obviously concerned. Up to the time when... June, when Hitler invaded Poland, I daresay, they were more worried about us, than about themselves, because they probably felt quite safe behind the Soviet lines, right? And where- And whereas they heard about the Blitz and attacks on, on London and so on. You know, so they were probably far more worried about us. But nobody – not even Stalin - foresaw the German invasion... and that part of Lvov and Ukraine was taken very quickly by the advancing Germans.

[01:31:30]

Yeah. But can I ask you, you said that your father said that you should continue your schooling. Did you also want to? Was it something you wanted to, or was it...?

Yes, I think so. I had no desire to- to start work. And, as I said, if you- for instance Moshe Aberbach's biography will tell you something about the shenanigans in Burton's factory in Leeds where he was a trouser presser but tried to at the same time study. Whenever he had no trousers to- to press and tried to read a book the supervisor would chide him. But I put you on to that- on to that work.

Because it seems very lucky- of your generation, many people didn't go to school.

No, but on the other hand, it's also surprising how many of my generation refugee children, nevertheless... found their way into an academic career.

Yes, but at a later point.

At a later point, after the war. Thanks to thanks to the Attlee government's further education policy.

Yes. For example, Richard Grunberger talks about it, you know, the former Editor of the AJR...

Yeah. Provided that you had matriculation. And many people- many of the boys got it through private study, individual study. Then, then if you were- if you had done war work, or had been in the Army, you got that further education and training grant, regardless as to whether you were... a refugee or... Polish or whoever.

And how did you adapt yourself to this public school? I mean it must have been quite different to the Chajes Gymnasium. Did you- were you happy? How...?

[01:33:18]

Reasonably so, except... that I had to learn... Shakespeare speeches by heart and go to the English master - a man called Chess Mellows – every Sunday afternoon, in the upper fifth - I was in then - to recite bits of Shakespeare. And I found this very- I found it very hard to learn Shakespeare by heart. I find it very hard to learn anything... by heart. But in those days, for a school certificate, you actually had to show that you knew the play which was set. You had to show- if you were asked to describe a character, you had to be able to quote... and confirm your, your, your decision. I'm not sure that these days this is any longer required. Well, so I- it was hard- sometimes it was hard work. But for most of the time you- well, you accept things. You... When you are young, it's wonderful you take things in your stride. And you- you make friends and so on.

And where did you go in the holidays?

Well during the holidays, at very first, I went back to Colchester. But then Colchester is a garrison town. And it became out of bounds for 'enemy aliens' as we were classified. And all kinds of- several people's, parents of, of pupils in my class, took me in, over the holidays. I mean, one family to whom I'm particularly grateful is Glendell- Smiths, who... He had two boys in the school, and they took me in over the holidays. They lived in Hoddesdon. He was

a underwriter in Lloyds. I never could understand at the time what it meant to be an underwriter. But obviously, it was quite a senior- he used to travel into the City to Lloyds. And he- he had lost his- the mother of the boys had died early, and he had married a school teacher to bring the boys up. And she also brought me up and taught me, for instance, at the end of a meal, not to cross the knife and fork, as we did on the continent, right? If you were- but to put the knives and forks down side by side. And many other things of English etiquette I learned from Mrs Glendell-Smith during the summer holidays.

Such as? What do you remember? What did you learn... for example?

Well, I, I- really... Oh, well, for instance, that you don't ever admire the inside of a house, furniture and so on. But you are very welcome to admire a garden, right? In, in ... Then it's perfectly nice to say, "What a lovely garden you've got." That is really accepted in England. [with laughter] To say, "What beautiful furniture..." or china, or furniture, or whatever else you've got, that is not really done.

[01:36:48]

I've learned something now.

[both laugh]

I didn't know that. Yes? What else?

Oh, I can't- ...put me on the spot- ...can't think of it. But... I don't know what - habits of dressing and so on. But whatever, she, she polished me, you know, into ...a little bit. But I had other very good... friends. There was... oh dear, names are starting to become difficult. Anyway, his father was a bank manager of Lloyds in Devizes, right? And during the war, when there was rationing, his larder, or it was really a very large room, was always full of birds and, and meat and everything else, because all the farmers used to like to keep in well with their bank manager. And they used to give him gifts as well, [laughing] especially at Christmas time. So, I- Bedell - Christopher Bedell. The Bedell family – right? - in Devizes took me in. Then the Horsfalls in... London towards the end of that time, they- their family was based in Kenya. They were coffee growers, right? And they took me in... for holidays.

So, I moved around quite a variety of, of families during the holidays. Until, after the war, and I- well after the war I was already of course at work. But I had maintained of course contact with the Blaxills. And I have maintained contact with the Blaxill children still more. Alison is in Canada. We... correspond regularly at the turn of the year. Christopher, I'm afraid, developed Alzheimer's and died a few years ago. Janet, the youngest, now a sprightly eighty- eighty-two -year -old – or maybe eighty-four or eighty-five - comes to visit us in Bournemouth. She will be here next week. And so, they- she was of course very young and I'm almost like a kind of step-brother... to her. So... that's been nice.

And what was their motivation, the Blaxills? They were not- they were...?

They were a very humanistic and kind family. I mean, they are wonderful. One of these... splendid English families who- who will engage in good works.

Yeah. They were not Quakers, or...?

[01:39:39]

No, they were not Quakers. They were not Quakers; they were Nonconformist. But so, for that matter, was Bishop Stortford College at the time. It was a very low... low church... Nonconformist. So that- I mean, I had to attend assembly in the mornings. And... there was usually may have been one hymn or something. I mean I didn't sing it, but it didn't worry me. And a, and a lot of the things anyway, are of Jewish origin. Especially so in the low church non-conformist tradition.

And during your time there, did you have any contact with Bloomsbury House? Did somebody keep an eye on you, or did you...? Was it...?

Scarcely. Scarcely. I mean, where the- I mean my impression of, of English Jewry altogether, of course like that of many other boys, wasn't very good. I mean it started off with this terrible visit of Chief Rabbi Hertz to Dovercourt- court. No doubt other people have commented...

Tell us about it.

Here was this man with a dog collar. Who- which rabbi ever had worn a dog collar? I mean, we you know, we couldn't understand it. And then he talked to us about how to behave in England, right? And how not to speak loudly and so on. He didn't realise that he was speaking mostly to well brought up middle-class boys. We took a very poor view of him. Very poor views. It was very- very ill-judged. Because the British Jewry was so afraid of, of encouraging anti-Semitism. Oh, by the way, this... reminds me of the story of... George Ettinger, I think it was. And you interviewed him many years ago. He was the boy who was refused education in an English public school by the Cambridge Refugee Committee, because- I have it quoted...

John Grenville.

John...?

John Grenville.

John Grenville. That's right. John Grenville, that's right.

I did interview him.

You did his interview, yes. I mean this was... What I'm trying to say is, I was lucky to be allowed to go to Bishop Stortford, because within a comparatively short time, the view of the Refugee Committee was that- that British people would be upset that Jewish refugees take places in a public school. An absolutely appalling... attitude and action. Now... George Grenville...

John Grenville.

John Grenville then you will remember became the gardener of a... a...

In a college.

[01:42:40]

In a college, or Head of a Cambridge college, who allowed him to use his library. Who eventually took- and became an important academic at the end, despite it all. But I was lucky, in a sense not only to get Austria- not only to be selected, but even to be allowed... to go to a school in England before the Refugee Committee. I didn't know anything about this, but it just shows you how- the attitude of that committee.

You had other negative experiences of English Jewry... for example?

Well, the... the... When - not exactly – but when I was then dependent on, on... first got to to...to the Wellcome Foundation, my salary at the time, or wages at the time, were I think thirty-five and six pence, right? Which wasn't enough... to live on. Now, Mrs Hardisty, whom you will know, then awarded, I think, me another two and sixpence a week, right? And when I needed another... rain coat. I had my heavy coat, but I didn't have a rain coat. I was sent to Montague Burton in, in Tottenham Court Road I think- ja. And they gave me what was the shabbiest, nastiest raincoat, which soaked up the rain... like blotting paper! Now, I never again went to Montague Burton when I did have the money to buy my own suits. But... No, I, I'd had very little- well, been also being in the South of London, right? At, in Kent, right? The nearest synagogue was in Catford, I think, right? Quite a little way. And I had very little contact with Jewish things. And- but being a Zionist, I tried to... sell a shekel. Now the *Chazi Shekel* is the- is the form of membership to the Zionist organisation at that time. Now the chazi shekel – of course, half a shekel - was what- was required of every Israelite to contribute to the – still in the desert - to the, to the *ohel mo'ed* - to the, to the tabernacle, right?

Yeah...

And later on, it became kind of the tax. Now, when the Zionist organisation grew up and the membership fee that would allow you to vote was again, *Chazi Shekel* which was probably half a crown or something like that, right? And you got a certificate for that. Now...

Half a shekel...?

Half- half a shekel. Half a shekel. Now I remember then going around the south London community, such - I don't know how I got addresses and so on - to various houses, to try and sell half a shekel, right? And I found people so dreadfully ignorant! Of... You know I wasn't... I was only a boy. Or at least I was a youngster, right? But even so, my Jewish education was so far more extensive than that of... of English people. Slightly different, but similar point was that when I was first with the Blaxills, the first ...Pesach, Mr Blaxill who was a very kind man - he arranged for me to go for *sedorim* [prayer books] to the manager of Marks and Spencer's family, right? The manager of Marks and Spencer in, in Colchester was- was Jewish. And he had, he had a Seder evening, and they invited me. But they didn't seem to know how to make a Seder! And being- being [laughs] being me, I took over!

And you did the Seder?

And I did the Seder. [both laugh]

[01:46:55]

You had to teach them how to do it.

Yes, yes, I mean I just- I was so surprised. They really just didn't- it was- it was the ignorance and lack of education of British Jewry. And I have since then read articles which confirmed this. The- that how poorly educated ...pre-war English Jewry in the 1930s or so, was, right? In comparison with, with... our continental upbringing.

Yeah. Just to come back. So, what happened to you after you finished school? What were your- what did you want to do?

Well... Maybe, well, I should tell it to you again. We discussed- yes, we talked about this earlier. Well, I was given two opportunities. My favourite subjects were- were chemistry and biology. I'd won the science prize believe it or not. Also, the English essay prize I won. I was absolutely useless at sports, but I made a point of- of, of trying, of writing a good English essay. And that immensely pleased my sponsors, that I won the English essay prize.

What was the topic of the essay?

Oh, it was something about philosophy of science; I can't really remember exactly. But I collected some books together and cooked up an essay... during the Christmas holiday of 1942, I think, and, and, and duly won the English essay prize. I also won the science prize, but I was hopeless at sports. So... I- with chemistry and biology my main subjects, I was given two options. One was to join Sherwood Paints. Sherwood was a friend of- Colonel Sherwood who was the head of the- that firm, was a friend of Mr Blaxill, through their connection of paint, and builders' merchants and so on. And he was- his firm was researching for paints that might prevent the barnacles from attaching themselves to the hull of ships – which then required the ships to go into dry dock, and which was a great loss of shipping time during the war. Nowadays, a solution for this has been found. It's actually a biological solution. But I wasn't so keen on that. The other alternative, was to go to the, to go as an assistant to the Wellcome physiological research laboratories in Beckenham, Kent. Again, through a, through an... old physio- old Stortfordian contact- a Mr Moore who at that time was the Vice Chairman of the Wellcome Foundation. And so, I was interviewed by him - in that wonderful building which now, in the Euston Road- which now houses the Wellcome Historical Museum - and given a job at the Wellcome Laboratories. And at first- my first job there, was to help in the standardisation of insulin. Insulin has to be- had to be biologically standardised, and of course it had to be produced and standardised even during the war, to keep diabetics alive. So that was considered as essential war work. And I did this for about a year.

[01:50:39]

And... that is where I met my future wife. And we- our job was to ... bleed rabbit ears... point one of a ml of blood for so many- eight hours after the injection, which were then analysed for blood sugar. Now, that- the analysis was carried out by a refugee lady. Herta Müller her name was, right? Older than us. She was our supervisor. I'm afraid we played her up a bit. But later on, she became very much the honorary grandmother of our family for many years afterwards. She eventually retired to Australia where her brother was, and... she died there during an operation for ...some burst gastric tumour. She died on the table. Very sad. At- at the age of about seventy. Well, anyway. So, I, I was then also involved in research done by a Doctor Glock on thyroid... disease, and in the... pyrogen testing. That is, pyrogens are fever producing agents. And the new batches of penicillin, like every other new drug, especially

biologically produced drugs, had to be tested for pyrogens, that they do not cause fevers. And that was another one of my jobs towards the end of the time. And I remember how when I did find one batch to be pyrogenic. This involved, incidentally, a set of rabbits. And you put thermocouples up their behinds and measure their temperatures after they got injected with penicillin. I remember both the director and the head of department, coming along and looking at my notes. Because to reject a batch of penicillin, in the middle of the war, when it was desperately wanted, to- to heal casualties was really a major catastrophe for the firm. But there was the data, and, and it was very seriously considered. But really, the most important thing was, that I had a wonderful education at the Wellcome Laboratories. Because many of the staff, the senior staff, the graduate staff at the department, had been lecturers in the London University, or other universities, who had been recruited during the war to, for work in the laboratories. And they were only too pleased to guide me in my studies, you see? Give me references, give me books – and in every other possible way. So... I had a - a classy university education, with a staff student ratio of about three staff to one student. [laughs] Quite apart from... Well, this was apart from my going to Chelsea Polytechnic in the evenings. And there I was also lucky, because the lecturer who came up to Chelsea Polytechnic to teach us students, was actually Richard Gregory, who later became a very fine physiologist. And he came up from University College Medical School which had been evacuated to Leatherhead, you see? And twice a week he came up to lecture to the boys and girls at Chelsea Polytechnic.

And where did you stay in that time? Where did you live?

I stayed in Beckenham, in boarding houses. In- at several boarding houses. I... One of the boarding hou- or with a family... who didn't like to call me Otto, because their school- their young schoolboys, if- were- the mother thought that if they said that they had an 'Otto' in their house, they might think I was a spy, you see?

[01:55:05]

So, what did they call you?

Fred. [laughs] My second name, right? But that- that road was rather badly bombed. And...Queen's Road in Beckenham that was. Well, not bombed, but 'doodle bugged'.

Because in the 1944, the doodle bugs fell short of the centre of London. And government never let on the fact that the doodle bugs were- were falling short. They'd sooner have them fall on Beckenham and Penge in the south of London, than in the centre of London, you see? So, the Germans kept on sending the doodle bugs but with a short – too short a range. And the whole road was bombed, other than there was a very good wood, brick shelter in the back of the Queen's Road house I... lived in. And for much of the summer of 1944, that was my home. There was a bunk in the shelter. The top of the bunk were all my possessions. The bottom of the bunk, I slept. And more than that, all the fences were down. And that was Kent. It was autumn. And so, I could pick any number of apples and carry them in a rucksack to the lab. And- and there was a wonderful mulberry tree in the garden. And I've never eaten mulberries since, but they are beautiful fruit. And- so I had a wonderful summer living on the fruits of the suburban gardens in Beckenham. [laughs]

So that was in '44? In '44?

That was the summer of '44... That was the summer of '44.

And where did you find yourself towards the end of the war?

Well, I was still in, in, in Beckenham in a boarding house run by two ladies. Oh dear, oh dear I've forgotten their name. Who- I had a little tiny slip of a bedroom. It was a cold winter. I was studying, and I remember wrapping myself up in the blanket. And I had a little five-kilowatt heater near my feet. And I spent many an evening there... studying. But... There was also a lady there who was a keen golfer, and who once invited me to Beckenham Golf Course. But she soon learned that I was absolutely hopeless at golf also. [laughs]

Yeah... When... When... Two questions. Were you in touch with your sister, throughout this time? Were you in touch with your sister?

[01:57:50]

Yes, yes. Yes, yes. I mean after I left Bishop Stortford, my sister moved- well, first to Hertford and then she joined up with another senior nurse. A very nice woman- Kate Bigley, Begley – Bigley her name was. And they both went- I think it was Hook or in... here in

Sussex. And she was- Kate was a district nurse. And Rita had several other nursing appointments in the, in the district. But they, they lived quite nicely. Except that as I say, by the time we came back from America in 1955, Rita had developed this neurological disease.

Yeah...

Yes.

And what about your parents? When did you try to find out what happened to your parents?

Well, as I told you, during the war- during the war itself, I couldn't somehow quite believe that, that, that something terrible would be happening to them. I had such large confidence in my father's ability. But... then, as one learned much more in... in- later on, during the war. In fact, the first time that I learned about the Holocaust was in, I think, Yom Kippur, 1944, which I spent with a... a family in Golders Green, who were a very religious family in Adath. The Adath synagogue was then over the Hendon Theatre in Golders Green Circus. And it was Rabbi Knoblowicz there, who then, on Yom Kippur, I think, told us what terrible things were going on, right? I mean, I didn't really- because the British press suppressed it all. And there's been history about that. So, after the end of the war we... We - that means Yvonne and I - we used to travel in the evenings to the... World Jewish Congress building somewhere in the West End. And we used to help with card indexes of survivors and so on. But of course, nothing ever showed up right? And, and nothing- The Red Cross also couldn't give me any information. I have a whole box full of correspondence with the Red Cross, until very recently. I can- I will come to it in the end. Now, I did know of course that my parents had left Vienna just before the end of the war. And through my second cousin, Karola, who got out with her- her husband, who was a Zionist leader and had - they had a, they had a certificate - right? - to get to Israel. They got out also via Poland. But that was still before Poland was- was occupied- eastern Poland was occupied by- and who met my parents - my father. And apparently, they smuggled themselves out of Vienna, with- by being hidden in the lavatory, and bribing the guard, so as to get across... the border. And the- and after many years of correspondence with the Red Cross, they had also... dug up information from a police report in- in Vienna, which said that Ignaz Hutter - and it was certainly my father, right date of birth and so on - that they had disappeared from their- from their address on the 4th of September, which I think was just the day the war started. And apparently, my father was

being sought for collaborating with another woman, and falsifying ...oh dear... Christian conversion – what? Baptism for her. Falsifying baptism certificates, right?

Aha, yes.

[02:02:40]

So as to facilitate the emigration of Jews to Yugoslavia. They had watched- they had some little, I don't know, an office or something like that. And they had watched people coming and going, and then searched the premises and they found a lot of incomplete baptism certificates. And I wasn't entirely surprised, because even before I left, there were occasions when my father, who had a very good hand... altered passports for other people, right? They do this with some special ink or something like that. And, and- so, towards the end of his time in Vienna, my father was, was engaged in this sort of thing. Which probably was a way of also earning some money, right? But... But so, I think that when they left Vienna, they probably left Vienna in a great hurry. Because he was being asked to appear before court or something like that. I have the Red Cross documents again, here, which- which bear this out. Now, so then I knew that their last address was Yarychiv Novyi, which ... a, a village outside Lvov. And that's where the- where the Red Cross messages in 1942 came – came from.

Yeah...

And I had never seen anything about Yarychiv Novyi in in any of the books which I read - I've got plenty of them - until I came across the diary of Goldfarb - I forget his first name again - who wrote about events in, in... Ukraine, right? In what is now Ukraine, right? Galicia- right- during the war. And there I found a mention of a massacre in Yarychiv Novyi in January 15, 1943. ...I pursued this, and found that the event was in fact logged in Yad Vashem, right? And I got more details from Yad Vashem, the story. It is a terrible story. The Typhus had broken out in the Jewish ghetto of, a relatively small Jewish ghetto, Yarychiv Novyi. The Poles turned to the Germans to deal with the situation. 'Deal' meant that they turned out - on a winter's early morning - they turned out the population of the Jewish ghetto into the town square. Had them stand there. Many people froze to death. Those that- the... The remainder were taken to the forest with shovels. Made to dig a grave. Made to walk across planks over the grave, whilst machine guns shot them. That's the story.

Yeah...

[both pause]

So... I used to say Kaddish on Tish Abov. And I still say Kaddish on Tish Abov, because we lost many other family. But I also say Kaddish on whatever is the equivalent to the fif[teen]th of, of January. Just, just- because I only found this out about two years ago.

[02:06:50]

Really? So, before it was on Tish Abov.

Yeah – yeah.

So, for most people- Don't know when it happened.

Yeah.

Yeah... [pause] So just to get back to you... You said you met your future wife in Kent... in the... Can you tell us a little bit about it?

Well... I was a boy, she was a girl. [laughs] ...We were both nineteen, twenty -year olds. We had a... very long courtship. I ...I remember- well, first of all, I, you know, there was the war. I didn't know what would happen after the war, whether I had parents or didn't have parents. And secondly, I- my- the story of my father was, that after the- although he had very nearly finished as a, as a lawyer, solicitor, after the war, four years as an officer and one thing and another, and newly married, he never went back to university. And he- and he never actually had the, the formal ...solicitor's qualification, which was necessary to work independently on his own. He was always just a partner of somebody who was. So, and my mother always saw- sort of regretted this, or somehow... you know, I mean, it was always a... a...

It was a topic.

Eh?

It was a topic.

It was always a topic, so I- so I, I didn't want to get married until I had my degree, right? [laughs] So... So that was- so that took to 1947. But like- who is- No, the Duchess of Cambridge... wasn't she called... what's her first name?

Catherine - Kate.

“Katie-Waity”. She was called “Katie-Waity”, right? Because she had to wait such a long time... before...

Before they got married. Yes...

Before they got married, you see? So, I'm afraid... my wife also had to wait a long time, before we got married. Eventually- I was already at University College... then. And we got married in a little *shtiebel* near Great Portland Street, which was the nearest synagogue then. And when we were- well, only two people had ever been married there, right? And when we had our sixtieth wedding anniversary – right? And I, I sent a picture of us for our diamond wedding to The Jewish Chronicle, which was duly published, right? The Jewish Chronicle is very careful, and it asked us- me – “Where did you get married?” And I told her that it was - I forget now what it was - Great Portland Street Hebrew Congregation or something like that, right? And they had a great job in finding it. They did eventually. They did eventually. [laughing]

[02:10:16]

Not in the synagogue? Not in the Great Portland Street Synagogue?

It was a little- it was a little *shtiebel* like I described to you. A very small one – again – one-room. It belonged to...

Because now there's a big synagogue there. No?

No, no, no it's not. It wasn't a big synagogue, no, no, no. No, it was, it was again a little *shtiebel* which was- There was one orthodox Jew in the *schmatte* district, right? Who...great benefactor. I forget his name; he signed our... *ketubah*. And he, he was a great benefactor and that was more or less his private *minyán*, right?

Aha... And what was your wife's background?

My wife's background was English. But- but we brought up a Jewish family, and we- we now have got four married grandchildren in Israel, and, and fourteen great-grandchildren in Israel, right? And... Our nine grandchildren married under the *chuppah*, *Kedat Moshe veIsrael*. Two are still unmarried. We hope the best for them.

So, was that important for you, the Jewish...? The Jewish...?

Yes, yes. I found- I mean, when at the end of my Stortford years, I had moved quite a long way away. Never had- had no- not much contact with Jewry at all, you see? And as I say, when you asked me whether the- whether the... refugee congregation had taken any interest in me. They hadn't taken any interest in me, right? But later on, I found my way back. I mean it... But when... Really but more or less near the time we got married. I mean when I- when I was- when I was already back in London again as a student, right? Then it was much easier. Right? I mean- when I lived in... 1946, I moved into a... an international student's hostel in Tavistock Square. I had a room in Tavistock Square believe it or not. I mean, nice address, right? And then I was- then I started to return to normality. I wasn't in such a desert - Jewish desert - as the south of London was at the time.

[02:13:04]

But ...the fate of your parents or the war hadn't made you lose your faith?

Not necessarily, no. No, I mean this- this is a very deep philosophical question. It's a very deep philosophical question. We- you want to get back to London today night? [laughing]

Yes, please...

I - I don't think we can start discussing that kind of... philosophy. It's not- quite apart from the fact that my ideas on it are not that fully formed. But... I find no inconsistencies in my behaviour, right? I- despite- despite the fact that I'm a scientist, I still consider religion as an intensely human activity, right?

Yes.

From which one should not necessarily... withdraw oneself. I mean, I was- this may not be a good analogy, but when- we used to have dogs, right? And... Yvonne was quite pleased to have dogs. She always used to walk the dogs. She was a very energetic – you wouldn't necessarily hardly believe it - so very energetic woman: cycling, walking, embroidering, knitting. You know, she- she was never idle. But I come back to the dog. I mean, when I, we had a dog, I, you know, we fed him. We looked after him. He loved us. I mean- I sort of felt that he considered us as his god, right? It is not only- It is not only an animal...instinct or property, right? It is even much, much, much more. A human... property. And you are denying part of your own humanity if you ...if you deny religion, and prayer. And... even if you may have your... It's not so much scientific thought. I mean it is- it is just because you have a scientific insight into man, and his brain and how it developed from, from animals- it's because of that, that you realise that...that religion is part of you. Anyway, that's enough of philosophy.

[02:16:01]

[sound break]

So, you are saying that religion is part of human need...

Yes, more or less...

.... on some level.

More or less. More or less. You, you- I have no taste for the, the debates and the controversies. I can somehow reconcile them inside myself without problem.

No, I was more interested in a personal level. What part of, let's say Jewish life, were you attracted to? Did you then... orthodox or...?

Well, my children- all our children went to Jewish schools. We sent our- when- when we eventually found a house in West Hendon for instance, our two eldest children went to Rosh Pina in Edgware, right? Then the- the other two... both Elizabeth and Jonathan went to the Hasmonian grammar schools. Judy and... and Nicky went to the Jewish Free School. Until Nicky came to Scotland, and then he went for the last couple of years to Scottish school, right? Because, because Glasgow didn't have a... But he was a big boy, and he could sing "There'll Forever be an England", even when Scotland and England were- were due to play football, right? Which was quite... [laughs]

Yeah... So, you- you sent them on a Jewish education.

Yes, they had a- had a reasonable Jewish education, yes. My wife has got a tolerable Jewish education...

Yeah... So, tell us a little bit about your- we haven't spoken – and we're not going to speak in too ... detail, but - about your professional life, and which path you took.

[02:18:07]

Well, I was very lucky, because I- I got a good degree. Because I had such a fantastic background from, from- well, let's do this a little bit more systematically. I told you about going to Chelsea Polytechnic. But Chelsea Polytechnic could not offer an honours course in physiology, right? They just offered the first two years. So, after the end of the war- in fact, there was no honours course available in London. But after the end of the war when University College Medical School came back to London, I wrote to the then Professor Sir Charles Lovatt Evans, and - whose textbooks I had used - and asked him whether he has a place for me... as a student. Now, I got this opportunity because of Attlee government's further education and training grant - right? - which made me eligible as a result of the war work, I had done [inaudible...to go to university.] So, I had a grant at the time of £275.00 which was a very good grant, right, to go to- and of course all fees paid. Lovatt Evans

interviewed me in a most courteous manner I can still recall. The perfect gentleman, I mean- Sir Charles Lovatt Evans he was. But he treated me as if I was already his colleague. I mean this is a wonderful man. And... I was the first student to ask to do the BSc in physiology. And... I was welcomed with open arms. What I did not realise at the time was something which Rabbi Akiva said, right? And which Samson Wright- I don't know, have you heard of Samson Wright? No.

Yes.

...used in his textbook. That more than the calf yearns the suck, the cow yearns to suckle. Right? Which means the teacher is even more anxious to find students...

Yes...

[02:20:32]

... than the student is to find a teacher, right? And so, I- later on, two more medical students joined, so the first BSc Honours class was three! So again, this was a wonderful, you know, small class with fantastic facilities. And my two colleagues, who were medical students, left to carry on with medicine. And I was the first post-war graduate in physiology at University College. And I was needed as a demonstrator. I was immediately appointed as a demonstrator....and... I had a scholarship then which was then upgraded to Assistant Lectureship. And the- it's terrible to say these days when the youngsters have such a problem, but I really never, during my career, had to apply for a job! I got it- I got my- it was the Sharpies-Schaffer Studentship at University College. And... then Assistant Lectureship. And I started research haltingly. Not wonderfully instantly, but I got there. And by 1953, when I had my PhD and I had a number of good papers published, I, through the then Professor Lindor Brown and who was a... very influential man on the all the committees, I got the Rockefeller Travelling Fellowship to go to America. And I went to the laboratory of Stephen Kuffler a very well-known physiologist. We spent two years in America, right? Judy, our third child, was born in America. And I was very careful to make sure that she got her American birth certificate. Because you know, in those days – or long past – I mean, to have somebody who was American was always very valuable.

Sure.

[02:23:58]

Anyway, it did turn out valuable, when Judy married Stephen in Glasgow, she- the fact that she was an American citizenship, helped him to get a job at the space research laboratory in Pasadena, right? So, they were in America for eight years. Two four-year spells, and we used to travel there quite often. But the ...In America again, I partnered up with actually a young German physiologist, but a very fine man, Wolfgang Trautwein. And we did good work on heart muscle, which has become a classic, I daresay. And- so, when I got back to University College, I got a full lectureship and continued there for a while. I only- I gave a lecture quite recently, last month, at the Dublin Conference- Joint Conference of... British and American Physiological Society, describing some of my work during that time. A historical lecture. And I was then offered a job at the National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill. It so happened that I had, we had bought the house, old house, in Mill Hill a couple of years earlier, and this was really a dream come true. And I spent a decade in Mill Hill working mostly on, on membrane physiology and, and iron transport and things like that, in muscle. And I then... got the job in... in Glasgow, where I was the- there comes a stage during one's career - I suppose in one's forties - when one has to decide whether one is going to stay on purely in research or whether one is going to go back to university. Most people choose to go back to university. And you then have to kind of take whatever Chair is going. It happened this time that this was the Chair in Glasgow. It also happened to be a Royal Appointment. You can see up there...

Yes...

[02:25:51]

My- Elizabeth- my Royal Warrant to become Regius Professor of Physiology in Glasgow. That was in 1970. It involved a lot of... of new work. It was the place was a bit old-fashioned and needed to be brought up-to-date. There were some good people there. But a lot of new things to be learned. The Scots are very good at administering and doing things like that. But I was given absolutely no guidance as to what really was involved in the job. I mean it was

just like- For the first year, it was like running a hurdle race without knowing what the next hurdle was going to be like. [half-laughing] Whether there was going to be water on the other side or not. So, it- it took some time to get used to. Also, the actual... attitude to teaching at, in Glasgow was very different from that at University College. At University College any form of spoon-feeding – right - was looked down upon. You know, the job of a Lecturer was to indicate to students what to learn, and where to learn it, and where to get it and, and give perhaps some gloss on this personal opinion. In Glasgow, you were meant to kind of give the students notes to- by which they could pass their examination. The joke was that if at the beginning of the lecture you wrote on the blackboard, ‘Good morning, gentlemen’, that they would copy ‘good morning, gentlemen’. [both laugh] But that’s slightly overdoing it. But it, it- I worked very hard trying to change the culture... of that. I’m not sure whether I really succeeded or not. And so, the years passed quickly. The...The great pleasure which we got from Scotland is that at a fairly early stage, I had promised my children that I would- I would buy an island, right? Well now, I didn’t quite buy an island, but I bought- we travelled around, and I bought a very small and one-a-half room flat on, at- Kilchattan Bay, at the southern tip of the Isle of Bute. We later moved to a slightly larger flat, which had a very nice large garden. And also next to the garden there was a neglected field, which belonged like all the land there, to the Marquess of Bute. And I managed to persuade the factor to give me an agricultural lease of that piece of land. And I then got a local man to clear it up for me. We- there were any number of mattresses... motorbike parts and hundreds of dead men in the field. Now, do you know what a ‘dead man’ is in Scotland?

No.

No? A ‘dead man’ in Scotland is an empty whisky bottle.

Oh, OK...

Right? So, it had been a - a dumping ground. Right? But I knew that it was very fertile soil, because there were lush stinging nettles. Especially- stinging nettles only grow well in fertile soil. And especially near the gate, the stinging nettles were wonderful. Now I found out that that particular piece of ground was the in-field of a croft- the building of the croft was still there. Now the in-field... was the field in which the crofters kept the cattle during winter, right?

I see... yeah...

And you can see, with cattle standing near the gate waiting to be feeding - right? - for perhaps decades... [with laughter] how fertile the ground would be around there.

[02:30:03]

Yes. Because of all the...

Yeah... [both laugh] Well, anyway, I grew wonderful crops of... beans and soft fruit. And we were there for twenty years. And even after, after I'd retired from the Chair, the, our little hideout on Kilchattan Bay right on the seaside kept us there for the next five or six years. But then Yvonne's legs started to get worse and worse and we couldn't- we realised that we couldn't stay there for much longer. Besides that, the rest of the family was down here. Although they loved coming up to Scotland and, and so... we left. Funnily enough, my grandson Joseph from Israel – he lives in Yerushalaim - and his American wife, Abby, right? He had told Abby – and their two boys- he had told Abby so much about how he loved Kilchattan Bay that months ago, when they were visiting us in England, Elizabeth took them back to Kilchattan Bay for three days and to- I have a whole load of photographs here. And Abby loved it just as much as, as Joseph did. So actually, our time, the time we spent in Scotland, the most memorable and the most enjoyable time for both us and the family was the weekends and we – we spent at Kilchattan Bay. Now you see Scotland... west of Scotland, it, it has a poor climate. But there are also nice, sunny days. And provided only that you have the liberty in your employment, in your job – right? - to get out of Glasgow at the right time, when the sun shines – right? - it's still very pleasant and wonderfully green. When I first came to my new department, I remember that in June, fine summer, still term time, the whole staff disappeared. I asked myself, "Goodness me! What kind of place have I arrived in? People are not working..." – you know – "at all." And then I realised, that for a Glaswegian, if it's fine weather and you are keen on golf, you leave your work behind and you go along to the golf course or wherever you want. There will be plenty of time during November, December, January, February to stay- to stay indoors and get your work done. Provided that you can make use of that good weather when it is in Scotland. When it is an empty cyclone

over the Azores – right? - that is the time to go to the west of Scotland and to enjoy it, right?
And it's wonderful.

[02:32:57]

And were there- did you meet any other refugees in Scotland?

Oh yes, I mean... two other professors at Glasgow University were... refugees, if not Kinder!
Subak- Sharpe ...

He was a Kinder.

... who... fine immunologist, Director of an MRC Institute...was there. And... I have his
biography. The Scottish channel have- you have already interviewed him.

Yes.

And Karl Overton, a chemist - right- was there too. It was three of us, which- pretty good for,
for one university.

*Yes, and I also interviewed – I don't know if you know her - Liselotte Kastner. Her father was
a GP in Glasgow. Does that name...?*

Kastner...

Kastner.

I don't know any... we- we... again, in Glasgow, the situation was different. In Glasgow the
Jewish... community had moved south. They started off in the Gorbals – right? – south of the
river. And they moved further and further south to Newton Mearns. You know Newton
Mearns? But the old synagogue there, the Garnethill Synagogue - wonderful building, right? -
was still in the city, right? And it was a small community. Some of which came up from-
from the south. Others - there were still a few families in the West End where- where we
lived. Because we lived near the university in the West End and, and were only members of

Garnethill, we didn't- we never learned to know much of the southern ...Glasgow Jewish community. But Garnethill was good enough for us.

[02:34:47]

By the time you moved only one of your children came with you? The other stayed in London, or...?

Two...

Two.

Two... Jonathan had just started medicine. Elizabeth... I think had just either finished or... she married within a year or two of us going up to- to Glasgow. And I think it was both Judy – both Judy and Nicky who came up. Judy was already seventeen. And she could, within the Scottish system, she didn't have to go back and finish school. She went to the Royal Academy of Music in Glasgow and graduated from there. Nicky was still school-age and as I say, a couple of years or so he was at school in Glasgow and held his own [laughing] as English supporter amongst the Scottish football supporters of, of, of his school. He then went and took a degree at– not at Edinburgh University itself, but... Napier College, at Napier College Edinburgh which actually offered very good courses in science and business and so on, right? Also, he, he, he enjoyed the Air Squadron and actually flew- flew solo. He tried to persuade me to support him to become a pilot. I wasn't quite prepared for that. Quite- quite apart from... from the expense of it, which is considerable, I didn't like having my son up in the air at that time. Maybe it was a mistake.

[02:36:51]

Yeah... And when did you move to Bournemouth?

I beg your pardon?

When did you move to Bournemouth?

Ah- well, when Judith came back from American, I mean she settled in Bournemouth, with Stephen having a job as lecturer in aeronautics in Southampton. So, Bournemouth seemed a reasonable southern base for us. And we visited it several times, of course. And when I eventually I had enough money to put down a deposit on some small flat, I... bought a, a, a flat at Ocean Heights, which is a little way from here, right? And... that would be ... a ...good twenty years ago now, right? And we used this as our southern base. But the regulations in that big modern block were awkward. You couldn't allow- you couldn't let the place for summer holiday people. It had to be a minimum of six months. And also, when our grandchildren visited and made any kind of noise in the garden, old ladies would come along at the window and wag their- and... So, we decided that this kind of... block wasn't for us and we started to look around for somewhere else. And this flat, because it involved also getting the freehold, and so nobody could tell us what we are allowed to do. And it wasn't a mistake. We've always been- been happy here. And so... as we came down, we sold up in Glasgow around 2005, and then came down permanently to live in Bournemouth. And we've integrated quite well into the community here.

Yeah... At what point- I wanted to ask you, at what point did you become British?

Oh, in 1947, when I swore my oath of allegiance to some- somewhere in, in Gower Street there was a solicitor who was a Commissioner of Oaths, that's right. Yes. Yes, 1947.

And was that important for you?

[02:39:28]

Oh yes, of course. And to have a British passport. I, and I first time went abroad in 1950 to some congress in Copenhagen. The, the physiological congresses... provided me with plenty of travel during my professional life. And I was also then on the Committee and on the Council.

And when did- did you go back to Austria? Did you go back to Vienna?

I went back to Vienna twice. Once in 1963, after a conference in Prague. I spent just a few hours in Vienna and was utterly appalled by the total absence of any remembrance of the

Jewish community. The Jewish community was still *ausgerottet* [wiped out, extinguished] right? I went back again about five or six years ago, to erect- to install one of the Stolpersteine with my children. Things had improved by then, and there were at least some memorials and, and so on.

And what did it feel like to come back for the first time when you came back to Vienna?

Horrible. The first time, as I say, I was only there for a few hours. I would neither eat nor drink in the place. Right? I had decided that before I went there, right? And of course, I found that the building was destroyed and so on- in which we lived was destroyed. I walked around and- I did not really mean to go back, but then I found that I- that my family in particular my children, really badly wanted to come see. And that they had totally wrong imaginations; Elizabeth told me that she thought I lived in a little village somewhere and not in the, near the centre of the town. They were pleased to come.

And who did you put the Stolpersteine for? What names are on the Stolpersteine?

The names on the Stolpersteine are those of, of my parents. And what I put on the Stolpersteine, because I didn't know then, that in all likelihood they... were murdered in... in Belzec, because that is where Operation Reinhard transported most people from... from Galicia. But as I say, two or three years ago, since I installed the Stolpersteine, I learned about this. But I didn't change the Stolperstein.

[02:41:56]

No. And was it- was that important for you to have that memorial there in Vienna?

Yes, I think so. I mean, even more important was of course to take the family. I mean... and as I say, I have a very nice... video which my son- grandson Joseph's made. I'll have to look this- this and various things up to- to collect them together and I'll send them to you for whatever archive you have, because it's quite good material. And personally, I much prefer to express myself in the written word, which I can control better than in the spoken word.

Well, I think you are- you are doing very well in the spoken word. Did- did you talk to your children about your past at all? Was that a topic?

[Interruption]

[02:43:00]

Yeah...And you feel now that in Austria there are more memorials and there is more... But do you feel something's changed?

I think- I think there has been an improvement, but I'm not at all sure that the... the xenophobic Austrian attitude has been vanquished.

And- and how would you identify yourself today? How would you describe yourself in terms of your identity?

Well, I think I'd leave this to other people. But... I suppose as a... English retired academic, physiologist and *pater familias* of a- of a large, happily of a large family, getting towards the end of his days! Because... starting to sink.

And... you have a very big family, so how- What was important to transmit apart from the Judaism of your Austrian or continental background? Was there anything in particular?

[02:44:13]

I don't think very much from my continental background... Making *Einbrenne* [*roux*] with the spinach. [both laugh] Making *Einbrenne* with garlic... mixed with spinach, rather than having the spinach raw.

Yeah. You have to explain what- I know what Einbrenne is, but what is it in English? It's a...

I have no idea what it is, but... But- but whenever I make *Einbrenne*, I think of my mother, because she- she showed me how to make it. And of course, in Vienna, nobody would dream

of eating cabbage or spinach or something like that without it having been enriched with *Einbrenne* and other flavours. But... I don't mind English cooking.

Tell us what is Einbrenne? What- what would you make?

Eh?

What is it? What is an Einbrenne? How do you make it?

Einbrenne? Oh, you just took a little bit of oil and some, some flour... nothing... and let it heat up until the flour turns golden. Nothing to it. Then pour whatever vegetables you have- Or you can put a little garlic or whatever you want into it –garlic powder, garlic – at the same time. Or onion or- and- and that's an *Einbrenne* isn't it? I'm only using...

That's an Einbrenne?

I'm only using that word because I know that you would understand it, you see?

I know. I do understand it; that's a nice word. Yes... yes.

No- nobody else would... would really know this.

Is there any food or anything you, you miss from Vienna? Anything?

Oh, nothing. Nothing. I miss nothing from Vienna. Goodness me. No. I mean I, I have no, no... No love or...

You don't feel sentimental or...?

[02:46:11]

No love or any sentimental, yeah. No, no... no. I mean, both my visits were really quite reluctant. And- and I remember- I remember running out of the- when we visited the Jewish Museum with its... the books- the book memorial. Then going into the Rotenturmstrasse

where mother and my sis- Rita- Mama and Rita used to love window shopping in the Rotenturmstrasse, you know, there, they used to go. And I was dragged along as a boy. I never liked it very much. [with emotion] But the memory came back to me so strongly, I ran out of the place.

Yes... too much. Was...not... Mnn.

No.

How- how do you think have your experience shaped your later life? Your experiences as a- from the Kindertransport? The separation and the...?

Well, I've always taken care to keep in good contact with my family, with my grandchildren and, and great-grandchildren, and so on, right? Always given priority to... to- to them. It's made me perhaps a little cautious and unadventurous. You know... And ...perhaps the most significant moment... was when I did have an opportunity to stay on in America, in 1955. And no less than a job at Harvard. But Harvard was not then, as far as physiology goes, as good as University College, right? And I decided I had enough with moving country once. And I didn't really want to make another change and came back to England. That was perhaps the most, the one decision I made... where my past influenced me in a major way.

Yeah. ...And just to, because we talked briefly about your academic life. What is it you're most proud of in terms of your- your research or your...?

[02:48:49]

Well, I had... In the one review of my academic life, I call it 'a peripatetic physiologist', right? Because actually, I did not stick to any one topic for very long. The way it happened, I - I made my mark in working on neuro-muscular and ganglionic physiology, then on cardiac physiology. Then again on... muscle membrane physiology. I jumped about a bit. Bit opportunistic of me perhaps, rather than holding one particular theme which is the better way to achieve fame. On the other hand, the broader experience, I think has made me a better teacher. Then I still find that when I go to meetings and I hear papers I - I often find that I have something to contribute to quite a variety of, of, of fields. But... more as a perhaps

generalist. But the work I did on heart muscle together with Wolfgang Trautman [Trautwein] is perhaps the most cited work. That was on the origin of the heart beat and the nervous control of the heart by the vagus nerve and the sympathetic nerve, right? And that was early classical work. But there were other good papers. And when I re-read, I, I took immense pains over writing papers. And to some extent that limited the number I have written. I could have written more if I had been less fussy. But- but when I do look at them again, they're all very good. And I don't think that anything that we had discovered or shown was ever disproven.

And how different do you think your life would have been if you hadn't been forced to emigrate?

Oh, I think it would have been much worse! Much worse. I think the opportunities would have been much worse and I don't know- I have often thought... what would have happened to me in Vienna, and I never liked that prospect.

No?

No.

Why? What do you think would have happened?

I have no idea which way, but I, I ... I don't know what kind of job I would have ever got and so on. No, I'm afraid I, I fell on my feet. And that is one of the reasons, and I've been so extraordinarily lucky- and that is one of the reasons why, if anything, I suffer from the- the guilt of the survivor. You know Bertelheim [Bettelheim]? What was his...?

[02:51:48]

Bruno Bettelheim.

Bruno, Bruno Bertelheim. Right. Bruno Bertelheim who wrote about that, right? And in contrast for instance to Walter, who has spoken a lot to schools and so on, I've never felt that I could justify telling them how lucky I was... in, in so many different ways, right?

Yeah...

And as I say, I had all the luck in my family. My parents didn't, and nor had my sister, right? I was- I was the lucky one. Let's hope it continues.

Yeah. Is there any message you have for anyone who might watch this interview in the future... based on your experiences?

Well, you won't have such a nice interviewer as I have had. [laughs]

[Bea laughs]

Or, is there anything we haven't talked about, you would like to add?

No, no we have- we have talked about a lot. But as I say, there are several essays about the Blaxills for instance, about other topics, which I've written on - on different occasions, which I'd be happy to send you, give you copies of.

That's wonderful. Message, anything? No. Then I'd like to thank you very, very much for sharing your story with us. And we are going to look at some of your photographs. And thank you for taking the time to talk to AJR refugee voices.

It was my pleasure.

Thank you.

[End of interview]

[2:53:30]

[Start of photographs]

[2:53:46]

Photo 1

My mother and father, taken during the war, probably around 1917. And probably at their engagement. Elizabeth Grünberg and Isaak Hutter.

Photo 2

Rita and Otto Hutter, Vienna, probably 1929.

Photo 3.

Group photograph of primary school class. 1930. Kleine Sperlgasse School.

And, where are you?

I am from the right, second row, and fifth from the left in the second row. Wearing a white jacket.

Photo 4.

Picture taken on enrolling into Kindertransport at Hotel Metropole 4th December 1938.

Photo 5.

Dovercourt Bay, December 1938. I'm the boy two-thirds of the way along the huts, wearing knickerbockers and leaning languidly... languilly – languinly...

Languidly...

[laughs]... languidly...against the hut.

Photo 6.

Otto Hutter as laboratory technician at the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories, Beckenham, Kent. 1944.

[02:56:06]

Photo 7

Otto Hutter as student, in 1947 at University College, walking along Tottenham Court Road. Shot by one of these... pavement photographers.

Photo 8

Right. Otto Hutter dressed up as Honorary Doctor of Science. The first DSc degree to be awarded by the nascent Glasgow Caledonian University, for services rendered.

And next to you?

With his wife, Yvonne, by his side. About 1940 – Sorry! About... 2000. About 2000.

Photo 9

This is a large part of the Hutter family assembled at the wedding of our granddaughter, Nicole Hutter, about 2008. In London. At... the Royal Institution of Chartered Civil Engineers.

Photo 10

Right, our daughter Elizabeth with her husband Lionel Finkelstein, and their children and grandchildren, in Israel. Circa 2012. More grandchildren and great grandchildren have arrived since.

[02:58:01]

Document 1

Document permitting entry into the United Kingdom, December 1938.

Document 2

Number tag issued to Otto Hutter on registration for Kindertransport. 4th December 1938. 360 children were registered that day.

And did you always keep this with you?

Well, I, I- I keep it in the *Shemot*. The- in my- I'll show you, in my book - Exodus. Right? *Shemot*. I keep it inside there.

Document 3

The last message received from our parents, 8th May 1942, enquiring what Otto might do after he leaves school.

Can you read it in German? What does it say?

Wir sind gesund – We are well. *Wo wird Otto nach der Schule sein?* – What will Otto do after finishing school? *Ist Rita noch im Spital?* Is Rita still in hospital (training as a nurse) *Viele Küsse.* – Many kisses. *Eltern* - Parents.

Photo 11

Stolperstein installed at the entrance - the present entrance - to number 3 Lilienbrunnngasse, in the Leopoldstadt. The, the... The, the comment that our – my parents were murdered in Belzec was a supposition. I know now, that they might have been murdered in a pogrom in Yarachiv Novyi in January 1943.

Photo 12

Otto in conversation with His Royal Highness Prince Charles at the Kindertransport 70th reunion, I believe. I fell into a tutorial mode, when I discovered that Prince Charles seemingly did not know much about the origin of Regius Chairs endowed by his great-grandmother perhaps, Queen Victoria, under Albert's influence. He clearly was amused by my explanation.

When was this?

Well, which one was the one in the... Jewish Free School? Which one? Was it the 70th or the 70-65th? I can't- I can't quite remember. It would be about eight or nine years ago. Let's work this out. Thirty-eight... It was probably 19-2008 - probably 200-8. That would be ...'38... 2008. That's 70th. Yes. That would have been the 70th reunion.

Document 4

A Royal Warrant issued to Otto Fred Hutter, Esq BSc PhD on his appointment as, to the Regius Chair in Physiology, in the University of Glasgow.

Otto thank you very, very much for sharing your story and your photographs with the AJR Refugee Voices Archive.

[End of Photos and Documents]

[03:02:02]

[End of all sound]

[03:02:23]