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**AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive**

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**Interview Transcript Title Page**

<b>Collection title:</b>	AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive
<b>Ref. no:</b>	34

<b>Interviewee Surname:</b>	Rubinstein
<b>Forename:</b>	Alice
<b>Interviewee Sex:</b>	Female
<b>Interviewee DOB:</b>	26 August 1925
<b>Interviewee POB:</b>	Hamburg, Germany

<b>Date of Interview:</b>	2 October 2003
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<b>Name of Interviewer:</b>	Rosalyn Livshin
<b>Total Duration (HH:MM):</b>	2 hours 3 minutes

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

**INTERVIEW: 34**

**NAME: ALICE RUBINSTEIN**

**DATE: 2 OCTOBER 2003**

**LOCATION: SALFORD**

**INTERVIEWER: ROSALYN LIVSHIN**

**TAPE 1**

**Tape 1: 1 minute 0 second**

RL: I am interviewing Alice Rubinstein. Today is the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2003. The interview is taking place in Salford and I am Rosalyn Livshin. First can you tell me your name?

AR: Alice Rubinstein.

RL: And what was your name at birth?

AR: Alice Hagenow.

RL: Did you have any other names?

AR: No.

RL: Any nicknames?

AR: Yetta - only as a joke! Mother used to call me that I believe.

RL: Your Hebrew name?

AR: Channah.

RL: And where were you born?

AR: Hamburg, Germany.

RL: When?

AR: 25<sup>th</sup> August 1925.

RL: How old does that make you now?

AR: 78.

**Tape 1: 1 minutes 48 seconds**

RL: Do you know if you were named after anybody?

AR: No. My Hebrew name was after my grandmother, I think. It should be Channah Mindel, but in English and German it came to be Alice.

RL: What were your parents' names?

AR: Amelia Hagenow neé Braun. Her Hebrew name was Malke. My father was Arnold Hagenow. I will put that in, Hitler made all Jewish people put after their first name, Sarah, and the men had to put in Israel between the names. That was in 1938 - 39.

RL: Where were your parents born?

AR: Hamburg.

RL: Can you tell me something about your father's family background? Whatever you know?

AR: What do I know? He had two sisters. One was, worked for the Jüdische Gemeinde. She was not the main one but the third. After, she worked with - I think she worked with Dr. Frank who was the father-in-law of Dr Altman, Rabbi Dr. Altman. First she worked in Altenau and then in Hamburg at the Jüdische Gemeinde. They came together. My father was a Chartered Auctioneer and he was in business until Hitler came in.

RL: Did you know his parents?

AR: No.

RL: Anything about them?

AR: No, I didn't.

RL: Had they lived in Hamburg?

AR: Yes. My parents had me late in life. My father was 48 and my mother was 40. The only thing I know, an uncle of his had a little stiebel, a shul, that I remember. I have never been inside, but I remember that. I never met them.

RL: You say he had two sisters.

AR: Two sisters.

RL: Were they married?

AR: The older one, Cecilia, was married and she had two daughters. One was killed

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in Minsk. What was she called? Irma. Betsy came to England. She lived in London and then Israel.

RL: What was your auntie's married name?

AR: Posselburg. This is strange. She married her cousin.

RL: Did she survive?

AR: She died at home during the war. She was fortunate she didn't go in the camps.

RL: And the other auntie?

AR: She died of typhoid in Theresienstadt. The younger one Ida - she didn't marry, and she died of typhoid in Theresienstadt.

RL: Do you have any idea of what kind of education your father had?

AR: He had a good education. I don't think - I don't know of the school he went to, but he had a good education. And so did my mother.

RL: Can you tell me a bit about your mother's family?

AR: As far as I know she was supposed to have been one of a family of 17. I don't know - 16 or 17 children. I can only account for 8. That is what I was told.

RL: Do you know anything about her parents?

AR: No. Well, they were - I mean she was one of the youngest ones and they must have been gone already. They originated from - yes, my mother said, originally from Galicia and that was part of Poland. Brodie, Galicia.

RL: Which brothers and sisters of your mother did you know?

AR: The youngest ones - 7 or 8 of them, I think. I didn't know them all. Most of them ended up in the camps in any case. One died in London.

RL: Where were they living?

AR: Some were living in - one brother lived in Hamburg. I don't know which camp he ended up in - Daniel. The others were - the Nazis threw them out of Germany already. Max - her youngest brother with the children went to Poland. They must have ended up in Poland. They must have got killed there - we never heard.

RL: Did any of your mother's brothers and sister survive the war?

**Tape 1: 7 minutes 28 seconds**

AR: No, nobody. Nobody survived, no. I think one did. He had two daughters and they live somewhere in England, but I don't know where they are. We just lost touch. Unfortunately, they were not very happy where they lived with Jewish people. They ran away to non-Jewish people and were happier there, and lost touch, unfortunately.

RL: Do you know what kind of education your mother had?

AR: Oh, she had a good education.

RL: Did she work at all before marriage.

AR: Yes, where my father worked. That is how they met. She was a secretary. That is all I remember, you know.

RL: What was the business they were in?

AR: Auctioneers. Chartered Auctioneers and some other thing. That was until I think about 1933 and then.

RL: Did you ever see how he worked, or what he did?

AR: No.

RL: So, your mother was his secretary?

AR: Before they got married. And afterwards, I suppose she helped him.

RL: When did they marry?

AR: Oh, I don't know. Remember I was born in 1925 and she had been married, how long had they been married? I think 20 years... She was 40. She married at 22 and she had me at 40.

RL: She married in 1907?

AR: Probably.

RL: Did she have any other children?

AR: There were no children for 15 years. In the First World War he was in the army. He also got wounded in the ear, but he never claimed for a pension and this war they killed him.

RL: Do you know what he was doing during the First World War?

AR: No.

**Tape 1: 10 minutes 5 seconds**

RL: Did he ever talk about his wartime experiences?

AR: I think he was in France. I don't know.

RL: How was he wounded? Did he ever say?

AR: No, he just couldn't hear in one ear. In those days it didn't matter what religion you were. You had to fight; you had to go in the army.

RL: What siblings did you have?

AR: Harold, Rosalyn, Michael. Boy, girl, boy.

RL: But did you have any brothers?

AR: One brother - Manfred.

RL: Was he older or younger?

AR: He was three years older than I am. He came here about three months before I did.

RL: So he was born in 1922?

AR: Yes.

RL: And that was your parents' first child.

AR: Yes.

RL: What are your earliest memories as a child?

AR: I think I remember the kindergarten. I seem, I think I can picture that. You know a kindergarten is like a nursery here. I think I can remember that.

RL: Was it Jewish or non-Jewish?

AR: Anybody went. In those days they didn't bother about what you were. I think it was only half a day. I can't remember that much - between three and six and then I went to school.

RL: What part of Hamburg were you living in?

AR: It was nice. It was a residential district. I don't know what it was - it was a residential district.

RL: Do you remember the street?

**Tape 1: 12 minutes 13 seconds**

AR: Yes. Rothenbaum Street. It was nice.

RL: Can you describe your home?

AR: Well, in Germany you lived in flats. The average person lived in flats. We lived on the third floor. There were another two families there who were Jewish in the building. There was a Nazi on top of us and a soldier from the German Army lived next door – I think he was a major or something like that. I remember once. He was by himself and the lady who worked for him asked us if we could - a wardrobe was being delivered (it is true, this) and could we let them in, you know they gave us the key. After they delivered the wardrobe, this soldier, major or whatever he was, didn't come and thank us. He put some cigars in the letterbox for us. He didn't say anything. He would probably have been in trouble if he spoke to us.

RL: How did you get on with the neighbours?

AR: I don't know. I can't remember. Below us were some very nice neighbours. They had a school of music and they had one of their teachers was Jewish and they found her a position in London. They were alright although they had the flag out. They had to. When I left I said goodbye to them and I think they gave me a big bar of chocolate or something. Very, very nice people they were. Otherwise I don't know. I remember Crystal Night.

RL: I will come to that. Let's keep with you as a youngster at the moment. How big was the apartment?

AR: It was not that big. It was bigger than this. There were three - how many rooms did we have? But we had enough. Towards the end it got to a stage - we had bigger apartment first and then money went very short. Jewish people could not make a living any more later on so we went to a smaller apartment.

RL: On a different street?

AR: No. It was a very nice area. It was just a smaller apartment because it was cheaper.

RL: So, where was the second apartment?

AR: Rothenbaum Street. That was the last one.

RL: So were you always on that street?

AR: No, not before. Before it was at Grindelhof and before that it was, I remember, at Papendamm.

RL: Did your mother have help in the home?



**Tape 1: 15 minutes 34 seconds**

AR: When we were little? I remember when my brother got ill ..... but after Hitler came. No, she had to do her own work as far as I can remember. There was hardly any money coming in by then. You lived on what you had.

RL: You say your brother became ill?

AR: That was - he started epilepsy when he was six. But it was from shock. Fireworks. I think the girl who worked for them took him to the fireworks. But he was alright in Germany. Only once a year. It became worse when he came to England. It was the worry about the parents.

RL: What kind of religious upbringing had your parents had?

AR: Well, they were very orthodox in those days. We went to shul on the Sabbath you know. I don't know my father always went, but I can remember walking with my brother - tagging along. Oh, it doesn't stand any more.

RL: Which shul did you go to?

AR: A shul like The Shrubberies or like Stenecourt. Very nice - a beautiful shul. It was very much like Duncan Street Synagogue.

RL: What name did it have?

AR: I don't know. The name of the street. Beneckestrasse.

RL: Who was the rabbi of the shul?

AR: Rabbi Holzer. His daughter went to live in London. What happened to him, I don't know. I went to school with his daughter, Hannah. That was him. The Chief Rabbi in Hamburg was Carlebach and his shul was pulled down. But they were the same station. Not like here were some are this station and some are that station of the shul - except or the Reform - it is probably different. But there was no difference between the shul. The shul was - the synagogue was the synagogue. You were Jewish, you know what I mean?

RL: Was it different in any way to the synagogues here?

AR: Not really. We had a little cupboard where you could put your siddur in. The shul was very beautiful. All the same. But, I mean my mother's mother - in those days they wore sheitels. My father's also probably.

RL: Did your mother?

AR: No.

RL: What kind of memories do you have of your childhood?

**Tape 1: 18 minutes 47 seconds**

AR: Well, our childhood was alright. I mean, as a child you are happy. You don't know any different. At school they used to say when you go home from school, especially at the Talmud Torah Schul in that building, go straight home. Do not loiter, because I used to loiter, you know. Outside especially in the grounds where the shul was in the front, they specially put up the "Sturmer" that was a Nazi newspaper at the front of the shul for people to stop and read. Have you heard of that?

RL: Which schools did you go to?

AR: Ordinary Jewish schools.

RL: Were they all Jewish schools?

AR: Well, when we started school we had to go to Jewish schools. But they were just as good as any other schools. I think better even than here.

RL: Did they have names, these schools?

AR: Well, the last, well, the first school was just a girls' school. Then we had to leave that building. The second one was in the boys' school, but we were separate. They were separated boy and girls in those days, not now. That was the Talmud Torah Shul.

RL: Did you belong to any clubs or youth groups?

AR: Sports Club, yes. Oh God, my brother belonged to Habbonim, I belonged to Ezra because all the kids from the class were there. Later on I belonged to a sports - I was very interested in gymnastics and things when I was a child. That was in the gymnasium of the school, of the Talmud Torah Schul.

RL: Did your father belong to any clubs or societies or committees?

AR: I don't think so.

RL: Was he involved in community affairs at all?

AR: I was nearly 14 when I came here and, we didn't hear much, adults, they didn't, in any case. They had too many other worries you know.

RL: As a child, would you go on holiday?

AR: I have been to a children's holiday camp - home. Jewish, naturally.

RL: Where was that?

AR: Near Frankfurt. I think once, while they still had I like they would take the children out on the coach every day to some grounds which belonged to some Jewish

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philanthropist. I remember that. There were a lot of other worries.

RL: What did you parents do in the evenings for entertainment, for leisure?

AR: I don't think they worried about leisure, entertainment. They were too worried about life, you know. It probably wasn't safe to go out. I don't know. I can't remember that.

RL: Did you ever go out anywhere - to the theatre, to concerts, or the cinema?

AR: Jews weren't allowed - Juden Verboten!

RL: Yiddish theatre?

AR: I think they did. I think they have been to some if they still had it. As far as I know we were never left alone at home in the evenings by ourselves.

RL: Did you have any non-Jewish friends?

AR: I remember playing with a little girl, and one day she said to me she was only allowed to play with one Jewish child so she couldn't play with me. But the grandma didn't mind. It was probably just childish talk. I had my Jewish friends. We saw them. They came to see me and I went to see them.

RL: How did you spend your spare time?

AR: We were at school until 2, and then you did homework. Then we went, I think on a Wednesday - I don't know what you call it - like a sports club where we did gymnastics and things.

RL: Do you have any particular memories of Yom Tov or Shabbos?

AR: I remember Simchas Torah. It was different there. The fathers brought sweets to shul and you went round with a bag and collected sweets from different people - not from your own father. I had a hole in the bag and I lost some. I don't know how old I was but I never forget that. Every year we got these - you collected and went around. But that one year I didn't collect many because, when you managed to carry it home, a bag like that, you had sweets for goodness knows how long - or chocolate or whatever it was. We weren't as busy as we are nowadays.

RL: Pesach?

AR: Pesach was nice. Oh, busy. We had a very big box in the kitchen and that was closed the whole year. It was different in Germany. We didn't cook before Pesach because nobody had a fridge at least we didn't. Everything was washed and washed and you put everything away. Then the floor was washed and then, all of a sudden, I never forget that the cupboard was empty, all the pots were

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packed away somewhere. Then we opened the big box. That box was a big thing. During the year she just stood things on top like her sewing box. It as painted the same as the kitchen furniture. You opened the box, you unpacked it. I remember I was always very thrilled when I was a child. It was fantastic you know. Loads of pots and whatever, ah.

RL: Who would you have Seder with?

AR: I think ourselves. Do you know - yes, I can still remember them. You didn't run around as much. Well, you had to be careful, it wasn't that safe. People didn't go out in the evening. In our house they didn't. Maybe younger parents did. I mean, entertainment, they could not go anywhere. They had other things to worry about.

RL: What about Purim? What would happen at Purim?

AR: Oh, at school we had to put on a play of Queen Esther. The girl who was Queen Esther she had long plaits - of course, long hair. Yes, I remember that. We did have English at school every day for an hour to try to get the children to England. I remember once we had like it was called English Afternoon Tea. I don't know what we had - biscuits or something like that - as a youngster. I remember those things.

RL: Did you ever, personally, come across any anti-Semitism yourself?

AR: I not personally - I didn't as a child no. We were always told to behave yourself, keep quiet and go home. I can't remember. I think somebody chased me once - kids, you know, because I didn't mix with the others.

RL: Did your parents, did your father come across any hostility?

AR: Well, he wouldn't tell me. After Crystal Night the fellow on the top floor said something to someone.

RL: What did happen on Crystal Night?

AR: My father must still have been working. He was trying to make a living. Two gentlemen - they looked like gentlemen, two gentlemen came upstairs and rang the bell. I remember he came up and he said, "Yes, can I help you?" "Oh, we have come for you." They came in and I think they let him take a sandwich with him. We didn't really think what it was. They asked us have we got any weapons in the house. Afterwards, I remember seeing he walked out with them, one here and one there because I suppose they didn't want other people to know they were from the Gestapo. They weren't in black of anything - ordinary clothes. He walked in the middle and then I think he might have been away for the whole day. We always thought the only reason why they sent him home was because he was not a professional man - just a businessman, you know. I

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think that is why. That was the first time. The Nazi on the top floor said (do you want me to tell you this?)

RL: Yes.

AR: The caretaker downstairs was a nice fellow. He saw to the central heating. He had to see to all the fires. This Nazi fellow said "They have arrested Hagenow" and this fellow downstairs said "Oh yes, but he was in the war and they sent him right home again." I remember that he was telling my mother this. He was like a caretaker. What do you call those people? Hamburg wasn't that bad. I have seen Hitler once in the street. I was naughty. I followed a crowd. My father had sent me on an errand and he was coming in a car just passed and I stood. I was told off by my mother. She said I should have come straight home, but everybody was running in that direction. It is true, honest.

RL: When would that have been?

AR: I don't know how old I was. Maybe I was 11 or 12. It must have been after Crystal Night.

RL: Were there any rallies in Hamburg?

AR: I used to see the blooming Nazis (Oh, sorry). I used to see the Nazis in their brown shirts singing - what was it they sang? "When the Jewish blood spits off the knife." We were protected by our parents. At school they used to ask us who has got their name down for the Kindertransport. Practically all the children used to have their names down.

RL: What happened to the synagogue that you davened in?

AR: I don't know. I was in Germany in 1984 and there was another synagogue, a very beautiful one - I can't find the picture. That was knocked down. They have got flats there now. It was near our school in fact. A most beautiful shul. Ours was a lovely shul as well.

RL: Did you continue to daven after Crystal Night?

AR: Yes. Yes, I went to shul after Crystal Night.

RL: So it wasn't touched?

AR: The other shul, the main one. I have been there as well. I noticed it was standing when I left Germany, but when I went to see my cousin - he was there from Israel so I went over for a week or so and it wasn't standing any more but the school was. The school building was standing. It hadn't been bombed or anything. The school was very interesting to go into, I tell you.

**Tape 1: 33 minutes 0 second**

RL: In what way?

AR: When I went to Germany first of all I didn't speak to any of the older generation. I spoke to the younger generation. I went inside and spoke to the secretary and told her this was my school, and she was telling me there was an exhibition. An Israeli lady had an exhibition. It was open in the afternoons and, if I wanted to see it, I could go and see it. It is a university now for librarians - they study there. They take their degree there. There were things about Jewish people who had been at that school - they had put them up again - but I think these were people who had been in the First World War. This lady's husband was at Oxford lecturing there. I went twice, once with my cousin and once by myself. The students were doing a thesis on the holocaust. I read through some of them. She said, if I wanted to take one home I could. But I would not. It was written by the Germans. I would not.

I went to see where I lived, the building, but I would not go in, though. The trees had grown higher. I went to see the first building which I told you is now a nursery.

RL: As a young girl at school there, did you discuss between you the situation?

AR: I don't remember. I don't think we did. We were told to watch what you said. It was very nerve-wracking for youngsters.

RL: What else do you remember?

AR: I remember Crystal Night because my father didn't come home right away. When you didn't get on a bus, you had to walk. She went to see her brother, my uncle, to tell him that he had gone.

RL: After Crystal Night what kind of plans did your parents make? What were they thinking of for themselves as well?

AR: They could not think of anything. They were just worried about the children I think. I don't know. I mean, when you are that age, I don't know whether you think. It was different in those days. I don't think we were as mature as they are now. The children hear a lot more what goes on, don't you think so?

RL: What plans were they making for the children?

AR: Oh, my brother already had a permit to come here. That really pleased my parents.

RL: How did they get that?

AR: Somebody had to sign for them here - a guarantee for them. I don't know, but they have to put down a guarantee of £50. It was nothing to do with the

**Tape 1: 37 minutes 0 second**

Government. It was the Jewish community who did it. I can be thankful that England saved my life or the people I went to live with. They did really.

RL: How was this arranged both for your brother and yourself to come over?

AR: I don't know where they went. I don't even know who paid. I was allowed to bring 10 marks - I think 17/-. One of my aunties gave me that as a farewell present. I think one of them said you might not see your parents again, but I don't think we realised that because in the letters they always said "Please God - when the war finish."

RL: What did you pack to bring with you?

AR: One suitcase. One thing I can remember now - it only came to my mind. My brother was here already and my mother they had to take me to a building where all the children were together. We had to have lunch there before we went to the docks. I can't remember my father saying goodbye to me. I don't think he could face it. He had gone out and my mother took me to the place. But when I received a letter from them - I remember standing on the boat but I didn't see anything. When I received the first letter it said they went to the docks and they both saw me on the boat. They didn't say goodbye. They probably couldn't face it.

RL: How many children were travelling together?

AR: I don't know. A baby in a high-chair. The father was in England and the mother was in Germany. He was here already and he had a little brother or sister of two with them. There were a lot of children.

RL: Can you describe the journey?

AR: It was nice at first, they played Hatikvah, had the kosher food. I remember there were two eggs, one under the egg-cup and one on top of the funny egg-cup. I will never forget that.

RL: Where was the meal?

AR: In a special dining hall on the boat. We were from Monday to Friday on the boat. We stopped in Le Havre and I went out for a walk. With, who was he - the headmaster from the school. It was always someone who took the children across to England and they were allowed back into Germany. Otherwise, if you were Jewish and you left Germany you couldn't go back.

RL: Did you know who accompanied you, who it was?

AR: Yes, in fact he worked with my auntie, Dr. Pardo, the headmaster. His wife was the school doctor.

**Tape 1: 40 minutes 34 seconds**

RL: What kind of a crossing was it?

AR: Very nice. The crossing was alright I suppose, because they didn't cross that way. They went all the way from Hamburg that way (indicating with hands) to Le Havre. I was fortunate that these two gentlemen and another child, they took us for a walk. I remember one - the other one as well. It was very emotional, everything. We were very fortunate we weren't in the camps.

RL: Where did you land?

AR: Southampton.

RL: And what happened?

AR: I don't know why there were three of us who had to go to Manchester and we stayed in London for two nights, I think in somebody's house. I don't know whose it was.

RL: Who were the three of you?

AR: I came over with Margot Leinhardt. She is not here any more. Do you know about her? We were connected with Glynn and Leinhardt. Her sister married somebody called Kessler. I don't think she is here any more.

RL: Was it three girls who came to Manchester?

AR: No, we were in London with them, I don't know why. It happened on the train. There was a small girl and a bigger girl. They might have gone on. I was in London with them. I don't know how they got to Manchester. In fact one of the sisters was living in St Paul's Road after, Mrs. Swan. Your mother-in-law would have known her, Mrs. Livshin.

RL: You were put on the train to Manchester?

AR: Yes, with the two children and at the other end, Mr. and Mrs. Filson with my brother came to meet me. That was the first time I had ever seen anybody with lipstick on. Honest to God! It stuck in my memory. She had a little fur here (indicating her shoulders).

RL: Where was your brother living?

AR: Then he was living in a hostel - Dr. Koppenheimer. Do you remember that name? They made chocolates, kosher chocolates. He was living there then. Unfortunately, when he lived with a family and they found out about his epilepsy. He had only one attack a year, but he started having one or two because he was so upset about everything. They asked him to leave. It is different from nowadays. It wasn't easy for them. They were afraid because they had little children.



**Tape 1: 43 minutes 38 seconds**

RL: Where was the hostel he went to?

AR: Great Clowes Street. Later on the Refugee Committee put him into a home for epileptic people. Mind you, he was in the army before that. They didn't know he was ill. The epileptic home, it was about 1948/49

RL: Can you describe your first day in Manchester?

AR: My first day in Manchester? Do you really want me to tell you. My brother was there as well. They were very nice people, but the first day we were having tea and I cut up the lettuce. I was told you don't eat lettuce cut up. It was London lettuce and you eat it with your hands. So I got tears in my eyes. That was my first day. I don't want to .. I should imagine it isn't easy taking on another child when you have got three, but they saved my life. They were very good people, but maybe it was home-sickness? I don't know.

RL: What were your first impressions of England, of Manchester?

AR: What I thought was strange was the fires - the black grate. In Germany we didn't have that. The last flat we had was centrally heated, and that was sixty years ago. That was strange. It looked nice.

At the beginning I remember when my brother came to see me, I was not very enamoured. It was very strange. I was nearly 14. I suppose all of a sudden you were away from your parents. It was very difficult. I was very fortunate with the home I went to, because a lot of them didn't go into these homes. I have been to the reunion and it was sad.

RL: Can you just describe the kind of home you were in?

AR: Well, it was something like ours. You knew when it was Shabbos. I mean they weren't ultra-Orthodox or anything like that. It was a nice home. A kosher home. She was a wonderful cook.

RL: What did Mr. Filson do for a living?

AR: He was a nice man.

RL: What did he do?

AR: I think he sold hairdressing equipment. I am not sure. I was leased they were my Unterfuhrers.

RL: Sorry?

AR: They were my Unterfuhrers. I thought that was nice.

**Tape 1: 47 minutes 0 second**

RL: What children did they have?

AR: Unfortunately, they lost one, a very nice son, about 30, Harry. I think he was a pharmacist. A boy, a girl and a boy.

RL: How old were the children.

AR: The little one was 5 or 6. The middle, how old was he? I think about 11, I think he went to Broughton High and then there was Harry. He was a year younger than I am. I know Miss Susan told me that the little one she told me mustn't swear when I came. But he said, "I'll teach her to swear", because I couldn't speak English. He was only 5 or 6.

RL: How did you manage with language?

AR: We learned English in Germany. It was not difficult because we had it every day. We had Hebrew every day and we had Ivrit just to make sure. I should have learned more Ivrit. But it wasn't difficult and I had never really spoken Yiddish because German Jews always spoke German. When they spoke in Yiddish they thought I couldn't understand them but I did. "The Deitch girl." They called me "The Deitch girl." I did, but it wasn't easy with my brother, you know.

RL: In what way?

AR: Our children, we have given a good life - a good education, everything, you know. Maybe, perhaps we have spoiled them, I don't know. It was easier for me than what my husband had, what Joe had. He was in Auschwitz and Buchenwald and God knows where. The salt mines.

RL: When you arrived in Manchester what did you do? What happened?

AR: They thought they had a cheap help as well, you know. But they were good people. Maybe in those days - I wasn't 14 yet, 3 months before I was 14 - maybe in those days people got girls to help them in the house at that age, you know. But that didn't matter.

RL: What were you meant to do?

AR: Well, I understood I was going to school. My mother always said "if you do well in your chemistry, you will be able to work for Solly" (my cousin was an analytical chemist - he had a laboratory in town). But I never went to school. Whatever I learned, I learned. Later on I went to live with an aunt but I still saw Filsons. They were my Unterfuhrers, but I went to live with an aunt by marriage. Then the Refugee Committee put me into a factory to learn to be a machinist. I was not very keen on that so I learned shorthand and typing at night time. I worked in offices later on.

**Tape 1: 50 minutes 32 seconds**

RL: How long did you live with the Filsons?

AR: It was two-and-a-half years, and then they moved into another house. I still saw them after, you know.

RL: Where were they living when you lived with them?

AR: Not in, they lived in Vine Street after, Murray Street. I stayed there the night before I got married as well. I left from their house. I married from their house.

RL: Did you work for them for two-and-a-half years?

AR: Not officially. I never washed the floor, not the front step anyway. But it didn't matter.

RL: Did you do anything else at that time or was it mainly helping in the house?

AR: I didn't do anything else.

RL: Did you meet any other refugees?

AR: The first Rosh Hashanah yes there was a special service in the hall at Higher Broughton, the Duncan Street Synagogue, and I met different people there.

RL: Do you keep in touch with each other?

AR: Yes one I am still in touch with for 60 years - an aunt, my mother's cousin.

RL: Was she also a refugee?

AR: Yes, she came from Berlin. Although they had to come here as, not with the Kindertransport, as maids. She has been interviewed as well.

RL: What is her name?

AR: Linton, oh I think, who interviewed her, Bill Williams, I don't know. I have known her quite a number of years since she was interviewed. She lives in Barnfield House now, Susi Linton

RL: How is she related to you?

AR: You may know her daughter-in-law? She is just a friend from Berlin. I met her through my aunt. Her daughter-in-law is called Ruth Linton. Do you know her? Very nice - and John Linton.

RL: Did you make friends at all in those early years?

AR: Not so much in the early years - after I met Joe.

**Tape 1: 53 minutes 6 seconds**

RL: You lived with the family for two-and-a-half years?

AR: Maybe a bit longer. I think - they had to move in with her mother. She used to look after her mother. She was very good.

RL: Of course, war broke out?

AR: War broke out just after I came.

RL: Were you still in touch with your parents?

AR: Yes, through the letters until 19? The letters came via Belgium and then via Denmark, because Belgium was occupied first, I think, and then Denmark. So they sent a letter there and then it was transferred into another envelope and it came here.

RL: What kind of things were they saying in the letters?

AR: I still read them once a year. Well, what you say to children. Call where you live, why don't you call them auntie and uncle? As a matter of fact I still called them Mr. and Mrs. When I think of it now it was stupid, but there is a difference. I was happier when I was with the auntie because she didn't have any children at home. She had two grown-up daughters so maybe that made the difference as well.

RL: When you moved out of the Filson's where did you go to?

AR: In Prestwich - in Kings Road.

RL: But who were you with?

AR: My mother's - what was she, a sister-in-law and that was when I met Joe. He lived in Albert Avenue.

RL: Was that after the war?

AR: Yes, he came here after the war. He had been in the camps.

RL: Did you live with this auntie during the war?

AR: Was it during the war? or was it after the war. I can't remember when I left I'm sorry, I am not sure when I left the Filsons. I was with them a few years. I was married at 27. We could not afford beforehand.

RL: What do you remember about the war in Manchester?

AR: In Manchester? When we stayed at - that is what happened - I don't know why we stayed in, they lived in Murray Street and we went to stay with her mother

**Tape 1: 55 minutes 51 seconds**

in Leicester Road, to look after her. I remember going to the air-raid shelter. I think we took little suitcases in with us - I am not sure. I remember the air-raids I suppose, yes.

RL: Did you have to register with the police?

AR: Yes.

RL: What happened?

AR: They used to come and see me but they didn't bother. I was even allowed to ride a bicycle. I don't think others were. I think there was still a war on, but it was probably being a youngster, I am just trying to think where I was. Yes, I was in Kings Road then.

RL: When you were in Kings Road, Who was that with?

AR: My auntie by marriage, who had two daughters.

RL: Were you in touch with the Refugee Committee?

AR: Not for myself. I think they used to come and visit me when I was at the Filson's, but I was never there when they came to see if I was alright. I don't know why. It feels strange.

RL: Where would you have been?

AR: I had never seen them; I had seen them when I lived with the aunt afterwards.

RL: Who made the arrangements for you to go to the aunt? Did you do that yourself?

AR: Probably. I don't know.

RL: Did you get any pocket-money at all?

AR: Where? At the Filson's? I think I got one shilling a week, I don't know or was it 6 pence a week. I don't know. I know one thing; I was never very keen on helping myself to food. I felt it was pinching it, and I was not used to that at home. You know how kids eat? I mean, my grandchildren they go here and mind you they ask me as well but my own children they helped themselves, you know, but I it was strange I wasn't, I was never hungry. There was plenty to eat but you could not sort of help yourself. Other people had it a lot different. I was very lucky to be here and they saved my life. They did, when you think of it. I think they must have signed for

me. I don't know. Somebody signed; I don't know how it happened for the Kindertransport.

RL: When you lived out of their home what work did you begin to do?

**Tape 1: 59 minutes 6 seconds**

AR: I went to this Jewish firm, Kandel & Jacobs, from through the Refugee Committee. I remember. No, I had already started, that's right, when I was at the Filson's.

RL: Now this tape is just about to end.

**TAPE 2**

RL: This is tape two with Alice Rubinstein.  
So you were just telling me about the firm you went to work for. Did you said that the Refugee Committee found you that job?

AR: Yes, because he was connected, I think he was connected with the Refugee Committee.

RL: Who was it?

AR: Kandel & Jacobs. I think his brother in fact was killed in the King David Hotel. Kandel & Jacobs.

RL: Where was the work?

AR: Derby Street.

RL: What were you doing?

AR: Machining.

RL: How many days a week?

AR: Five days a week.

RL: What were you making?

AR: What did we make, oh for Marks & Spencer's - pyjamas, night-gowns, little children's, babies' pyjamas and night-gowns. What else? Bodices, little bodices.

RL: How were you managing with the language?

AR: OK. I never had trouble with the language. I don't know how long I had been here then.

RL: You said you went to night classes?

AR: Yes, well I went to Lawburn, first, but I am afraid on my wages I couldn't afford to pay Lawburn you know for evening classes so I went locally but I was living with my aunt then.

**Tape 2: 2 minutes 12 seconds**

RL: What wages were you getting at the time?

AR: I don't know. Well, just before I got married 51 years ago, I got £5 a week, and when I got that £5 note it was a big thing. 51 years ago, no 50. Well I left, I have been married in August, I was married for 50 years, 1952. Oh I have been married 51 years. Oh I am sorry 51 years. How could I forget! 51 years.

RL: How long did you work for this firm?

AR: There was a war on. I couldn't leave at the beginning. I remember that. The war was on for nearly five years.

RL: How long did you work there?

AR: Quite a number of years.

RL: Did you make friend with the other workers?

AR: Well, I was a youngster. I suppose so.

RL: Whom did you mix with? Who was your social circle at the time?

AR: I don't think I had any. I can't remember. Funny - I can remember about Germany everything but. Oh wait yes later on, Harry, Oleh Va'Sholom, took me to the Shrubberies club, when I lived with my auntie, when I had left Filsons already, he took me there but I remember I had an inferiority complex because I was still working in the factory and the others were still at school, like my kids area at school. Yes you know the Prestwich Synagogue, the Prestwich Hebrew Congregation. They had a youth club there in the old building.

RL: Was that a mixture of refugees and English or mainly?

AR: No, I never met, I don't think I ever spoke German during the war because I never met any. I went to stay with an aunt. If I went away I went with my 2 cousins because they were a lot older than I am. They would be in their nineties now if they were alive.

RL: Where would you go?

AR: I think we went to Bournemouth once. You saved 5/- a week.

RL: Was that during the war that you went?

AR: No, I think it was after the war. When I lived with my auntie my mother's cousin lived in the Aged Home on Cheetham Hill Rd and somebody said to her "there is a hostel and there is a nice Jewish club, tell your niece to go there" and I went there. I went with my brother, Oleh Va'sholom in fact and I met Yossel

**Tape 2: 5 minutes 42 seconds**

and that was the best day of my life. When I think about it it was fantastic! You know and we played table-tennis downstairs and the others had gone home already and we went out and we found out that we lived near each other. I lived in Kings Road and he lived in Albert Avenue and that was that.

RL: Where was the club?

AR: First of all in Northumberland Street. Oh, he was a fellow! Later on in Lasky House. Have you heard of Lasky House? Smedley Lane? Yossel used to practise his design there. He was doing tailoring. Hannah Gardner and I we used to go and sit with Miss Lasky many times. The alte, the one who didn't get married. There was an elderly lady there - well before your time. I met all the boys and we are still close - Sam Lasky and Sam Gardner - I count them as my brother-in-laws. Sam lost his wife unfortunately, Sam Lasky, and Sam Gardner's wife is not well. That is when I really started to live.

RL: Tell me about your husband.

AR: He was a wonderful fellow.

RL: Where was he from?

AR: Radom in Russia. That was when they started making Shabbos on Wednesday. He told me they made lokshen on Wednesday, the bread on Thursday.

RL: When did he come over to England?

AR: When the boys came, you know, after the war.

RL: The boys being survivors of the camps?

AR: The 45 Aid Society.

RL: Did he come straight to Manchester?

AR: No, he went to Southampton first. I think he had TB. I am not sure about the early days. He went to Southampton to the displaced camp. No, no, to some hostel or something.

RL: And what was he doing in Manchester when he came here?

AR: He learned tailoring. He was a very good tailor. He made many things for people. Nice people, including your father-in-law.



RL: How long did you go out?

AR: I think we were courting for seven years. We couldn't afford to get married. We had no money. We were engaged before but I don't know for how long.

**Tape 2: 9 minutes 23 seconds**

When did he come over? I think he came over in 1946. I am not sure. I met him at Springfield. I like talking about him.

RL: Where did you go together when you were courting?

AR: Springfield! They had a dance on a Saturday night at the Duncan Street Synagogue Hall for 6d, and we went to the club, maybe we went to the cinema. Money wasn't that plentiful in those days. He worked hard and he went to night school for designing. But he went through the mill. He lost all his family.

RL: Springfield - what kind of activities went on there?

AR: Table tennis we had there. They had a football team, but he didn't play football. Social - I think people were only too happy to go there to meet because they were in lodgings mostly. And they were working very hard to get going. I think of Yankel, Pinkie and David, Japinda products. I remember they used to come home to the club, they lived there, at 11 o'clock at night. They had been working for someone making handbags and then they started on their own. They all worked very, very hard to get on. Thank God, they did get on and had families. We had a service at the cemetery last Sunday week at Agecroft. They have a special grave there.

RL: Did you continue to live with your aunt until you got married?

AR: No, I left before. I wanted to live by myself. I went to live with another two ladies also on the same floor as I was - also Berliners. She lives in Israel. Her sister died. How old is she now? She must be about 85 and we are like sisters.

RL: What were their names?

AR: What was her name before she got married? Berger from Berlin. You wouldn't know them because they emigrated was it 1948 January just after she got married here.

RL: So you went to live with them. Who did you go to live with?

AR: They had two rooms and I had one room. I was getting older and I wanted my own place.

RL: Where was that?

AR: Bury New Road. It's not standing any more they have got new flats there now. Then I went to Springfield all the time. And then I had friends. Hannah was a very close friend, Hannah Gardner, and I went to her house. Her brother, Sam, we still see

each other every week. Thank God. There used to be 17 on a Wednesday night and the men would play cards and the wives sat and talked. Now we are 7 - four men and three ladies, three women. Do you know them all?

**Tape 2: 13 minutes 11 seconds**

RL: At the 45 Aid Society in Manchester? Yes, I think so - most of them.

AR: Yossel came with Charlie Eigelman.

RL: Did you used to gather even before you were married on a Wednesday?

AR: No where could we gather, no not really. After we got married not right away they played Klabiash. Have you heard of it?

RL: I don't know. It's a card game. I don't know how to play.

AR: I don't know - yash, tash - I don't know whether it's a Yiddish game or a Polish game.

RL: Have you ever played it?

AR: No. My husband did. You needed four men. Sometimes they had six. It was lovely.

RL: So, you were living in your own lodgings, or own flat, and still working for the same firm?

AR: No, I was working in offices then.

RL: You had left that machining?

AR: Oh that, yes? I worked for years in an office.

RL: And what was your first office job?

AR: Where did I work? Gratrix. I had some difficulty there. I was very happy there, they were very good. When I went for the interview I told them I was Jewish and came from Germany. So, the fellow who interviewed me (in those days you were happy when you got a job) said that if they object to you working here I'm afraid you will have to leave. I said, "Oh is that because I come from Germany?" He said, "Oh, no" and it was because I was Jewish. I was very happy there. They were all very nice and I didn't leave.

RL: What kind of firm was it?

AR: Like Baxendales on Bridge Street opposite the Masonic Temple. Oh no, that was British Paint. Eventually I did leave and went to Lloyds Packing Warehouses. I made friends. A very nice Catholic girl. Every year I get a beautiful Rosh Hashanah

card. I don't know where it is now. A beautiful card and everything. She asked us both if we would both go and live in Chicago because there is a very good Refugee Committee there. Later on I worked for British Paint. They were very good. I worked quite a long time there. Three different offices over the years and I enjoyed that work, it was OK.

**Tape 2: 16 minutes 20 seconds**

RL: Was this before marriage or after?

AR: Before marriage. In fact, when I worked at British Paint the boss came to the wedding and the children are in the album. He was English. He came from Chester.

RL: How did you get on with the other workers?

AR: Alright always - no bother. Well, Sheila and I became like sisters you know. I always got on very well with people.

RL: Did you ever come across any anti-Semitism in this country?

AR: I didn't except for that only remark this gentleman made. I couldn't figure it out. I thought it was because I was from Germany but it wasn't. I was very happy there.

RL: When did you marry?

AR: 51 years ago. In 1952 - 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1952.

RL: And where did you go to live?

AR: St. Paul's Road. Mark Fruhman got us a flat. We were upstairs and he was on the first floor. He was best man at our wedding and he is Michael's godfather. Mendel Beale is Harold's godfather.

RL: How many children did you have?

AR: Three.

RL: What are their names?

AR: Harold Anthony, that is Herschel Alexander, Rosalind Amelia, that is Shoshana Malka. Rosalind lived in Israel for a year, for 20 months after university. Shloimi Yankel, Michael Jack - he is called after my brother Manfred.

RL: Were the others named after anybody.

AR: Oh yes. Harold Alexander, well, Herschel is after Yossel's father, and Alexander after my father, Oleh Va'sholom. It was Sholom Alexander, I think, or Sholom ben Alexander or something. Rosalind is my mother and Yossel's mother. She was Rejika or Rose, something like that. Oh yes they were called after, of course.

RL: When were they born?

AR: Harold is just 50. He must have been a Coronation baby - 1<sup>st</sup> June 1953.

**Tape 2: 19 minutes 27 seconds**

Rosalind the 18<sup>th</sup> August and Michael, what was he? The 31<sup>st</sup> January.

RL: What years?

AR: How old would Michael be? I think it might have been 1958. He was the baby. Michael.

RL: What kind of education did the children have?

AR: Well, they all started Castle Fox. Then they went to King David and Harold stayed at King David until he was 16 and then he went to Stand Grammar for A levels. That year, oh and Rosalind went to Stand Grammar at 11 and Michael went to Stand Grammar at 11. He started when Harold went at 16 that year.

RL: And from there?

AR: Michael went to City University, Rosalind went to Leeds and Harold did accountancy at Manchester Poly. Then he worked as an Accountant. He went into business after.

RL: And the other two, what did they go on to do?

AR: Who? You mean my kids?

RL: Yes

AR: Michael is a chartered accountant. He has his office where his wife has her place as well. She is a psychologist - occupational psychology. Rosalind married a chiropodist, but you don't call them that now. Something - let me think. He is - I've got his photograph there - he went to college and University, Robert Nathan. Do you know him?

RL: No.

AR: He is a good chiropodist. His brother is a doctor of micro biology in Chicago. No, not Chicago. Where is it? I can't remember. In America somewhere.

RL: Who did the others marry?

AR: Harold was married to Joan Isaacs originally, Michael is married to Shelley Varley, and Rosalind is married to Robert Nathan.

RL: Are they all Manchester people?

AR: Yes. Harold is with somebody else now.

RL: Where are they all living?

**Tape 2: 22 minutes 27 seconds**

AR: Shelley lives in Ringley Drive, Rosalind lives in Butt Hill and Harold and Jill live in Holmfirth.

RL: Is that in Yorkshire?

AR: On the way, just outside Rochdale. They have two nice children. She has just started university as well.

RL: What children do they each have?

AR: Harold's got four. Roz has got four. Michael and Shelley, unfortunately, don't have any. They would like to, but they have got nephews and nieces.

RL: Are any of your grandchildren married?

AR: No. Suzanne just got her degree in chemistry and, please God, she is getting married next summer to a London boy she met at Leeds. Of course you know Suzanne, bless her. He is a lovely boy. I said "I've got another grandson. He is such a nice lad". I hope she doesn't boss him around too much.

RL: Did your children belong to any clubs, any youth movement or clubs when they were growing up?

AR: Wait a minute. I belonged to Ezra, my brother to Habonim, Rosalind Habonim, Harold Habonim. He belonged to Shomer Hatzair, I don't know why. He wasn't in there long. No, not him. Michael (pointing at pictures on the wall). They used to go to the Habonim camp. Unless he belonged to Habonim I don't know. It doesn't even exist. Gemma belongs to Bnai Akiva. She is at Yavneh, it's very good you know. If she hadn't been there she would have been at Manchester High or Withington. She is pretty bright.

RL: Did you belong to any clubs or societies?

AR: Here?

RL: Yes.

AR: Young Judeans. No, wait a minute, I think it was called Young Judeans at the Shrubberies, where Harry Filson Oleh Va'sholom took me. Afterwards I went to Springfield where I met Joe.

RL: And after marriage?

AR: No. I belonged to the league at one time, you know. Later on I worked. I went back to work. I worked for Joel Kay, you know they made curtains. I was with them quite a number of years. You know it was only a part time thing, just to get out. Yossel belonged to two lodges. He was a Worshipful Master at the

**Tape 2: 25 minutes 40 seconds**

Lodge of Thanksgiving and he also belonged to the Maccabee Lodge. He was very busy with the lodges.

RL: Do you belong to any Zionist groups?

AR: Yes, of course - Achdut. I belonged to the Ladies' Committee. What do you call it? I have to write the notes down. I could never get rid of the job! Minutes Secretary - for a long time. That was marvellous, Achdut. Wonderful. Have you heard of Achdut? Belongs to the JIA. We used to go out collecting on a Thursday night always. It doesn't exist any more. Now it is the younger generation.

RL: Were you involved in any Zionist activity in Germany?

AR: I don't think they even existed any more. I know we had a box - KKL Keren Kayemet - that I can remember but, well, I was a youngster. There are lots of things I remember but only the sports club but before that, I remember this, though. I think they were all from the same class, it is a bit like Yavneh, and they had this Ezra thing.

RL: What did you do in Ezra?

AR: I don't know. Went to the park. One of them had an older sister. You couldn't go in groups in any case. I can't remember what we did. We were in somebody's house all together. At that age you didn't run around a lot. It isn't like nowadays. What she has got! Every Shabbos she is either at Bnai Akiva or at somebody's house. A lot of them from Yavneh have singing lessons with an elderly lady in Radcliffe. She used to go to the Guides, bless her. Oh it's in the other room her picture.

RL: When did you first become interested in Zionism?

AR: Always. What would we do without Israel?

RL: You say you didn't really know about it in Germany. When did you first become involved?

AR: In Germany we just couldn't. What could you do? You could not have. The sports club first was called Bar Kochba. Then it went together with one called Schild. It had no affiliations, just Jewish and they went together because Jewish is Jewish. Not like here when they are so many different Jewish people all of a sudden.

RL: When did you first visit Israel?

AR: 1962 with Yossel.

RL: How did you find that?

**Tape 2: 29 minutes 23 seconds**

AR: Nice. We went to Joe's auntie. We had to stay with her. She wanted us to come for our honeymoon but we couldn't afford that in those days. 1962 the first time. We left the children here with a cousin of mine. She stayed in our house. It was very nice. I sat next to a very famous lady - I can't remember - an elderly lady and I looked out and it was raining. We went on the 19th, we were Unterfuhrers on the 18<sup>th</sup> February for Sam Walshaw and we went on the 19<sup>th</sup> to Israel and when we arrived there it was raining and I couldn't figure it out. Yossel said "Have you brought a raincoat?" and I said, "No." You didn't expect it. That was the first time but then we went there a lot.

RL: What are your feelings towards Israel?

AR: It is better that there will be peace. Let there be peace, that is all. I wish we had lived there. We wanted to. I know one year we took the children all with us, the three of them. He went to the ? but it looked too difficult. He had started working for himself and he wanted to take all his cloth over and God knows what. I think he got a little bit nervous, so we didn't emigrate. But I hoped Roz would stay there but she didn't. She came back and got married. She met Robert at Castle Fox when she was four-and-a-half. Robert went to school with Harold and came to the house a lot. After university she went for twenty months. She went to what is called Arad. You have heard of it, haven't you? It used to be for graduates only I think in those days. For five months and she worked for an insurance company. They didn't let her speak Hebrew. They spoke to her in English, the staff, when she wanted to learn Hebrew. Ivrit. Robert and Peter went out they went to see her one day and she came back. She was allowed to go back within a certain time so she wouldn't lose her thing. She was going to go back. Anyway, when she came back Robert came to see us and she stayed. She applied for articles. She worked for Norman Shachter at the time and, later on, they got married and that is how we still come to be here. But thank G-d we go to Israel a lot.

RL: You mentioned going back to Germany. How did you feel about going back?

AR: I've got it all written down. I have got it written down about my trip to Germany if you want to read it. It's very quick to read. Shelley told me to write it down when I was there. Well, I only went because Betsy was there. She came over from Israel. She was claiming property back which belonged to our family, you know. She went with her husband. She was surprised I came in the end. What happened, Yossel went to Israel in August and it was too hot. I couldn't take it. So Shelley and Michael said "mum, why don't you go, (he went to see his aunty, his uncle) and see Betsy. She is in Hamburg and that will be an excuse." So I went there. It was OK. I was with her but it is written down.

RL: I need to ask you for the purpose of this interview.

AR: Oh yes, I'm sorry. I didn't associate with the older generation. I spoke to the young people. The photographs I have got of the school, it was a young German teenager - I don't know whether I asked him or whether he offered to

**Tape 2: 33 minutes 35 seconds**

take the picture. I must have had the camera with me. I don't know. It was strange. I have seen it. I don't think I want to go again, but Michael and Shelley say they would like to see Hamburg where I lived. I nearly said Kaddish outside the house. I don't know whether I did right or wrong. I don't know it off by heart but if you make a mistake it's OK isn't it? In fact, there was a café now in one of the flats, but I couldn't use it. I didn't go in.

RL: Did you find out what had happened to your parents?

AR: Somebody came back. They went with them to Riga. They dug their grave and were shot into it. That is all I know. Some younger person came.

RL: When was that about?

AR: I think about 1942. No, it must have been after the war because this... There was a cousin of my father married to a Catholic lady. She didn't go in the camps, but he went in the camps, and she wrote and told me after the war. When she went into the air-raid shelters (they lived in England once) the Germans would not sit next to her. I believe that. He was in a kind of ghetto in Hamburg. He didn't go in the camps evidently.

RL: How would you describe yourself in terms of nationality?

AR: Jewish. Well, I'm British. I'm not blooming German! I have been British for donkeys' years. I am certainly not German. G-d in heaven. They wanted to give me my nationality back. They sent me a piece of paper. It's true. They said, "I don't suppose you want a German passport?" and I said, "No, thank you." I didn't want their nationality.

RL: How do you feel towards the Germans?

AR: Well, we flew Lufthansa and when I saw the airline hostesses, they were lovely girls and I thought to myself they were very pretty and very polite you know, and I thought "What did your grandfather do? Could he be the one who did it?" You can't help it. Rosalyn said, "Look mum, you can't think of every one of them" but you can't help it. Everything was good. The flight, everything was wonderful just like the English flight, like El-Al. Mind you, I prefer El-Al but it was just this thought. We came down in Frankfurt and I resented it. They lost the war and look at the most beautiful airport. They have. If you would not know you would not think it was Germany. It is like any other country now. I remember Germany with the Nazis walking, you know and the brown shirts.



RL: You know you described yourself as British.

AR: Of course I am British

RL: Do you think you have got any kind of continental identity? Do you feel different from the British in any way?

**Tape 2: 37 minutes 57 seconds**

AR: Only when I started to play Scrabble. I played it twice. The other thing, there are words I have never heard, some are Scotch words, that's all But otherwise, I have never felt a foreigner even when I had to go to the police station. I was always treated well by the British when you had to renew something or you had to report. No, I didn't have anything, as far as I remember (clock chimes in background) Rosalind bought us that for our 30<sup>th</sup>.

RL: Is there anything you miss about Germany in the way of culture, food, etc.?

AR: Miss? Unfortunately, perhaps I daren't not say it, but I hate the sight of them. It is natural. I was swimming in? Yossel was having a sleep with his uncle. In those days we had to stay with the family. Now we can stay in hotels as they have passed away. There were some ladies swimming in the sea. I swam with them and as it happens they were talking in German and they kept saying "Herr Doktor". And a young chap came along and he spoke to me and so I spoke to him in German, and he said to me, "how do you speak German? Where are you from." I said, "Manchester, England." "Well, how do you speak German like that." I said, "I was born there. I was born in Germany My father was in the German Army in the first world war. He was in France. But, in this war, they made him dig his own grave and he was shot into it!" So he felt embarrassed. It's true honest to G-d, he felt very embarrassed. I suppose he felt embarrassed and he said "It is different now. It is a different place." So, I told him straight. And I told a girl, the first office job I had, they made a lot of fuss. One of the office girls, I don't know what she was, married to an English soldier. She spoke to me, I spoke in English I said, "Of course you had to be in the Bundes Deutesches Mädchen, the Hitler Youth. You had to be or you could not go to the high school or anything" She said, "Oh, no. I wasn't in the Hitler Youth" So I said "well I know you had to be in the Hitler Youth," I wasn't ashamed to tell her. I couldn't speak in public, but if it comes out like that. Or if anybody says people are not loyal enough to Israel, I soon tell them. When you think of people running around here and there when they should be going to Israel on holiday.

RL: Did you ever talk to your children about your experiences?

AR: They know everything. We have never hidden anything. Suzanne went to William Hulme and she used to see to the Jewish Society there. So she did something on the holocaust and she took things of mine - the Red Cross letters and different things. They were very happy with that. I don't know if it was Yom Hatzmaot or Yom Hashoah. I know they had a celebration and other things as well there. They asked the teachers to come in because they had some special food for them. Laura went to Manchester High later on she did A levels in King David. She was very good at art and she had her work on exhibition at Manchester High. She did the railways

from the camps and all different drawings. If you have been to Yad laYelet and you have walked around you have seen the railway lines. She has done all these things and different things on the camps. They both have. Shelley studied about the camps when she did her degree. That is my daughter-in-law. We have never kept it a secret, why

**Tape 2: 43 minutes 10 seconds**

Should we, they have got to know. Shelley is my daughter in law. My grandchildren did that.

RL: Do you think your experiences have affected you in any way?

AR: Yes, I think my nerves have always been bad. It does affect you. They say it affects the third generation, I don't know. Now they talk about it, especially with friends you know.

RL: Did you talk about it in the past?

AR: Yes. When I first came to England I felt it, I had left a country. Then I didn't know they had been killed. I mean they must have still been alive but, of course, you feel it. Even with different people you were the foreigner, you were the refugee. I once fancied learning French, and it was "Oh, these refugees want to learn everything!" You know. It wasn't easy. These things didn't happen at work. I never had it with the other people. This happened amongst our own.

RL: When did you begin to feel more at ease or at home here?

AR: When I got married. After I met Yossel and all of them. But I felt I belonged more to them. We stuck together. We are more like a family really. We certainly were until people started getting married and had their own families, you know. Now they are getting older of course. Unfortunately quite a number of them have gone, particularly amongst the boys as well.

RL: You felt more at home amongst the boys?

AR: Yes. Well, of course, because I had somebody, you know, I was getting married.

RL: And with English Jews?

AR: Yes, but I think you were always made to feel like a refugee. Have you heard that before? I didn't want to say it, you know. "These refugees want this and want that". They forget the boys have worked very hard to get where they are. And a lot of them, they had everything to gain and you know, they could not lose any more. A lot of them they probably did better than the boys who were born here of their age, you know.

AR: I mean I lost touch with my two cousins. Only they lived with families. One literally ran away and got a job in a non Jewish household who made very, very

happy. They treated her like a daughter. Well, it wasn't really a job. She was treated like one of the family. People who had no children. So we have lost her for everything. The only thing she has done she has put a memorial in Agecroft, but we don't know where she is living. Her sister also. They lived with cousins also related to me. That's why I never bothered with them after. It's a pity.

**Tape 2: 47 minutes 34 seconds**

RL: What happened with your brother?

AR: Well, he died unfortunately.

RL: Did he marry?

AR: No.

RL: When did he die?

AR: Fifty years ago. He was 29. That was the first time I ever saw Yossel cry. He had tears. He could not cry after he had been in the camps, but when he saw my brother in Crumpsall, he did. If he would have had my parents. You see, I was younger then - I was nearly 27. In fact, a long time ago Yossel said when we were going out, "Why don't you go to Israel and take Manfred and I will follow." He would follow on when he finished with his designing and everything. We had to go to somewhere in Northumberland Street. I went with Adash Bulwa. Do you know him? They took on Adash. I made a mistake. I told them my brother was living in the home for epileptic people and they would not take him to Israel, so I didn't go then. Otherwise we would have gone and maybe he would have followed after. Yes, he would definitely have followed because Yossel's family, an auntie, was there. That was one time, I think it was when they had the trouble there, they always have trouble, so I would not leave my brother.

RL: When you got married you say you lived in St. Paul's Road?

AR: Yes.

RL: Where did you move to after that?

AR: Peru Street. Why did we move there? I think we had an extra room. It was Marie Beale's grandmother's house. Marie Beale *oleh va'sholom*. Because we had two bedrooms there, I think. Then we bought a house. Joe thought we had got Buckingham Palace! Woodhill Grove. We lived there. I think I lived there for 45 years. It is 11 years since he has gone.

RL: When did you move here?

AR: Two years' ago. Best thing I did. I have been in the house since. A very nice couple bought it, a young couple. They brought me flowers when she moved in. A very nice girl. They hacked it to pieces. It was nice before. It was nice and clean I left it. But I still go to the street to see the neighbours. We were very happy there. I

don't miss the building there. I miss what, we had three weddings there. We had two Barmitzvahs there.

RL: Which shul did you join?

**Tape 2: 50 minutes 51 seconds**

AR: The Shrubberies. Well, you haven't seen that; the things that Rabbi Ginsberg wrote about Yossel? They called him a teshuvah because he started going to shul. Well, he used to make suits for them as well. When Rosalind got married Rabbi Gurdus got one. Shelley got married in Heaton Park in June.

RL: Did your experiences affect your religious beliefs in any way?

AR: No, we were shul-goers always. We always had everything kosher at home but we weren't like Yossel in Poland. When he was a little boy he had the (indicating side curls with her hands) but they soon came off. He told me he got in trouble at home.

RL: Would you say your religious observances have changed over the years at all?

AR: Just the same. Now I take my granddaughter to shul. She stays over on a Friday night. Sometimes Stenecourt, sometimes our shul. It depends on how far I can walk. Is Stenecourt your shul? Our shul has changed. We have got a very nice young (well, he is not young) American rabbi with a lovely wife. Batya, what a nice person. In fact, Suzanne and Robert go in there on Shabbos lunch-time. The rabbi is a friend of Rosalind and Robert.

RL: When did you become involved with the AJR?

AR: Not that long ago. I had my name down with them I think. I am more with the 45 Aid Society. It's a shlep, it's at the Morris Feinmann Home and it is a shlepp there. Last year when they had it at Stenecourt, I was in Israel at the time so I missed it. I have been to Leeds with them for the day. Yes, that was the AJR. I am getting mixed up between two.

RL: Do you receive their magazines and newsletters?

AR: Yes. The reason why I joined was allevei I thought I might meet somebody but I never met anybody. There used to be Hamburgers - I don't mean the family Hamburg, I mean people from Hamburg. They belonged to the, what do they call it? Northumberland Street, I've forgotten what it's called, the Machzikei Hadass Shul. A lot of German Jews belonged there. Do you know, the Germans were either extremely (indicating right with her hand) or more the other way. The Emmanuel families were there. Did you remember them?

RL: Did you know them from Hamburg, and they belonged to Machzikei Hadass?

**Tape 2: 54 minutes 20 seconds**

AR: Yes. I think one Betty, I think she was a year higher than I. I think she went to Israel. Now when I went to Leeds, I met a lady (she is a doctor in Liverpool). She was a year higher than I am. She was at my school. I was introduced to her. I felt a bit shy meeting her so she told me she came in 1938 before Krystallnacht. Her father had to finish studying here because if you were a doctor you had to study again here. She came with her mother and she said she had the opportunity to go to school here. She learned a lot of English in Hamburg. She went to the same school but a year higher. I didn't know her. I had never met her. I think she was by herself but she was from Liverpool. I think there is a Hamburger somewhere in Wythenshawe, I don't know.

RL: Did you attend the Kindertransport reunions?

AR: The first one, I went with Yossel. I didn't go a second time.

RL: How did you find that?

AR: It was alright. We had the Rabbonim there. We a very good choir there. I don't know whether it was the Shabbaton Choir, I don't know. But it was amazing, there were a number of people - I felt, I don't know, I felt sorry for them. They had never seen Jewish food! They were brought over by, they were very fortunate they were saved. 10,000 were saved. They came by the Quakers or somebody and a lot of them had a better life. I did sit with a lady, I don't know whether she was from London somewhere, and she didn't live with Jewish people but she had a wonderful education and everything. We are still in touch with them. The picture from the shul on the Baumplatz,.... I made a copy for her. I wish I could find my own. I had two copies. It will be somewhere. I sent it to her. She wanted it.

RL: Did you meet anybody you had known?

AR: No. Once I saw Hannah Holzer on the bus here. She was just getting off the bus. I don't know where she had been or what. She didn't live in Manchester.

RL: At the Kindertransport reunion, did you meet anybody?

AR: Yes, Herbert and Louise Elliott. Do you know them? He is one of the card players and Louise is very clever. She is very good. They are in

### **Tape 2: 56 minutes 26 seconds**

charge of the Manchester 45 Aid. No, not in charge. She did an article in the - I have just got the paper from the 45 Aid Society today. She wrote about Blanche last year in it.

RL: Is there anything you would like to add, any message you would like to send?

AR: Find me someone who comes from Hamburg. I would like to meet people you know.

RL: Thank you.

AR: So what happens to all this?

## PHOTOGRAPHS

My mother and father - Amalie Braun, her nickname and Arnold Hagenow, Mallie geborgene Braun and Arnold Hagenow taken in 1922, I don't know, in Hamburg.

Arnold Hagenow, first world war in Germany, Hamburg.

Manfred Salo Hagenow five years of age and Alice Hagenow two years old in 1927 in Hamburg.

The Talmud Torah Schule in Hamburg. That was the school I went to till 1939. It used to be for boys only. The Nazis had taken the other school building away from Jewish people, so we had to go there. The picture was taken in 1984.

A school friend from my class, Ilse Rosenberg, Eva Oppenheim, Steffi Paul, Ilse Leuwenstein, Alice Hagenow and Ilse Cohen - taken on the 10<sup>th</sup> June in Hamburg 1939.

That is the house where we lived. We lived on the third floor in a flat - 137 Hochbaumstrasse. The picture was taken in the middle of June 1939. A Mister Reppen, a friend of ours, who was staying with us took the photograph without my knowledge and the little girl who was living in our house before emigrating is also on the picture there. Taken in Hamburg.

I came on the Kindertransport on a ship called the "SS. Washington" and I arrived in Manchester on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1939.

It is my brother Manfred Hagenow taken during the Second World War when he was in the British Army.

A letter from my parents from Hamburg in 1941.

My wedding picture - Yossel and I together, Mr. and Mrs. Filson my unterfuhrers; Solly and Ettie Braun were unterfuhrers for Yossel. Taken on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1952 in Manchester.

Michael's Barmitzvah. The picture was taken in the evening at home with Yossel, Harold, Michael, Rosalind and myself, Alice - 6<sup>th</sup> February 1971.

My grandchildren taken in Manchester in 1999 and in 2003. These are my grandchildren all eight of them. At the bottom is Adam, Natalie, Daniel and Emily; at the top from the left Laura and Suzanne; at the right, then Jemma and Edward underneath and Robert and Rosalind are on that as well.

