IMPORTANT

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Interview Transcript Title Page

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Interviewee Surname:	Norton
Forename:	Emanuela (Taddie)
Interviewee Sex:	Female
Interviewee DOB:	25 August 1925
Interviewee POB:	Vienna, Austria

Date of Interview:	19 April 2022
Location of Interview:	London
Name of Interviewer:	Dr. Bea Lewkowicz
Total Duration (HH:MM):	1 hour 40 minutes

[00:00:04] *Today is the 19th of April 2022. My name is Bea Lewkowicz, and we are conducting an interview with Mrs Taddie Norton, and we are in London. What is your name please?*

Emanuela Norton.

And when and where were you born please?

25th of August 1925.

Thank you very much. Thank you very much for agreeing to be interviewed for the AJR Refugee Voices archive. Taddie, can you please tell me a little bit about your family background?

From when I was a child?

Yeah.

I was born in Vienna, I have three sisters – I had three sisters, I have only two now, and my mother and – [pause] otherwise my grandmother, one grandfather. I went to school until Hitler arrived, then we were thrown out of that school. I went into a *Judenschule*. I left Vienna in August 1938 to go to Prague. My mother had family there. What else?

Can you tell me a little bit about your grandparents, your parents, where they met, when they married?

I can't tell you these things because I don't know them. I knew my grandmothers. My grandfathers – one grandfather. The other one had died when I was very little. But I cannot remember very much about them except for my one grandmother, the grandmothers.

What were they called?

My mother's mother was called Julie Wendlinger. **[00:02:03]** And my other one was called Weiss obviously, Bertha Weiss.

And which part of Vienna, where did you live?

I lived in the Salvatorgasse, Wien I, first district.

And can you describe it a little bit? What are your first memories of growing up in Vienna?

When I grew up I lived somewhere else. I don't remember the name of it because I moved when I was about three or so. I don't remember very much about it. I tried to shut it out, and as I say, I went to school until I was thrown out.

You said you tried to shut it out Taddie. Why do you try to shut it out?

Because the older I get, the more the nasty memories come back.

Yeah, so what sort of – I know it's difficult to talk about it, but here we are for that purpose. What nasty memories?

For instance, my mother took in a lady with her son so that they wouldn't find her, but of course he came to – they did find her. Our *Hausbesorger* [caretaker] told them and they came and took him away. They threw him down and dragged him out with his mother screaming. That's one of the nasty things. My father was made to scrub the floors. That's when he left Vienna 'cos he was scared.

Yeah, when was that? After the Anschluss?

Yes, of course. Our house had two blocks, the flat where we lived, and in the back the *Hitlerjugend* [Hitler Youth] moved in. **[00:04:01]** It was very unpleasant. One day they pushed me against the lamppost and that's – we had the police station very near and they knew us, they knew my mother from walking up and down. And she told them, and she said,

'I want to make a complaint,' and he said, 'Whatever you do, don't do that because they'll arrest you.' That's one of the things I know. And slowly, lots of our friends left, I was told, and that's when we left in '38.

And Taddie, what about before? You went to the Volksschule. What was the – what friends did you have and, you know, before 1938?

I had a lot of friends. One very good friend who lived opposite me. She wasn't Jewish and after Hitler came she was told she mustn't see me any more. In school I had other friends as well. They were Jewish most of them. When we went to the *Judenschule,* one day they came in from a paper called the *Stürmer,* and they pulled one girl out by the hair who looked very Jewish and photographed her. And one of them called out, '*Aber wir sind doch Kinder.'* 'We are children.' He said, 'Shut your mouth or I'll take you too.' These are the memories I'm trying not to remember.

It's painful.

Because otherwise I get nightmares.

Yeah.

Then, as I say, we went to Prague because when Hitler came to Czechoslovakia- we had gone to Prague from Vienna 'cos my mother had relations there, close relations, who helped us. **[00:06:11]** And I couldn't go to school because I couldn't understand the language, so I played truant most of the time. And I used to go to the office where they arranged the Kindertransport 'cos my mother always said to me she wasn't very good at it. And when I was in Prague, I did nothing.

And were you there with your two sisters or with one sister?

No, both sisters were there, but we couldn't all go into the – live in the flat where we were. So, my grandmother lived with us, step-sister of hers, and my sister, whom I lost a long time ago, was with my father and with my grandmother in a different place.

Taddie, just before we – just I wanted to ask you about before, tell us, what was your father's profession? What did he do in Vienna?

He had some *Kaffee* houses as far as I know and a bookmaker's shop. I don't know details because I was too young to take any interest and it never came up.

But he had some cafés.

Yes, as far as I know he had one, but I can't give you any details because I don't know them.

Yeah.

And after he left – he was in Germany, while I know that, and then he came to – back to Vienna, and when he was made to scrub the floors in the street, he reckoned it was time to leave. And he somehow got himself to Prague. **[00:08:02]** I don't know how.

So you were together in Prague, your parents and the three –?

Well, no, we didn't live together.

But everyone was there.

Everyone was there, yes.

And Taddie, do you remember the Anschluss in March? Do you remember?

Yes [laughs].

You remember as well, where were you, what happened?

I was at home. I heard it all on the radio. There's nothing much to remember except they marched in. And then it started.

Was it a gradual change from then or was it –?

Not really, no. It was pretty quick. Without the people. Like school and that. And I remember one day a lovely teacher, the day we had to leave, she said, 'I'm afraid to tell you that the Israelis, the *Israeliten*, have to leave now.' And one of the girls, twelve years old, piped up and said – can I say it in German?

Yes, of course.

'Das sind keine Israeliten, das sind Dreckuden' [They aren't Israelites, they are dirty Jews!]. You see, I try to – not to think about these things any more, and I hope I can sleep tonight [laughs].

Yeah, I'm sorry, that comes with this interview.

[Inaudible].

Yeah.

And then we were in Prague for nearly a year, and as I say, Hitler caught up with us again and that's when I came to England.

And how did you manage to get to Prague exactly? How did you leave Vienna?

How to get to Prague?

Yeah.

We took a bus as far as the border, and from there we walked. I don't know to this day how we found our way. **[00:10:00]** I mean, we had no compasses or – luckily it was a light night and we could see, but we had to cross a little bit of water. And as I said, we were caught by the Czech police and he said, 'Don't worry, I'm not sending you back, but I'm going to see what other Jews will do for you.' And he took us to a Jewish family who allowed us to have a bath, and the next day she took us to the train station in Brno- in Brünn. And there we caught a train to Prague. On the way it was very strange. We were in this café waiting for the – and suddenly my mother turned round and said, 'I know this voice.' And she recognised somebody whom she knew as a young woman. And suddenly he said to my grandmother in German, 'Take the children into the loo and stay there,' because he saw that some policemen but in civil clothes came. And he spoke to them. He said, 'This is my wife. Just go away,' and they left us. And that's how we managed not to be – because the officials would have sent us back.

Hmm-mm. But you were not with your father, just your mother.

No, my father had already left.

Right.

He met us in Prague. And after that –

Yes, we were talking about Prague.

Yeah.

So you had a year in Prague.

We had a year in Prague.

But mostly not going to school much you said?

No.

And your sisters? Were they younger your sisters or what –?

No. One sister was three years older, and the other one was three years younger. **[00:12:03]**

You were in the middle.

Yeah.

And did they go to school or what did they do?

No.

No.

No.

And what –

Well, the one was already sixteen.

Yeah. What did you manage to bring from Vienna? Did you manage to bring anything, any of your possessions?

One little suitcase, for the family they called it. And before I left- a cousin of my grandmother's gave me a little gold chain. A tiny, thin, little gold chain. And they ripped that off me. And memories I have when I left, my grandmother – [cries] – sorry. I loved her dearly. Standing there. Sorry. Waving goodbye. And I never saw her again. She went to live in a little village with a sister of hers I think, and she was married to a non-Jew. But they still

took them both away. They were taken to Treblinka and then my – her sister survived and came to see us, but my grandmother was taken to Dachau.

What was her name Taddie? What was her name, your grandmother's name?

Julie Wendlinger.

Ah, that was her. She thought she was safe because she was married to a non-Jewish man.

Yeah.

Yeah [pause].

They took them both, but she survived- she was a lot younger and stronger. My grandmother was already in her seventies then.

And you were close to her. You were close to her.

Very. Very. **[00:14:00]**

Did she live nearby? Did she live in –?

Not too far, not too far, but she was with us every day [pause].

Okay.

You can carry on. I'm all right now.

Okay. So, in Prague, were there preparation – you said you went to the Kindertransport office. Was the idea that you would – there are possibilities that you have to move on or –?

Yes, yes. They were very good, very kind. And eventually they told us, yes. And how they got my mother on the train I don't know, but it happened.

So, who was eligible to go on the Kindertransport?

Well, my younger sister. The older sister unfortunately was over sixteen, just over sixteen, so she was too young – she was too old, and she was too young for a domestic permit. Had the War been two weeks perhaps later, my father might have been in England and my sister, because the people who took me in talked to others and they promised the Butler's permit, and the other one promised, I don't know what as, a children's nurse or something. I came to London. My English wasn't good. I went to the Home Office to try and get permits for them, and it looked very hopeful, but the War broke out too soon.

So you came on Kindertransport organised by Nicholas Winton.

Yeah.

But you didn't know – you haven't heard the name Nicholas Winton I assume?

No.

No. So what did you know what was happening?

I knew nothing except what was happening there. I knew nothing about the Kindertransport. They didn't tell us much. **[00:16:00]** Well, they didn't tell me much.

Yeah. So please tell us, what other memories of – what actually happened?

When I came here, when I came-?

From Prague. Describe the journey a little bit please.

The journey. They came wandering through in German uniforms. When we got to Holland, people were standing on the quay and giving sandwiches. My first taste of white bread [laughs], I still don't like it [laughs]. And then- we took the train to Liverpool Street Station where the people who took me in were waiting, and my sisters, and my other – my sister screamed the place down because she didn't want to leave me. My people promised they would come and see her the next day. I was very lucky. They were very nice people. My sister wasn't so very happy. The people who took me in had a daughter who was older than me, and she was engaged. And her fiancé's people arranged – managed to get her into school, into school there, into a boarding school in Erdington. I don't know whether it was an orphanage. No, it couldn't have been because other people lived there who had parents. Anyhow, she was in that – I managed to go and see her every Sunday.

And you stayed with the family.

I stayed with the family.

And what was the name of the family?

Seymour.

Seymour.

Yeah.

Hmm-mm.

And I'm still in touch with the granddaughter who is now eighty.

That's nice. ***[00:18:00]*** *They were a Jewish- non-Jewish family?*

No, non-Jewish.

And you said, sorry to come back, your mother was on the same train.

Yes.

So she received a domestic permit.

She was on a domestic permit.

To go where? Where was she –?

Unfortunately, London. She had to go to London.

Right, and you were off to go to Birmingham. Both of you.

Yes, we were taken to Birmingham, and then managed to find a place for my mother in Birmingham.

And what sort of people were they who took you in, and why do you think that they'd take a child?

I don't know why. They were very plain working people. Very, very kind.

How did you manage to speak to them Taddie?

Very little at first. I used to try and translate things but, you know, instead of saying what can I do to help to do something, you know, to help a little bit in the house, I used to say what can I make [laughs]? That sort of thing. But I learned very quickly. They used to get me English books from the library. Books which I really shouldn't have read at that age 'cos I was only fourteen. I don't know whether I quite understood them, Zweig [inaudible] and Thomas Mann and that sort of –

Uh-huh, in English?

Yeah [both laugh]. No, no in German.

Uh-huh.

In German. In the library in town, in the city.

Right.

They got –

They wanted to make you feel comfortable.

They were very kind, yes.

Yeah. And what were your first impressions, do you remember, of arriving in England?

I felt – I was surprised at the houses because I've never seen little houses. It was a very small-semi-detached house. I'd never seen houses like that [laughs]. And the way people lived and what they ate. **[00:20:00]**

What did they eat? What was different?

Tea with milk [laughs]. I never had tea with milk. I know people probably did, but I didn't have tea with milk. And white bread [laughs]. And the vegetables were always cooked in water. That sort of thing. But I was happy there, I was – I didn't feel they had to do it. They did it because they wanted to. That was the difference.

You felt welcomed.

Yes.

Yes. What about school? Did they send you to school in England?

No. I was already fourteen by then.

So when you came you didn't continue your schooling?

No, unfortunately, no.

And were you expected to do some chores in the house, or what?

No. I went to work very quickly because where my mother was as a domestic to a German lady who was working for a big firm called Peacock in Birmingham which was like Woolworth. And the director came often, and he said to me one day, 'If you like, I will get you a working permit and you can come and work for me. But it has to be in the factory.' So, I went there, and they were talking about why is there war and because of the Jews, so I said, 'Have you ever met one?' They said, 'No, how could we?' I said, 'Well, you have now.' They were very surprised that I looked normal [laughs]. And then I left there after a while, and I went to work very near my home then in a laundry- office. **[00:22:02]** So all I had to do was figures which was easy, I had no problem. And then I left there. By then I could speak English fairly well. I had to go and live with my mother because the lady was interned, so I went to live with my mother.

Which lady was interned?

The lady who owned the house.

Oh, I see.

But it really belonged to the firm, but –

So you moved out from –?

The lady my mother worked for, she was German, she was interned. She was sent to the Isle of Man, I think. So my mother didn't want to be alone 'cos it was very bad bombing at that time.

So you moved out from the family.

Yeah.

To join your mother.

Yeah.

Was your mother – your mother wasn't interned, and you were not interned.

No. But we had a curfew, ten o'clock. Well, nobody wanted to be out because the bombs were falling all night, and they used to come up and check on us. Police.

Did you have a tribunal? Did you have to go to tribunal?

No, I just got an alien's book when I was sixteen and – when I was sixteen, I was registered as an enemy alien, and they used to keep coming to us. If we needed anything the policeman could get it [laughs]. In fact, it was very strange. After I was married, we went to a [inaudible] exhibition in Birmingham once and we parked in a big car park, and somebody kept yelling, 'Emanuela, Emanuela!' – I was only called Taddie after I got married – and it was one of the policemen who recognised me [laughs].

Hmm-mm.

They were very kind. I found people very kind.

You didn't have negative experiences.

No.

In Birmingham.

No, and –

Did you have contact to other refugees at that point?

Yes. I joined Young Austria. **[00:24:01]**

Uh-huh. Tell us a bit about Young Austria, Taddie.

Young Austria?

Yeah.

Well, they were mainly sort of – the top ones turned them into Communists, and that I didn't really like because by then Russia had started as well. And I met people there. One of them was a lifelong friend. She died two years ago. She was actually German, but she was from Munich or somewhere like this, and she didn't like the German part, so she joined Young Austria. She was welcome. Some of them went back to Vienna, and I was in touch with quite a few of them for some time, but then I came to London. But this friend of mine, she also came to London. She was in the fire service during the War, and she married somebody she met there, and they moved to London. Otherwise, they used to give lectures and they used to do speeches, sort of thing. All very Communist minded.

Do you remember some of the songs? There was some singing, right?

No.

No?

No, I don't remember singing. No, I don't think so. It wouldn't have been any good to me. I can't get a sound out of my [both laugh].

Because we had one interview who was singing some of the songs, the Young Austria songs. I can't remember them now, but –

No, I don't remember any singing. I was told at school if there were any choirs or something, 'You can open your mouth, but don't let anything come out,' [both laugh]. It's the truth. I can hear perfectly well, you know, pitch and everything, but I can't get a sound out of my –
[00:26:01]

When were the meetings of Young Austria? On the weekend? When did they meet up?

I think in the evenings. Then it started getting earlier because of the bombs. And one night one of my friends, English friends whom I worked with, stayed with me and they were going to see a family in the morning on the way to work, and the road was closed. A landmine had come down. You know what the landmines were? They could demolish a whole street, but touch wood they were all right. But the scare we had when they wouldn't let us – she said, 'Look, I live here.' My friend said, 'I live here. I want to see that my parents are all right.' So, they let us through.

And Taddie, were you upset that you couldn't continue your education, or did you just accept –

Yes.

You were upset.

Yes. I did.

Did you try to?

I had no chance.

No.

I had no chance [laughs]. No chance.

Was it other – was there a refugee committee? Were you in touch with anyone –?

Well, only in Austria. No [pause].

It was just clear that it was expected that you start to work?

Yes. More or less I think, yes. As I said, they were not wealthy people. My mother came to Birmingham, and she got a job just outside Birmingham in a wonderful estate, but she couldn't speak English, so I had to go with her. But she didn't get on with them, they didn't get on with her. They played all sorts of silly tricks on her, so she wasn't going to stay. So, my people – the neighbour of my family came in the car to fetch us and when she saw the place she said, 'Oh my God, you don't want to leave here, do you?' **[00:28:14]** In fact, they promised me – I loved horses from then on because they had horses, and they promised me a horse if I stay. I couldn't do it. So, I was very young. I just felt it wasn't right. So, I went back to my family.

You felt you couldn't desert them.

No.

Because you felt grateful to them.

Yeah, and then I got very fond of them, they were so kind. And then as I say, I had to go and live with my mother 'cos she didn't want to be on her own.

And did you then return to the family, or did you stay with your mother?

No, no.

From then.

Yeah.

When was that, Taddie?

1941 I think when all the bombs were [inaudible].

Right, so you stayed with the family for about a year?

Yes, something like that. I'm not quite sure of the dates.

And how did your mother manage with the domestic – I mean, it must have been difficult.

Well, she then went to work as a cook.

Okay.

She wasn't a domestic when we came back. When she came back to London she worked in a very posh restaurant in the City. And we were very lucky, she used to bring lots of things- but then we had rented a house from a family who wanted to be out of London.

Where?

In Borstal. Borstal. It's just outside Birmingham. I still had to go to work in Birmingham. And she used to bring things home because English people wouldn't eat certain giblets and that sort of thing. **[00:30:00]** Liver and that.

Did she cook any Austrian food?

Yes, she cooked, she was a pastry cook. And she cooked some *Apfelstrudel,* and *Sachertorte,* and that sort of thing when they could get the – you know, they couldn't always get all the eggs and things they needed. We were rationed to one egg a week per person.

Yeah. And your sister stayed in the boarding school?

Yes, she stayed in the boarding school, and they used to take them to a place that was *Hakhshara* and she – and her husband was already in the Army. He was German, but he was already in the Army, but on leave he went to help as well to pick potatoes and that sort of thing, and she met him there. So, she left.

Did she go to the Hakhshara?

Yeah.

Yeah. Where was that please?

In – near Bishop Stortford, Essex.

Hmm-mm.

I can't remember the name of the place. You know, it's seventy years ago [laughs]. And they got married and they left for Israel, my daughter, oh, over seventy years ago. They left 'cos they weren't unofficially. They –

After the War.

They went to France, and they got a boat somewhere.

Yes, after '45.

Yeah.

Yeah, hmm-mm.

And –

And was she happy in the boarding school before? Did she manage? How did she –?

Yes, yes, yes.

And what happened to your older sister who stayed in Prague, and your father?

When Hitler came they left and went somehow to Budapest, and then they started collecting the Jews in Budapest, so they left there and they went to Yugoslavia, and they joined the partisans. **[00:32:09]** They were with the partisans. My grandmother died in the woods. My father's mother. And they were caught, but luckily not by the Germans but by Italians. And they took them into camp, but thank God, that they didn't ill-treat them or anything. And from there they were sent to Israel [inaudible].

So, you said they went into a camp. What camp? Where were they held? Your father and your sister.

I don't know the name of the place.

But in Yugoslavia.

In Yugoslavia. And from there they were sent to Israel.

They were sent from there to Israel?

Yeah, yeah. He and my older sister. As I said, my younger sister was already in Israel. They started a kibbutz, built a kibbutz.

Uh-huh, which kibbutz?

Lavi.

Ah, Kibbutz Lavi. It's a very English kibbutz, isn't it?

All English, there.

Yeah?

And they stayed there for about a year or two. My father wanted them to come to Haifa, so they went to Haifa. My sister became a hairdresser for a little while, and somebody offered to train her, and my older sister, I don't think she worked. She got married fairly quickly in Israel.

Sorry, when did your father and your sister leave to Israel from Yugoslavia? **[00:34:05]** *Also after the War?*

Yes.

After the War.

Yes.

So they stayed throughout the War there.

In the camp, yes.

In the camp, hmm-mm.

They were sent to [inaudible] from there. They took ship to Israel.

And you said your father also had a café in Haifa.

In Haifa, yes.

A Viennese café or what?

Probably.

Uh-huh.

Probably. My parents got divorced. He met somebody in the woods when he was in Yugoslavia, and my parents got divorced. My mother went to Israel, and they got divorced, and he married this very nice lady. But unfortunately, I think what he went through was too much and he was fifty-nine. He dropped dead one night.

In Israel.

Yeah.

Yeah.

She stayed on in Israel for a long time, and her children came from Yugoslavia. They somehow survived the War.

And during the War did you know – did you have any news from your father and your sister? Did you know where they were?

No. One day a soldier came to where I was living with my parents-in-law, but then I was married in 1945, and he brought us news. And I got letters from my father, and in '46- I think – yes, my husband was demobbed in '46, and we went to see him. He was still living in France at that time – no, I'm sorry in Italy. **[00:36:03]** His brother was living in France. We went to

see them both. He was living somewhere near Lake Como, a little place, and from there they went to Israel.

So you saw your father before he went to Israel.

I saw him before, but we had planned to go to Israel in the May of – my daughter was eight years old or so, but he died just before. But we went and we saw his brother, and of course my sisters and their family. And my sister actually, both my sisters came to Israel – to England before we went to Israel. The one had been very ill. She came and the other one came, and she was pregnant so she took everything she could back from the baby because they couldn't get much there. The customs said, 'What have you got in all this?' She said, 'It's all baby things, you can have a look at it, go on,' [laughs]. She told us afterwards. And as I say, I got married in '45.

Tell us a little bit. How did you meet your husband?

I met my husband – that was in Borstal. I knew people from work, and we used to meet in the lounge of a hotel there. And he was stationed a few houses away from me. It was a big estate, and they were stationed there. He was in the Army already. And he saw my little Austrian – the badge, so he came over and talked to me. That was it [laughs]. **[00:38:01]** And I looked at him and thought this uniform doesn't belong to him because it was very ill-fitting. He wasn't an officer yet. You know how the – and that was that.

And what was his background? He was also from Vienna?

He was also from Vienna, yes, but he hadn't lived in Vienna for a long time. He lived in Prague. He was looking after the office in Prague. And he'd been to England for a couple of years when he was quite young, so he knew people here, and my father-in-law was clever enough, they opened an office here. So, as soon as War broke out, he never went back to Vienna. [Phone rings]. He came straight here and this chap he knew, he had been staying with when he came over to England when he was very young, knew somebody in the Home Office and they got

permit for his parents to come over. But his sister, no. But she had already gone to France. She was an actress. I don't know whether you know the name. You know Martin Miller's name?

Yeah.

You've heard of Martin Miller? Well, that's Daniel's mother. She was in Prague, then she went to Holland thinking she could get ship, but she was turned back twice.

And what was her name?

Pardon?

What was her name?

Nussbaum. Yes.

And was she an actress already then?

Yes, yes, she had trained at Reinhardt.

Uh-huh, and her first name?

Hanne.

Hanne Nussbaum?

Yeah, but then she went on to the name Hannah Norbert, and then Hannah Norbert-Miller. And eventually she managed to get here, but only just. Just in time. **[00:40:05]**

And was she well-known in Austria?

Not yet, I think.

She was at the beginning of her career.

Yes, yes. There's a picture there.

Uh-huh.

Queen Elizabeth.

Yeah.

Uh-huh.

Okay. We're going to look at it afterwards.

And –

That was his sister.

Yeah.

Yeah. And which year was it? When did he emigrate to England, your husband?

Just before the War. She managed to get here just before the War.

And your husband as well?

No, my husband came earlier. When he heard that they were coming into Czechoslovakia and to Prague, he was in Prague, he came straight here.

Right.

In ’38.

But he had some English and there was an office you said.

Yeah, well, there was a firm registered. There was no office open, but that’s what he did.

And what was the firm called?

Vulcascot.

Vulcascot.

Yeah.

And that was a firm of – that’s what they had in Austria?

Yes.

And what firm –?

Also, it was called Otto Nussbaum and then they changed the name to Vulcascot.

And what company was it? What did they make?

Well, we had lots of things made for us. Engineering, and for instance the little Minnie Mouse. That was my invention. The name for things that you put on the say, washing machines or dishwasher to make them level.

Yeah?

And we invented those, and I gave them the name of Minnie Mouse.

Mini what? What are they called?

Minnie Mouse.

Minnie Mouse? Uh-huh, and what was it? A little – a rubber?

It was an adjustable thing. Yes, you could...

Uh-huh.

And my husband had two heart attacks when he was only forty-one, and he only – I went in for six months. **[00:42:06]** I went into the office every day, because I knew nothing much about the actual engineering bits, I was more on the bookkeeping side, etc. But they taught me a few things and you always – they were so busy then, you know, the firms. You had to push them and that was my job [laughs].

Did they do some War work as well? Did they –?

No, no.

No.

'Cos he only opened it at the end of the War.

Hmm-mm.

My father-in-law had the office here all during the War, but my husband was in the Army.

Right. Was your husband interned at all?

No.

No.

He joined up the day War broke out. He was in the Pioneer at first.

Pioneer corps.

Yeah. And then he was transferred to the Royal Engineers and then he was transferred to an officer cadet, he became an officer cadet, and he was...

And where did he serve?

Right through.

Right through.

Yeah. He went over a few days after D-Day, and he went right through. They wanted to make him a Major if he stayed on in intelligence, but he said no he couldn't. Nobody was ever a Nazi – he interviewed people 'cos he spoke German, but nobody was ever a Nazi. He couldn't – he didn't want it. We just got – been married as well. And just unfortunately, just after he was demobbed, three months later his father died, so he had to go back into the business because three families depended on him. **[00:44:11]**

Yeah. So, when you met him, was he just on a sort of holiday in Birmingham.

No, no, no, he was stationed –

Ah, he was stationed there.

Yeah, he was stationed five minutes walk from where I lived.

Right, and then he did the war crime investigation when he went –?

Yes, but as I say, he couldn't take it 'cos nobody was a Nazi.

Yeah, and did he go – in that role, did he go back to Vienna?

Yes, yes.

He did?

Yes, because of his family's side, some of them had been in Yugoslavia, but they came back to Vienna, and it's quite a big family there now [pause].

What about you then towards the end of the War? So you married just – you said April 1945.

That's correct.

Where did you get married?

In the town hall in Paddington 'cos my parents-in-law lived in Maida Vale.

Right.

I stayed there. Tried to find a flat when he went back. We were promised and promised but my father-in-law found something for us in Belsize Park. Probably some of your people you interviewed lived in Holmefield Court?

Yes, yes, we have quite a few people from Holmefield Court.

Yes.

Did you live there?

Yeah.

Uh-huh. When did you move in there?

Soon after my husband came back from the Army. **[00:46:04]** So it must have been ’46. The end of ’46 perhaps.

Yeah, and for how long did you live there?

Until my daughter was two, so that would have been about four years.

Hmm-mm.

She’s now seventy-four and we moved out.

And Taddie did you have any contact with any synagogues or refugee organisations? Did you join anything at that point?

No.

No.

We had contact with the people he was in the Army with. In the Pioneer Corps mainly and a lot he was in the Army with afterwards. And still was until a few years ago, but now they’re all passed away. I’m still in touch with one of the daughters of his – of one of his fellow officers. I get cards.

But you didn’t join Belsize Square Synagogue or something like that?

No.

No.

Yeah. My husband wasn't brought up Jewish because, you know, what happened in Vienna, everybody who was Jewish lost their jobs, so his parents thought it was better for him not to be. But instead of doing anything religious he used to say, 'Let's go *"am Kahlenberg für einen Gulasch",*' [let's go to the Kahlenberg and eat goulash] [laughs]. So, he never had any religious – his religion was 'to do unto others as you would like them to do to you'. That was his religion.

And for you? Was religion ever important?

Well, you see, in Vienna we were brought up that way as you've probably heard. I used to go to synagogue every Saturday- Jugend [youth].

Which one? **[00:48:01]**

Seitenstetten.

[Seitenstetten]gasse?

Yeah.

You did go every shabbat?

Yes.

Yeah.

To *Jugenddienst [youth service]*. They had a wonderful teacher, religious teacher, lady. She was wonderful. She didn't survive.

What was her name? Do you remember?

No.

Okay.

I'm not sure.

Don't worry.

Not [inaudible] for somebody else. No. No, I'm not sure, I can't remember.

But after your emigration you weren't looking – you were not looking for a synagogue or –?

No, no.

It wasn't important.

No. When my husband died, I used to go once or twice here. With a friend of mine- took me.

Where did you go here?

Katz.

Hmm-mm.

We were quite friendly with the Rabbi called Katz. His son whom I knew when he was that old has now moved in here. In the other block. Stephen Katz. It's a liberal synagogue [pause]. We played bridge, we made a lot of friends through bridge, and one of them we used to see a lot. We met them first abroad in a hotel and became very friendly. I don't know whether you ever saw him, he died two years ago, Olram? No. And then about fifteen years ago they moved into here funnily enough [laughs], and their daughter whom I knew as a teenager, lives upstairs. **[00:50:03]** They're all family. They were from Vienna. The daughter was born here of course, and they're still friends. And now my life is very boring and very painful.

Yeah.

And not worth having to be honest. For the last few years, I had to stop driving when I was eighty because of my eyesight, but then I had lost this one and didn't know. 'Cos they tell you when you have one good eye you don't realise that there's something wrong with the other one. And I used to drive a lot to friends for bridge and that, and then some of them drove me, and now I can't do anything. I just play on the iPad and watch a bit of telly. I've got books on the iPad. I used to have large print books from the library, from the mobile library, but honestly, they were – I used to, you know, ask for some which I never got because they don't have them in large print, and most of them are thrillers which I could have written myself by now. So funnily enough they phoned me last week. They're doing it again. I said, 'Not at the moment, thank you, because I can get better books on Kindle,' on my iPad. I can get what I want.

Exactly. Taddie, what happened to you once you married and you – what happened to your mother?

Well, my mother came from Birmingham and for a little while she worked – you probably heard the name – in the restaurant in Swiss Cottage called Cosmo's.

Hmm-mm.

[00:52:00] And then when my daughter was born, she more or less looked after – you know, helped me look after her because I used to go to the office. And then she lived in a little place with another friend of hers, but I had to keep going there, and she was ill and that, so we said, 'This is ridiculous.' So, she was with us.

She moved in with you.

She moved in with us, but my husband died long before her, and one shouldn't speak ill of the dead, but she became very difficult. And I tried to have people in, you know, a person, that sort of thing, but they didn't stay for very long. I had people from Israel, once even a boy, a young chappie, and even my sister said – you know, if I was playing bridge downstairs with friends she used to knock with her stick, and that sort of thing, and it became very difficult. Physically

I couldn't do anything anyhow because I had a very bad accident when I was twenty-four, and that's why I've been in pain all my life. I hurt my spine in three places, but they didn't find that out for a long time. And so, when she was ninety, I had to put her in a home. Even my sister said, 'Taddie, you can't keep on like this. They'll take you out first, feet first.' And she went into Otto Schiff. Have you heard of Otto Schiff?

Yes, of course.

Yeah. She was there eight years, but she wouldn't eat or anything, so I went every day. Well, it's not true, sometimes my sister-in-law went, and sometimes another friend occasionally. And one day, I took one of the nurses who was always off, when she had a day off, she would go to my mother and stay with her. **[00:54:07]** And when I went away, mainly to Israel, I used to cook for three weeks and take it to somebody. I think she was an ex-nurse, and she put it in her freezer, and she would go there every day and feed her.

But she was there with other refugees in Otto Schiff, wasn't –?

Yes, but she wouldn't leave her room.

Uh-huh, right.

She was probably one of the oldest, but she said she didn't want to be with all the old people, and she wouldn't eat what they had in the dining-room.

But you said she worked in the Cosmo.

Yes, but not for very long.

When was that? When did she work there?

Before my daughter was born, so it would have been in the '40s when she came to London.

Did you ever go there to the Cosmo?

Yes.

Yes? Can you tell us a little bit about it? What do you remember of the whole Finchley Road?

Swiss Cottage. Finchley Road, just near Swiss Cottage practically. That was the last house or so before Swiss Cottage, before the Swiss Cottage the big crossing. What I remember? I didn't go that often, but it was a very- mixed people who went there to eat, mainly Jewish people, refugees. A lot of refugees. And then there was another one a little bit further up near the station which was called Dorice. Have you heard of that? That had a very cosmopolitan clientele and we all met there quite often. **[00:56:05]** My husband used to like *Beuschel* [stew made of offal] which is the innards. Do you know it? It's all the lungs and things. I couldn't look at it [laughs].

And he would eat at the Dorice?

Yes, but not that often.

And what did you eat? Do you remember? What did you eat there?

I don't know. In those days I could eat anything. Now I can't.

And which one did you prefer? The Dorice or the Cosmo?

I think the Dorice. It was smaller and it was more homely, and I knew a lot of the people who went there [laughs]. That stayed open for a long time.

Did you know the owner, because we interviewed her, you know? Doris.

Yes?

Yeah.

We got to know her, but not well.

Doris Balacs was her name.

Doris, yeah.

Yeah? Did you know her?

Well, I knew her from there, but I didn't – I mean, I wasn't friendly or anything with her. Just knew her as the boss of the restaurant.

Yeah, but it had a good atmosphere.

Yes.

Yeah.

Yes, very good. And the office wasn't very far away so...

Your office.

Yeah.

Where was your office?

Abbey Road.

Right, so you could walk there.

No [laughs].

Drive there.

It's a bit too far for that.

So did you go for lunch sometimes?

Yeah.

And people would sit there for a long time and discuss and drink coffee.

I think so.

Was it a bit like a Viennese coffee house or not?

Not quite, no.

No [laughs].

Not quite, but we met a lot of people we had met on holiday before. They were there.

So you lived very much in the sort of heartland of the refugees then, in Belsize, when you lived in Belsize Park.

Yeah.

Were there many other refugees in Holmefield Court at the time? **[00:58:02]**

I think so. I think somebody called Weiss, came from Vienna, but I say, it's about seventy years ago, so I don't remember the names. Kovacs was one of them I met on holiday. He was a Hungarian refugee.

We interviewed many years ago actually, a photographer who lived – Inge Ader. Do you remember the name?

Hmm?

She was a photographer. Inge Ader.

No.

No.

No. I don't. And then my husband died forty-four years ago, he died very young. He was twelve years older than I, but he was only sixty-four when he died.

Very young.

Life goes on.

Yeah. When did you become British?

Oh, as soon as he came out of the Army.

And was that important for you?

The fact that we became British? It wasn't so important at the time, but it became important.

Why?

I don't really know why, but I know that I had to go to the Austrian Embassy once, and somebody told me to see somebody called Heidi something. And my friend who had all seen her and they said – they were talking about bridge, and they would love to ask her. I said, 'All right, I'll ask her,' and we became very friendly. She was a marvellous bridge player and she

used to come here. **[01:00:00]** And one day she said to me, 'Taddie, do you want me to get you an Austrian passport and also dual nationality?' I said, 'I'll tell you something Heidi, they didn't want me, I don't want them now.' She was a little bit – I said, 'It's nothing personal Heidi, but that's how I feel.'

Do you still feel like that?

Yes. My daughter has got a passport now because I had all my details and various papers.

And what do you think about it now? So many second generations are now getting passports.

Yes.

What do you feel about that?

I think they do it mainly for their children so they could travel easily. My sister did it. My sister in Israel, and she thought travelling would be much easier. And after her husband died, I asked them to come here, she and her granddaughter, and I will take them to Vienna 'cos she had never been back. [Laughs] But they got to Heathrow, she still had to wait two hours because her granddaughter had to go through [laughs], so it didn't help much. But she wanted it for her children.

Taddie, when did you go back to Vienna for the first time?

Oh, very soon after the War because my husband went on – a businessman, for business, and we found his cousin there. We were told we had to leave. There was only one hotel where we could stay for the Board of Trade, and because he had the office, we got the office back there. Somebody officially bought it and they were supposed to pay my husband's aunt, his father's sister, so much a week or a month. **[01:02:03]** Of course, he never did, but his sister – my father-in-law's sister wouldn't leave Vienna because she wouldn't leave her mother. Her mother was too old to come. But after the War somebody got in touch with us and he said, 'I

think I can get your firm back.' My father-in-law promised to make him a partner, which he did, and he got the firm back. So we went back very soon after the War.

And what was it like for you to go back to Vienna?

It didn't really mean much. It didn't mean really much. What I liked was the theatre and it's a beautiful town as you know probably, but I always thought what did you do during the War? You know, especially people my age sort of thing – no, people a bit older than me. When I looked at them, I thought, you know, what did you do? What did you do to my family? And that persisted for a long time. I know I couldn't blame the new generation 'cos they had nothing to do with it, but I would never want to live there again.

And your husband? What did he – did he feel the same?

Oh, yes. Yes, yes. Well, he hadn't lived there a long time.

And did you go back a lot or just –?

Yes, quite often, because of the firm. But then they sort of blackmailed my husband more or less. The father died, the man who got it back died, and his son took it over who was a ruthless bastard, if you [inaudible]. **[01:04:07]** People who worked for him told my husband, '*Er geht über Leichen'* [To walk over corpses – meaning that he stops at nothing]. How can you translate that? And he blackmailed my husband. He said, 'Either you let me buy the firm or I'll leave.' And he knew my husband wasn't going to go there and sit there. So, then we didn't go quite as often, but quite often because of his family [pause].

Taddie, your daughter was born in the – what was she, fifties?

Forty-eight.

Forty-eight.

Yeah.

So what sort of identity did you want to give to your daughter or what – how did you want to raise her?

I never told my daughter very much 'cos I didn't want to burden her with it. Which was probably wrong, I don't know. Eventually she read *Exodus* and she phoned me. She said, 'Mum, I'm sorry,' you know, 'I don't know much about it.' I said, 'No, I didn't tell you much because I didn't want to burden you with it.' Whether that was right or wrong, I don't know.

Did you talk to your husband about the past?

Not an awful lot, no. I was too young. I was too young.

You say you didn't want to burden your daughter, so what did you not talk about? The Jewish thing or anything or –?

Nothing really. Nothing very much about what happened to me or anything. I mean, she [pause] – she knew – well, him, the people who took me in, she died. **[01:06:03]** She knew – he used to come and stay with us. He was very fond of my husband. They got on very well together. [Knock on the door] Yes, come in. You're not recording?

Yes, wait. Yeah.

What else can I tell you?

We were talking about talking to your daughter.

Yeah.

And you said you didn't speak much about your story.

No. 'Cos when I left, I was really too young to – I don't know. It all came out much later, you know, it sort of hit me let's say, much later.

When did it hit you? You know, when in your life do you feel that it came back to you?

Well, I think after the War started and I couldn't see my family [pause]. My father, especially my grandmother. We had a letter from the Red Cross, I think it was, that my grandmother was in the camp. That was a terrible day for my mother and me. Yes, that's when it hit me. And I met people in Young Austria who were in the same boat. Some of them came – no, there were only two I think who came on the Kindertransport. I don't know how the others came.

And Taddie, how do you think later in life did your experience impact your later life? **[01:08:02]**

In what way?

In any way.

Did I experience what?

How do you think your experiences of being sent on the Kindertransport, being separated from your father, how did it impact your later life?

I don't really know. I wouldn't be able to explain it. Obviously, it must have done [pause], but I was so lucky. I had a wonderful husband.

And was it important for you that he was a fellow refugee? Was that important?

He wasn't really a refugee.

Okay, that he was, let's say, Viennese born.

That he was Viennese?

Yeah, was that important?

I don't think so to be honest. It might have been, I don't know. Maybe inside it might have been.

Did you speak German at all?

No. Never. Only with his mother.

Hmm-mm.

He didn't. He hadn't spoken German for many years because he was in Czechoslovakia for many years. First he was here, and then he was in Czechoslovakia, and then I think he was in Sweden for a while, but...

And did you feel at some point in your life that you wanted to talk about your experiences, or until now you feel you'd rather not talk about it?

The only one I talked about was Daniel because he asked me, and he wanted – he recorded it on his laptop.

Yeah.

He's the only one really who knew the whole – the nasty story.

Yes.

He's a wonderful nephew [pause]. **[01:10:02]** What else can I tell you?

And just to find out where do you see yourself, where do you find is your home?

Here. In Britain.

How would you describe your identity today?

My identity? I don't think I have one [laughs]. Because I can't say I'm British because I'm not British born, but I feel more British than Viennese. I mean, this country has been good to me. It took me in, so I feel I owe it something, and I owe it loyalty as far as I can, or when it's required.

Do you sometimes think how your life would have been if you hadn't been forced to emigrate?

I presume I would have stayed in Vienna. Gone to – going to school and hopefully to university [pause]. But it wasn't to be.

No. But I wanted to ask you also because you came on the Winton transport, of course there were later these programmes being made on Nicholas Winton and things. Did you go to any reunions or anything?

No, no.

Why not?

I've never been one to do these things. I saw some of the people. For instance, I knew the person who started the – **[01:12:01]** here all this, because I went to see her where she lived.

Yeah?

We became friendly, but –

Who was that?

What was her name? [Inaudible]. I don't remember. She went to Israel because I think she got dementia and one of her daughters was in Israel.

Bertha?

Bertha, yes.

Yeah?

But Bertha what?

I can't remember either [laughs].

I knew Bertha but I don't remember her surname. She had a sister here as well.

Yes, yeah.

Yeah, I knew them both.

She started the Kindertransport reunion.

That's right.

Lever –?

She lived somewhere in Edgware I think. It was Edgware or somewhere like that. I used to go and see her. Her sister was there quite often. Because she didn't drive as far as I remember.

Right, but you didn't want to go to the reunion.

No. I don't know why. [Both talking at once].

And Nicholas Winton, you didn't want to meet him?

I never really had the chance to do that.

Yeah. But you said your sister was interested. She came.

When she was here, yes.

Yeah.

When she was here, but she never met him. He never came to these reunions.

Because it's quite interesting that he also for many years – nobody talked about it.

Nobody knew about it, no, no. They found things in the attic. His wife or his daughter.

Yes, yes.

They found things in the attic, and it all came out.

Yeah.

I don't know when it was knighted, but after it all came out, quite a while afterwards, yeah. And he used to go to these things, and there was a programme with Esther Rantzen.

Yes.

I remember seeing that.

So you watched it about –?

Oh yes, yes.

Did you meet other children who came on that transport at all with you? **[01:14:00]**

No.

No.

No. We probably wouldn't have known each other's names, so even if I met them later in life, I wouldn't have known because we didn't – we weren't allowed to talk to anybody on the train. We didn't talk to anybody. We didn't know anybody's – even anybody's first name.

Yeah.

We were told, *'Seid's ruhig!'* [laughs].

But were you sitting with your mother actually on the train or was she somewhere else? Because you said she was with you.

I think she was with us most of the time. I think so, yes.

Maybe they had some adults to take care of the children or – you know?

I don't think she did much of that [laughs].

Uh-huh.

As far as I remember, she was with us. We weren't allowed to walk. You know, we just had to stay where we are.

Yeah.

I don't know what happened if we needed to go to the loo [laughs]. I can't remember that, but I know we weren't allowed to sort of walk about or anything.

Okay Taddie, I think we should have a break now, a lunch break.

Thank you.

And we will – we're almost finished.

Right.

We'll finish it, and then look at some of your photographs.

Lovely.

Okay? [Break in recording] Taddie, thank you so much again for talking to us.

You're very welcome.

I just wondered whether you had some – because you mentioned your husband's sister who was an actress and her husband as well. Can you tell us a little bit more about them?

Well, as I said, she managed to get to England just before the War and I don't know whether you've heard of it, *Laterndl*, a little theatre where they appeared, and that's where they met.

Did you ever go to the Laterndl? **[01:16:00]**

Me?

Yeah.

Yes, once. Funnily enough, I came from Birmingham to meet an aunt of mine – who was she? Well, she was a great-aunt really, and I came to meet her in London, and she said, 'Let's meet at the Laterndl,' and I saw Hannah there before I knew her.

And what did she play? What did you see?

That's asking a lot after [laughs] –

It is, I'm sorry.

Nearly eighty years.

It is. In case you remember.

No, I would be lying.

Was it a German place? What did they play there in general?

Yes, in German yes. As far as I remember, but don't take my word for it.

Where was the Laterndl? Where was it?

In Swiss Cottage.

Where exactly?

Exactly? I think it was – you know where the little theatre is now, I think it was opposite there. So, it's probably still Eton [Avenue]. I don't really know what it's called, but it was there.

Yeah.

And they were there all the time. My – yes, I saw her there, but I didn't know who they were. And then of course I met them, and I was very surprised to see who it was [laughs]. And Martin Miller, her husband, was of course very well-known here. Especially in the artistic circles. He played a lot on stage here, and films, but unfortunately, he usually had to play the foreigner because his accent was pretty bad. But he played a lot on stage. His first play I think here was *Arsenic and Old Lace*, which he appeared on stage. And a lot on stage and films, television, everything. And unfortunately, he went to Vienna to film, and they were filming at the Sacher Hotel for something, and he had a heart attack and died in Vienna. **[01:18:12]**

Is he buried in Vienna?

No, he was born somewhere in Czechoslovakia.

Ah, but is he buried there?

No, no –

They brought him back.

I think Hannah had him brought over because she didn't want anybody go to the funeral. We were just allowed to go and see him in the funeral parlour, but not at the actual funeral. And with her too, the only ones who were allowed, both myself and Monica. [Inaudible] didn't want because she didn't want it. It was stipulated in her will that she didn't want anybody. And both their ashes were [inaudible] Golder's Green in the garden.

And was she in some plays?

Pardon?

Hannah, was she in some plays? Did you see her only in the Laterndl, or did you see her elsewhere as well?

Oh no, she was in some films and plays. She was in plays with Lilli Palmer. You know the name?

Yes, I know that name.

Yes, she played maid to Lilli Palmer who was disabled in the film, and she didn't – she worked at the BBC a lot in the Austrian or German service. So did Martin. He portrayed Hitler.

This is a famous clip.

Yes. Have you seen it?

Yeah, it's very funny.

Yeah, yeah.

It sounds very convincing [laughs].

He was a very good actor.

Yeah.

It's just unfortunate that his accent was bad, but he was a very good actor.

You think without the accent it would have been better for him?

Oh, yes. Oh, yes, but he got a lot of parts. He was always busy, and he was a lovely man.

And did you see them a lot? **[01:20:00]**

No, not an awful lot because they were more interested in their artistic part of life.

You had different circles.

Yes, different circles. On birthdays and holidays, we saw them, but they were always busy.

And did they continue to perform in Austria as well?

No.

No.

No, no. They didn't go back to Austria for a long, long time, but she had – her best friend went back there, so they went once to see her in Vienna, and she was interviewed in Vienna once.

Right.

I can't tell you much about that, but I know she went, and she was interviewed, I presume about her life, I don't know.

And speaking of German, did you speak German at all to your daughter?

No.

No.

Only to my mother, and my husband's mother sometimes, but he didn't. But it was very funny, when my daughter was about five, I think or so and we were on holiday, and I said to the waiter – she would eat her supper upstairs before – you know, before grown-ups had dinner, and I said to the waiter, 'I think I'd like to order my daughter's dinner.' He said, '*Gnädige Frau, Ihre Tochter hat das schon gemacht.'* [Madam, your daughter has already ordered] [laughs]. We had no idea [laughs]. It was difficult because the names are so much the same, but she had ordered already. She's very good in languages.

So you took her – where was this? Where did you go on holiday? Where was that?

I think that one was in Zürs [Austria]. **[01:22:05]** [Pause] Yeah.

Yeah, so I asked you already whether you think the Kindertransport – how it impacted you, but you don't know how.

I can't honestly say. I mean, obviously grateful in later life, but at the time, don't forget I was only thirteen, and it was difficult for instance leaving my grandmother behind. And that picture of her waving us off I will never forget. I have never forgotten.

And what do you think in general of the policy of the Kindertransport, that they took unaccompanied children, you know, without their parents? In hindsight what –?

In hindsight, well, I was lucky 'cos my mother went with us. It's difficult for me to judge, but I should imagine that it affected them quite badly. In that way we were lucky.

Yeah, that you had one parent at least.

Yeah.

Yeah.

And we knew my father had got out.

And do you find looking now at the news and seeing what's going on in the Ukraine and – you know, does it bring – not bring back –

Yeah.

Does it upset you?

It upsets me very much for the people there, especially the children 'cos I think they'll be traumatised for life. Yes, I look because I feel one should know what's going on, but it does affect me. That takes me back in Birmingham, we were bombed very badly as I told you.

And that must have been difficult as well, to be in this – with the bombing. **[01:24:07]**

Yes.

And did you go to – were there shelters and things?

Well, where we lived at the time, I told you in this house, there was a little telephone room and it was sort of sheltered, that we stayed in there. We had no shelter there. We had no shelter. Just sat in there.

Yeah, well, because now also some Ukrainian children are being sent out by themselves, you know.

Yes, yes.

Mostly not. Mostly they are with their mothers, but some are, some are being sent.

Yes?

Yeah.

I haven't seen that. Yes, the children, it must be dreadful. I mean, when the bombs came, I was old enough, but these little ones, they can't understand what's happening.

No. Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah, that is similar in the way with the Kindertransport isn't it, because you had such a range of ages.

Yes. I think some were as young as three years old, I believe. Yeah. That must have been dreadful for them.

Well, you understood in a way what –

Yeah, what was happening. And as I say, because our mother was with us.

But then you couldn't stay with her.

No.

No.

No. No, but I was very lucky. The people who took me in were wonderful.

Yeah, so we find there's lots of range. People have so many different experiences. Some people–

I know. Bertha for instance.

Leverton?

It's no good asking my sister because she wouldn't remember. That's right. She had very bad experience. There were lots of them who had bad experience. **[01:26:02]** Both abuse and treated as servants. You know, the books – so many have written books.

Yes, but you didn't have. You had a good experience.

I didn't have a bad experience. I was very lucky.

And you're still in touch with the family.

Yes, well, there's only one left. The granddaughter of the people who took me in, but she's just been eighty.

The granddaughter's eighty [laughs].

Yeah. I remember the day she was born. The landmines were coming.

And do you know how they found out about the Kindertransport? What motivated them?

I don't know.

They wanted to help or –?

Probably in their church, I don't know. But they weren't really church-goers as much except for weddings. When the daughter got married.

Did they try to – did you go to church with them or –?

For the weddings, yes. They didn't go otherwise. Their daughter's wedding.

Had they met anyone Jewish before?

I don't think so. No, I don't think so. And I don't think most people had. You know, the average person, 'cos as I said to you, when I said, 'Have you ever seen one?' I told you. I said, 'Well, you have now.' 'Oh, you can't be Jewish, you look the same as us.' That was the answer I got [laughs]. Something like that.

And did you ever experience any sort of discrimination because you were Austrian or –?

No, not really.

During the War?

Not really. I was very lucky. No [pause]. I made a lot of friends at work, and they took me to – for instance, to a table-tennis club and they took me home, to their home. One particular, they were Scottish people, they were so kind. **[01:28:03]** No, I was very lucky.

And in Birmingham, did you have – you had no contact to a Jewish community or –?

No, not when I was with those people.

Okay, is there anything I haven't asked you or something you want to add which we haven't discussed?

I can't think of anything at the moment.

I mean, maybe even to ask you what do you think of contemporary of Austria today? How do you feel about it?

Not very well because I think it's going to the right quite a lot [pause]. From what I've been told and from – it's getting nasty again. But I think that on the whole, the Austrians were more anti-Semitic than the Germans. That's what I was told at the time, that the Germans weren't so bad until Hitler came. Whereas the Austrians were always very anti-Semitic. I mean, I didn't experience it until after Hitler, but I was told, that's what I was told.

Well, also things happened very quickly in Austria isn't it, from '38 to '39.

Yeah. Yeah, suddenly. But I mean, they had been underground for a long time. As I say, the children came out with flags and swastikas, the children in school, so they must have been drilled at home for a long time.

You felt it very strongly that anti-Semitism.

Oh, yes. In the school after Hitler came.

Yeah.

Yes.

Were there many Jewish children where you were, in that school?

Quite a few of us, yes. In my class probably ten or something like that. But nothing before. **[01:30:02]** Everybody was always friendly.

Yeah, so it must have been quite a shock.

[Laughs] Yes, it was. It was [pause].

And how long then did – you said you changed then to the Jewish school.

Yeah.

How long were you in the Jewish school? Only a few months or –?

Yes, yes, because then we left.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Are there any Stolperstein or anything for your family?

Any what?

You know, they're doing the Stolperstein, you know, little memorials.

I don't know in Vienna. I think now there are because my – well, he's a grand-nephew really, my sister's grandson went and I think he mentioned something, but not where we lived. But in Germany, they've got them a lot.

Yes, they have. What do you think about it? Do you think it's a good idea?

I don't know. 'Cos I feel they're stepping on them.

Yeah.

I think if they'd been on the wall I would have preferred it.

Yeah. The reason is why they're doing it because the wall is private property –

Property, I see.

And the –

Oh, I see.

'Cos the road isn't. But I can – yeah, many people say that.

Yes. That's what I feel about it [pause].

Yeah, and what do you think in terms of Holocaust education? Have you got any views about – in England, do you think it's done enough, or do you think anything should be –?

Well, I think – yes, I think lots of people have gone to schools and that. I went to some where they were holding – this is for children, for the schools. I think Bertha arranged that at the little cinema in Heath Street. **[01:32:02]**

Yeah.

Yeah. Went there a couple of times.

Have you spoken to schoolchildren?

No. No. I haven't spoken to anyone.

You didn't want to.

No. I wasn't asked, and I didn't want to. I wouldn't have wanted to. I think it would have been too emotional for me.

Do you find it upsetting when you watch some things on television or –?

Yes.

Yeah.

I've stopped watching something at night if I know what it's about because then I can't sleep. For instance, funnily enough, the surgeon who did this, a Mr Goldberg, I don't know whether you heard of him.

No. Yeah.

He sent me a video and it started, 'I am a German but I'm also a Jew,' and it went on. I watched it for a bit and then it started about the concentration camp, so I had to turn it off. I watched it

for quite a while. He said, 'What did you think of it?' I said, 'To be honest Mr Goldberg, I couldn't finish it.'

Yeah.

That's what I find difficult. Or for instance, I don't know whether you've ever seen it, a film called *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*?

Yeah.

That occasionally comes back to me [inaudible]. To see that. See all the children, knowing that it happened to my family. And little cousins who were of that age. That I find upsetting.

And do you find it's more upsetting now than before, or do you find – did you always find –?

No, it's more.

More upsetting.

More upsetting now, yeah, because the older you get the more the past comes back.

And does it come back to you more now?

Yeah. I think the older you get, the more it comes back. **[01:34:00]**

And did you ever want to write down your experiences?

No, there were so many books already. Funnily enough, I had an accident in a mini-cab once and they were to blame, and they sent me to a doctor to examine me. [Laughs] When I went in, he said, 'You're Austrian aren't you?' I said, 'How do you know?' He said, 'My mother's best friend is Austrian.' And he was interested in anything. He said, 'You write a book and I want a copy signed by you,' [laughs].

And?

I never wrote one. There were so many already, I felt there's nothing much more to say [pause].

And now do you find your grand – do you have grandchildren?

I have one grandson, that's all.

Yeah, and is your grandson interested in your history?

I've never told him, no. No. I don't know how much he knows. I mean, he knows some obviously, and he knows, you know, the family in Vienna, part of them. He hasn't been there, but a lot of them came over for my eightieth birthday. And I was hoping my granddaughter would have come for my ninety-fifth, but then COVID intervened.

So you have a grandson and a granddaughter.

Yeah [pause].

Because sometimes what happens, it's easier to talk to the next generation.

You know, she's wanted to – this is my great-granddaughter.

Yeah. Oh, your great-granddaughter, yeah.

Yeah. I have no granddaughter.

You have a grandson and a great-granddaughter. **[01:36:01]**

Yeah.

Yeah.

And she wanted to have more details. She asked for details, and about the family in Vienna, and Monica has just written to her, or is in the process of sending photos and things.

Hmm-mm.

We just got photos from everybody, from the family in Israel and from the family in Vienna, and I don't know, I was hoping maybe she could come in the summer, but I don't feel I want to ask her while the COVID is so bad in London. I would never forgive myself if something –

Yeah.

You know, she got hurt.

But are you surprised – so she's interested in the family and in the –?

Yeah, yeah. I mean, she knew obviously from her father who and what I was.

Yeah, yeah. Yeah, so it seems the younger generation is interested in the history.

Yes, yes.

Again, it seems...

Well, I wanted to thank you for doing all this. And it's been very interesting in some ways to go back.

Not easy.

Not always easy, no.

Not easy. Well, if there's nothing else you want to add, I would like to finish by asking whether you've got a message for anyone who might watch this interview based on your experiences?

No, I wouldn't know what to – what message to give them except to make sure that it's passed on to the future generations and that people don't forget [pause].

Okay Taddie, thank you very much for this interview.

You're very welcome.

We're going to look at some of your photographs now [pause].

[Inaud] **[01:38:02]** [pause].

Please tell us who is on this photograph.

My grandparents.

And where was it taken?

I presume in Vienna, I don't know.

And the names?

Wendlinger, [inaud] Otto Wendlinger. I think his name was Otto, I'm not quite sure. He died when I was about three.

Thank you [pause].

If you could tell us about this picture please?

This is my wedding on the 5th of April 1945.

Where?

At Paddington Town Hall.

In London.

Yes. In London.

Yes, please.

This is Daniel Miller with his father, Martin Miller, and my daughter Monica. Both when they were very small children.

When was it taken roughly?

I should think in the very early '50s.

And where?

In my garden.

And where was it, your garden?

In Hendon. Tenterden Grove.

The picture of your father. **[01:40:00]** *We don't have any of your mother here.*

No, there isn't one in here. They're in my old bedroom. They're probably sleeping in there.

You want me to just look?

Well, you can't because they're sleeping in there I think.

No, I think –

Finished?

Can you tell us about this one?

Tell us about the photo please. Who's in the photo?

This is Hannah Miller. Her stage name, Hannah Norbert-Miller.

And in which role is she there?

Queen Elizabeth. In the Hapsburg. The Hapsburg Queen Elizabeth. Which one is it?

[Inaudible].

[Inaudible] She's already an hour late for her break.

Okay.

She's very particular about that.

Okay.

This is my mother, [inaud].

And when was it taken please?

Roughly [pause] – in the late '60s.

And where?

That I can't tell you. That I cannot tell you.

Taddie, thank you so much for sharing your story and your photographs with us.

You're very welcome, thank you.

[End of transcript]