

IMPORTANT

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Interview Transcript Title Page

Collection title:	AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive
Ref. no:	61

Interviewee Surname:	Weinberg
Forename:	Arnold
Interviewee Sex:	Male
Interviewee DOB:	30 January 1924
Interviewee POB:	Fulda, Germany

Date of Interview:	20 May 2004
Location of Interview:	Manchester
Name of Interviewer:	Rosalyn Livshin
Total Duration (HH:MM):	3 hours 22 minutes

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

INTERVIEW: 61

NAME: ARNOLD WEINBERG

DATE: THURSDAY 20 MAY 2004

LOCATION: MANCHESTER

INTERVIEWER: ROSALYN LIVSHIN

TAPE 1

RL: I am interviewing Arnold Weinberg and today's date is Thursday 20th May 2004. The interview is taking place in Manchester and I am Rosalyn Livshin.

So, if you can tell me first your name.

AW: My name is Arnold Weinberg.

RL: And what was your name at birth.

AW: My name at birth was Arnold Weinberg, but mostly I was called Arno. Maybe as a diminutive, mostly called Arno at home or by relations.

RL: Did you have a middle name?

AW: No.

RL: A Hebrew name.

AW: Aharon.

RL: Aharon.

AW: Aharon Ben Meir.

RL: Were you named after anybody?

AW: My grandfather.

RL: On which side?

Tape 1:1 minute 16 seconds

AW: My father's side.

RL: And where were you born?

AW: I was born in Fulda in Germany.

RL: And when were you born?

AW: On 30th January 1924.

RL: So how old does that make you now?

AW: That makes me 80 now.

RL: Now, if you tell me your parents' names and where they were born.

AW: My parents name was Max Weinberg, my mother's name was Martha nee Hertzberg. My father was born in Schenklengsfeld, which is a very small place not far from Fulda. My mother was born in a place called Buckeburg, in Germany.

RL: Now, if you can tell me about your father's family, his parents, his siblings, anything you can about his family.

AW: Yes, my father was one of, I think of 16 children, out of two wives. The first wife died after, shortly after childbirth of one of the children. But, then he married again, my father was the son of the second wife. Quite a number of the children didn't survive past the first or second year, so of the 16 children, I think only eight or nine survived until later.

RL: Do you know what your grandfather did for a living?

AW: He was also a businessman, but he was well known and well liked in his community in Schenklengsfeld, and that is where he lived. He died before, I never met him, he died when I was very young, in fact he died on Kol Nidre evening.

RL: What kind of business was it?

AW: I am not quite sure what kind of business he had. I think it was similar to what my father did later on, he was a sort of a trader, but he was very much concerned with the Jewish community there as well, he was one of the main leaders of the Jewish community in that small place.

RL: What kind of religious upbringing did your father have?

Tape 1: 4 minutes 9 seconds

AW: Very religious. The whole family did. And so did I. I have always been religious.

RL: Did they belong to any particular group of orthodoxy.

AW: No, I lived in Fulda which was a small town, maybe at the time of about 30,000 inhabitants, there were about, at the most, fourteen, fifteen hundred Jewish people living there but that is going back some time into the middle ages. And my father was also in business, he was a representative for several firms, mostly in oils and groceries and things like that, he was a representative and sold them to wholesalers and even shops in the area.

RL: Did he have to travel in his work?

AW: He did travel now and again, not a lot, because when I was already old enough to know about it he was well established, but once or twice when he travelled my father took me with him, and I remember on one occasion to a small place, I remember the weather was a blizzard when we got there, it was not far from Fulda, he went to see a customer there, who was a small one, and it was a terrible day, I remember that. I think that is the only time I remember I travelled with my father. I don't think he took me anywhere apart from that one occasion, I must have been a bit older then, I guess about 13 or so.

RL: Did he have an office?

AW: No, he worked from home.

RL: He worked from home. Was he working on his own?

AW: Yes.

RL: Coming back to his brothers and sisters. Do you know where they were? Or what happened to them?

AW: Yes, only one of his brothers, my uncle, came out, and he went to the United States, he was the youngest one of all the children, of my grandfather, and he immigrated to America.

RL: What was his name?

AW: Siegfried Fulda. He was a teacher. He was a teacher in a school. One of the head teachers, and then he emigrated, his son was already there in America, and he followed him. He got out before the war.

Tape 1: 6 minutes 59 seconds

RL: And the others?

AW: The others, some, well some, one immigrated to America, one of the older ones from the first wife, he immigrated to America a long time ago. I have never met him. I only know from items which I was told about him at the time, or things I have read about since. Another one ...

RL: What was his name? If you tell me the names ...

AW: It was Julius.

Another one, immigrated to South Africa, and he dealt in wines.

RL: And his name?

AW: I have never met him, I think his name was, what was his name? Solomon.

Then, there were a few children who didn't survive very long.

Then there was a daughter, Cilly. Her first husband died, and then she married again, a second husband, his name was Moses Epstein. They didn't survive, they didn't survive the Shoah.

RL: And did they have family?

AW: They had family, yes. They had two daughters, I met one, she is still living in America, in Charlotte, the same city where my sister lives. She will be 92 this year. Her birthday is the same date as my sister's birthday, by the way. She still lives there but on her own, her husband passed away about, it must be seven, eight, no its more than that, I met him once when I was in America, but the last time I was there he was already passed away, so it must be about 12/13 years now. Her daughter, she has got a daughter, she is living in America, she is a member of an orchestra, she is the leader of an orchestra there. Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and the husband is also there. And she also teaches.

RL: But her parents perished?

AW: Her parents perished, I think they ended up in Theresienstadt. I have got some details of it, I will have to look up. I think, I am not quite sure, but I think they went to Theresienstadt, I don't know if they were deported to anywhere else from there, or passed away in Theresienstadt.

There was another uncle of mine, Uncle Herman, he was a bit older than my father, he also ended up in Theresienstadt. His wife passed away already in,

Tape 1: 10 minutes 20 seconds

they lived in Frankfurt, his wife passed away in Frankfurt when she was quite young, I think she was only about 49, 50 at the time when she passed away. That would have been Prestwich Girls School '37, '38, maybe '39. It wouldn't have been '37 it would be later, '38 or early '39 it could have been. I think he was deported to Theresienstadt. They have got two sons, well they had another son who also died young, they have two sons, one of them was a founder of Chofetz Chaim Kibbutz in the early '30s. Quite an interesting story about him, he was a Zionist in his early days, he has always been a Zionist, when he was 18 years old. He knew his parents wouldn't let him go and leave, when he was 18 years old, he gave his parents a ticket for a show, for a theatre, and when they came home they found a letter on the sideboard, he wrote a letter, "I am sorry to leave you this way, I am immigrating to Israel." And that is how he left. And he became a lecturer at Bar Ilan University. He went to Israel in November, and I went to meet him there at one of his daughter's house. He is now 90, is he 90 or 91, he is 91 now.

RL: What is his name?

AW: His name is Harry, Harry Weinberg. He also had ten children from his first wife. His first wife passed away some time ago, but then he married again another person he knew. That would be about, it must be about 15 years or so ago now. But, all his children live in Israel. One was killed by an accident, a road accident, but all the other children are still there. One of his children, you might even know, he was a shaliach, Yoska Weinberg. He was a shaliach here for two years, in Manchester that was also about 15 years ago now. It is more now. Yes, it is quite some time ago. But he lives in Israel now. All his children live in Israel.

RL: And any other ... ?

AW: The other son, the younger son, he is a year older than I am. He lives in Toronto. We are in constant contact. He lived in Manchester, he immigrated to Manchester from Germany and he lived here in Manchester for about, he got married here after the war. He married a Manchester girl who then immigrated to Toronto because he thought there was better prospects for him there, and that is why he has lived there ever since except for a couple of years, in Israel in Tel Aviv, but he lives there now.

RL: Coming back to your father, do you know what kind of education he had?

AW: He must have had quite probably an ordinary education in Schenklingfeld. He didn't go to university or anything like that.

RL: And Hebrew wise?

Tape 1: 14 minutes 10 seconds

AW: Well, we were all religious, and he knew Hebrew of course. My father was also active in the Jewish community in Fulda as one of the members of the committee of the Jewish community in Fulda.

RL: What did that entail? What did he have to do?

AW: Well, it is like, he looked after the affairs of the synagogue and as far as the members of the Jewish community there. He was one of the members there. Anything to do with the Jewish community, and I remember after Crystal Night, my father tried to get children out from Fulda, he travelled to Berlin or to Frankfurt where he used to, I used to type a lot of letters for him on a typewriter and he got me out here, to Manchester, as well, through his efforts.

RL: Was there just the one Shul in Fulda?

AW: There was just the one Shul. There was more like what we call a Shtieble, for East German Jews. You couldn't call it a Shul, it was more like a Shtieble, apart from that there was only one Shul, 95% if not more were orthodox, very few were not orthodox.

RL: Who was the Rabbi?

AW: The Rabbi was Rabbi Kahn. He immigrated to England and he lived in Cardiff for a while. He had, as far as I know, two sons, Herman, I don't know much about him, but a younger son, I can't remember his first name, he emigrated to Israel and he is a sort of a representative, I don't know what of, a PR of Jewish organisations there, and I met him when we went, the Jewish community in Fulda invited all its previous Jewish people, like when most German cities did, that was in 1987 I think, and he came there and I met him there, and he had quite a horrific tale to tell about his parents, about his father, and what happened even before he immigrated.

RL: Going back to your father, did he serve in the First World War?

AW: He did, yes.

RL: Do you know anything about that time? Did he ever talk about it?

AW: Not a lot, he served in the First World War, in the German forces, like most Jews in those days did. I remember he went to Austria/Hungary, I remember one place he had a picture postcard that he sent back home to my mother, which is called Kaposvar, I think it is now in Rumania, in those days it was all part of Austria/Hungary.

Tape 1: 17 minutes 36 seconds

RL: Did he say what kind of time he had in the army?

AW: I remember hardly anything from that time.

RL: How did he get to Fulda, your father, how did he move ... ?

AW: He moved to Fulda because it must have been the nearest bigger town. Schenklengsfeld was more like a village, and some others went to school in Fulda and went to other places, apart from that, in the end there was nobody left in Schenklengsfeld.

RL: How did he meet your mother?

AW: I don't know. I don't really know. If I did know I have forgotten over the time. The point is I have been here on my own since then, I have no contacts who could remind me or tell me.

RL: Do you know when they married?

AW: They married in the, early in the 20th century. The exact date I do not know. Yes, I do know, but I would have to look it up, I don't remember it offhand.

RL: Were you the oldest child?

AW: The youngest.

RL: You were the youngest.

AW: By a long while.

RL: Right. So tell me who else there was.

AW: My brother Harry was the eldest. He was ten years older than I am. He passed away about five years ago.

RL: And who else was there?

AW: And my sister, she is, she will be 89 next week, 30th May she will be 89, she will be 89. Then I came along as an after thought and well, I am 80 now.

RL: I have not asked you about your mother's family. Can you tell me something about her family background?

AW: I don't know a lot about my mother's family. They lived in Buckeburg and

Tape 1: 19 minutes 38 seconds

they had a house there in Buckeburg, I don't know much, but my mother was very much interested in cultures, she spoke French, she was a painter, she was a marvellous painter, she had paintings in oil, one of my regrets is that I never took a painting of hers out, my sister has got some, I have seen some in, at an auntie of mine in America, on the walls there, of my mother, but I never took any out, but you were restricted what you took out, when I saw what you could take and what you didn't take

out, and at that time I was probably not as much as aware of paintings as I am now, that is how I came about it, and I have rued it ever since.

RL: How many brothers and sisters did she have?

AW: She had just, there was one, there was one sister, she is still alive, I think she would be about 80 years old, 90 I mean, she also lives in New York. Her family most of them live in Israel now, her husband passed away about two years ago, passed away, Julius.

RL: This was a sister of your mother?

AW: Yes.

RL: Still alive?

AW: Yes,

RL: What is her name?

AW: Her name is Lottie.

RL: And her married name?

AW: Benjamin.

RL: Do you know what your grandfather did for a living? Your mother's father?

AW: I don't know, he passed away before I was born. I know hardly anything about that side of my family. I have got some dates here, but personally I know very little now. I must have forgotten over the time.

RL: What kind of religious upbringing did your mother have?

AW: Very religious, all of us were the same.

Tape 1: 22 minutes 8 seconds

RL: Do you know what kind of education she had?

AW: She must have had a better education, probably, because she was more interested, she read quite a bit, she painted. My father was more interested in music, he was always whistling opera tunes, he has been to see many operas, he was more into music, my mother was more into literature. But her mother, from my mother's side, lived in Frankfurt, and I met her there, she was a very nice old lady, very religious, but she was not in good health, but I don't know what happened to her, I tried to find out in Yad Vashem and other places but I never found out. She would have been deported but I

don't know when and I don't know what happened to her. I could never find out. There is no record of her in Yad Vashem or anywhere else.

RL: What is your earliest memory as a child?

AW: My earliest memory as a child is sitting on my mother's lap, Mother was telling to me there was a light, I was probably looking at a candle at the time, I don't know how old I was, probably about three years old or so, I don't know why I remember that, but it is strange why I remember certain items, but more important items you don't remember.

RL: Can you describe where you were living in Fulda?

AW: In Fulda, we lived, I remember, we lived in two residences. We had a flat in an apartment building, well they were all like that, apartment buildings there, not like here in England, on the second floor, we had a nice flat there. And then, until we moved, we had to move, that was around, I think it was 1937, we moved into another flat, same thing, we had a first floor flat, and from there I emigrated.

RL: Can you describe the layout of the flat? What it consisted of?

AW: The flat, we had a nice big living room, we had a bedroom, we had another smaller bedroom, we had a nice kitchen and there was another spare room there.

RL: The neighbours, who were they mainly Jewish or non Jewish?

AW: Mixed. On the ground floor was a gentile person who was quite a nice person, a business man, on the floor above us, on the second floor was another Jewish person who was a tailor who lived on his own, I think his wife passed away, and he lived on his own and was a tailor. On the floor above was a gentile person who was a member of the Nazi party. He was an activist of the SA. So when we met, there wasn't a lift in the building in those days, there is now, but when we met on the stairs he used to say, "Hello" or "Good day", that is about all,

Tape 1: 25 minutes 40 seconds

as if he had to say something but if not for that he wouldn't have bothered at all. The person on the ground floor, he was a nice person who spoke to us about his business and that, but things that he does not agree with, he is sorry, but you can't, there is nothing he could do otherwise it affects his business as well, so there was nothing he could say, he had to keep shtum.

RL: How did you get on with the children of your age in the neighbourhood?

AW: Well, when Hitler came in to power in 33 I was too young. The school I went to was a Jewish school there, the only Jewish school in the building, in Fulda. All the Jewish children went to school there, they had their schooling there. Obviously I knew

quite a few of them and they were friendly. I was more friendly with some, less friendly with others, same as anywhere else.

RL: How big a school was it?

AW: There were quite a few, there must have been a couple of hundred children there.

RL: And who was the headmaster?

AW: The headmaster was somebody called Mellor. And the building survived the war. I don't know what it was used for during the war, but the reason when we were invited to go back to Fulda was the inauguration of that school building and the grounds as it was renovated and then it was inaugurated as a centre for the Jews in Fulda and its surroundings. On one part of it was also a synagogue. That was the reason. They had a special occasion, in the street, in front of it was cordoned off, and it was inaugurated. The Mayor was there, we had a lot of chairs outside in the street, and all those who came from all over the world, from all five continents were sitting outside, and afterwards when it was inaugurated and a Mezuzah was fixed and we went inside and we had an exhibition inside of the former Jewish community there. That was on the ground floor, and there was also one of the rooms where I had my schooling, there were the school rooms.

RL: Is that the only school you attended?

AW: Yes. When I came to England I didn't go to school. I came to Yeshiva here in Manchester.

RL: And were they all Jewish teachers at the school?

AW: Yes, all Jewish teachers at the school. There was no way there could be a gentile teacher there after Hitler. But there were always Jewish teachers there as far as I remember going back.

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RL: Were there any clubs that you belonged to?

AW: We had a club called Ezra. A Jewish club called Ezra that we went to. But all these things were, as more time went on after Hitler, the more restricted they were. So, it was ongoing process, less and less all the time.

RL: What kind of things did you do in Ezra?

AW: Well we used to go on Shabbat afternoon, we had meetings, and we sang songs, and we had maybe a sort of a droscha. Who was a leader there? More or less as we had here later on as well.

RL: Were there any sports activities?

AW: No. We didn't have any sports activities. In the school we went to gymnastics where we went to a school, we didn't have in the Jewish building any facilities for that, but we went to a hall where they had gymnastics and that is where we went. Sports we couldn't do any more without any question.

RL: What about music? Did you learn any instrument?

AW: No. Oh, they did have someone there with recorders, flutes, recorders, I didn't have any. It was not one of my better, good subjects, music, I don't know why, because I am very fond of music. I couldn't live without music now, but at the time I didn't. Music and gymnastics were not my, were probably my worst subjects, the rest of the subjects I did well, I was always the best pupil in school. All the time I was there. I have still got all my, what do you call them, school reports.

RL: Right ... ok.

AW: We used to get school reports half yearly, and once I was slightly below A1, my father gave me a good ticking off, and the next school report I was back to normal. Everything was A1. We also had, after Hitler came to power, it must have been about 1934 or so, the Jewish community thought it was a good idea to give people a chance, children a chance, to have foreign languages because of the purveying situation, you didn't know what was going to happen, and they had a choice, it was not compulsory, it was voluntary, if parents wanted to send their children to have these lessons, and I took English and Ivrit. And, that must be until I left school, must have been about four years. And in the last year we were not allowed to speak German in school during these lessons, only English or Ivrit. We got papers from, as it was then, Palestine, in Ivrit and we have got, I remember one I had, I don't think it is in existence any more, it was a weekly magazine, and I learned from the Guardian, or as it was then Manchester

Tape 1: 32 minutes 39 seconds

Guardian weekly, and I have been a Guardian reader ever since until I stopped it because of its present anti Israel stance.

RL: Was there any Zionist activity in the school?

AW: Not as such. I also learned French, in the end, for two years I had French lessons.

RL: Were there any Zionist groups in the town?

AW: Not really. There was Ezra, Ezra was as near as we did. Ezra was anyway a Zionist group. More like Bnei Akiva here, more or less the same as Bnei Akiva here in England.

RL: What was your parents' attitude towards Zionism? How did people feel towards it?

AW: It was positive. I wouldn't say enthusiastic, but it was positive, definitely positive.

RL: What would your parents do, or the family do, for entertainment, if they wanted to enjoy themselves?

AW: Well, again, the Hitler era made a lot of difference, because before that the family had what we had quite an extensive family, and we used to get together every year or every two years for what we called family get together, we used to hire a room in a little spa town and all the family from all over the place used to come together, there might have been a few dozen people there, and they also had, what we call a committee which dealt with matters of the family. My father was one of the members, and the main person was one of my uncles, a prominent Rabbi, Magnus Weinberg, was one of my uncles. Now I will tell you more about him later. And they, anything concerning the family, if there were some people who had financial troubles maybe some members, we used to try and help them on the quiet without making it known, so as not to shame anybody. If they had any other, maybe marital problems, even health problems, we tried to help in any way we could. We were a very close knit family.

RL: Did other families do this sort of thing?

AW: I don't know. They must have been others, but it was a very, very close knit family, but obviously, I have got some group photos of that as well, actually I didn't have at the time, they were sent to me later. It was only a few years ago, and quite a lot of information about that, by a member of my family who now lives in Israel.

Tape 1: 36 minutes 0 second

After Hitler all this ceased, it couldn't happen any more, because some emigrated and it just wasn't feasible any more.

RL: Did the family used to go to concerts or the theatre?

AW: Yes. Well in a small town like Fulda there was not so much facility to do it, but we used to have a Jewish club there, we used to go there every week, how can I say, in a way maybe like Nicky Alliance here, which is more like for older people but that was for all Jewish people there, no matter what age. You could play cards there, or sometimes they put plays on. I remember being once a member of an act there in the Chanukah play there, and that is what we did. But there was an occasion when it was raided by the SS, by the Nazi thugs, and some people had, I remember one person tried to jump out of the window and he broke his leg from the ground floor. I don't know why they broke in, well you don't need any reason, if they suspect, anyhow, whatever, that is what they did, as you know, I wasn't there, but I remember being told.

RL: Where was the club? Where was it held?

AW: It was a building in Fulda. They had a building there where these activities took place.

RL: Did it have a name? The club?

AW: It didn't have a name, just everybody knew it as a club for Jewish members, for Jewish people to congregate there, to put plays on there, to sit and socialise, it was a social club.

RL: Did the family used to go on holiday?

AW: Not in my time. It wasn't possible any more. I remember once we went in a friend's car out on a Sunday, I think, for the day. Not far, it was just a nice summer's day, we went out. Well, before Hitler I was too young anyway. That must have been about '35 or '36. We came to a place, soon, before we were coming to a town, like you see a sign here, "This is Prestwich", there was a sign over the road, "Jews are not wanted in this town here", like they did in other places. And that is how it was there. So we didn't have much chance, and there was always arrests, even in those earlier times, if somebody saw you in a car, who knows, if they stopped you, you never know what would happen.

RL: Did you yourself experience any trouble?

AW: I didn't. Well, once I remember I was beaten up by a gentile boy there for no reason at all, and then again, when it was Krystall Night I was arrested. We

Tape 1: 39 minutes 39 seconds

were, in the morning, as it happens, when I left school, I went to, I was in Yeshiva in Fulda, I went to Yeshiva, not to become a Rabbi, but my parents sent me there to have a good grounding in Yiddishkeit, and it has always stood me in good stead, you get good values for life, but when Krystall Nacht was there, I used to go home for lunch every day and went back to Yeshiva in the afternoon. But on that day, 9th November, I went home as usual, to have my lunch at home, and on the other side of the road another boy I knew said, "Come here." Across the road and he told me, go home, don't go back to Yeshiva later, stay at home. He must have had some inkling or foreboding and I went home and I didn't go back to the Yeshiva in the afternoon, I stayed home. My mother thought ... my father was away for the community, I don't know where he was, in Frankfurt or in Berlin, he was not at home, but I stayed home with my mother. In the evening, the front door was locked, they locked the downstairs front door so they shouldn't come in. There was a mob of Nazi jobs coming through the streets, seeing where Jews were living, and that is what they did. The door was locked, and they knocked on the door, and they banged on the door, but they couldn't get in, so they went away, but that night the Synagogue was burnt down and that was the end of the Yeshiva which was opposite the Shul there. So I was glad I didn't go back in the afternoon because there were mobs already in the town and if they would have seen a Jewish boy there they might have beaten me up there.

The next morning, about nine, half past nine, two Gestapo people came in and rang our bell, they wanted to arrest my father, my father wasn't there and I was there, and I was big for my age, so they arrested me there, and we were all taken to a big hall there, and all those who were arrested there were gathered together before they were sent away to ... they were sent to Dachau later. And around about lunch time, it must have been about two o'clock in the afternoon, or about three o'clock, I saw my mother coming in and speaking to the persons there. She was on her knees and had tears in her eyes to let me out, because I was only a young boy, and I looked older than my age, and thanks to her, they let me go, otherwise I would have been sent to Dachau, and she got me out there. And my father was lucky, he was not arrested and we escaped that. If not for that he might have died in Dachau, who knows, and he came back later to Fulda, after he had finished whatever business he had to do, and from that time he tried to get me out and other children as well.

He wrote to three Yeshivot, one was in Enschede in Holland, one was Gateshead and the other was Manchester, my personal preference was Manchester because it was a bigger city, but whichever answered first and gave us permission, acceptance, I would have gone, because you don't know whether you will get positive answers anywhere else and time was in the offing and everybody knew there was a war coming soon. My luck was Manchester answered first, and that through her father in law, Saul Rosenberg, and I came to Manchester. That was in June 1939, three months before the war started.

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RL: Just going back a little bit before we move on.

AW: Yes.

RL: First of all you mentioned about the Yeshiva in Fulda, can you tell me a little bit about that, how big it was, who the rabbis were.

AW: The Rabbi, there were, we had two teachers there, one was Yehuda Yochnovitz, you know Yochnovitz. If you know, well, Yochnovitz had seven children, you will know some of them here. One of them is Rabbi Kahan, in the forties, he later became a member of the Knesset in Israel. And those two were my teachers.

RL: How big a yeshiva was it?

AW: Very small. We were maybe about 30 Yeshiva Bochorim, that is all.

RL: And did most manage to get out?

AW: I don't know. I never met any later on again, so I don't know. Some will have managed to get out, some will not have got out, I don't know, quite a lot of them were not from Fulda, from surrounding districts or maybe relations of people, of Jewish people who lived in Fulda.

RL: What kind of support was there in Fulda for the Nazis? You know, amongst the general population. How did they feel?

AW: Generally speaking, my father was in business, most of his customers were non Jewish people. Polite as far as you go, well the later in time after Hitler came into power the less business he could do because some didn't want to do business with Jewish people, some couldn't even if they wanted to or their business would have suffered as well. A lot of people, business people had to be members of the Nazi party, because if you were not a member, the suspicion was, if you are not for us you are against us and why are you against us, so if you were in business you had to be a member of the Nazi party. Once you were a member of the Nazi party it was not easy to do business with the Jewish people, and that is how it was, but some of them told my father. We don't like this government, but you know very well, what can we do, we have got our parnosa, we have to earn a living, and that is what we have got to do, and that is how it was.

RL: What about your neighbours? The people who lived around about you? How were they when Hitler came to power? How did they behave?

Tape 1: 47 minutes 19 seconds

AW: Well we didn't have, there weren't any Jewish people in the, adjoining to apartment buildings, there were Jewish people living nearby but we knew most of the Jewish people in Fulda, knew each other.

Like everywhere else we were more friendly with some, and maybe less friendly with others, but it was a fairly closely knit Jewish community like any smaller place. It is not like a big city, not like Frankfurt or Berlin where there were thousands of them. And then a different Jewish, I mean some were not and some were more frum in a bigger city, in Fulda, at least 90% were very religious, so it was very closely knit.

RL: Was that unusual for such a large percentage to be so religious?

AW: Not necessarily, in the smaller places, there were a lot of Jewish communities in the very small places all over Germany, and most tended to be quite religious. When it came to the bigger cities that did not prevail as much. The large majority were not religious. In the bigger cities, Frankfurt was one, and there was quite a higher percentage was religious, but even there, it was not quite the same as in Fulda, and smaller places.

RL: I wanted to ask you about the non Jewish neighbours? How did you get on with them after the rise of Hitler?

AW: We didn't know anyone in the adjoining apartment buildings. We only knew the ones who lived in the one we lived in. As I said the one on the ground floor we were quite friendly, we talked to each other when we met on the stairs, and we talked and were friendly with them, but he was a business man, so outside, well we didn't see them outside the building. The one who lived on top was a Nazi party member we never did.

We met on the stairs and we passed each other on the stairs, good day or good morning, and that is all. That is it.

RL: Did he ever cause you any trouble?

AW: We didn't have any trouble. He had a big alsation dog there, I remember that, but we didn't have any trouble.

RL: So, Krystallnacht, after Krystallnacht, did your parents think of trying to get out of ...

AW: Yes they did, they wanted to go to America but you couldn't get, you had to get a quota number, as you may be aware. Anyone who wanted to go there had a quota number, and when your number came up, then you could go to the consulate and you get a visa. My brother was in America and he was on his way to America. My sister emigrated to America in 1938 because her husband, who

Tape 1: 50 minutes 45 seconds

came from Hamburg, he was already in America and they were not married yet, but because they were going to marry, they were engaged, because he was going to marry her as soon as she came to America she did not need a quota number, as soon as she came to America they got married there.

RL: So what was the story about your brother emigrating?

AW: Well, he was already not at home for a long time, he lived in Holland for a very short time, and then he lived in Spain, in Barcelona for about a year or a year and a half. And then he came back home for a short time and that was in 1935, he went to what was then Palestine, he was there for about two years and then he came back and he lived in Italy, in Milan, for about, it must be about 18 months of so, and then he emigrated to America.

RL: Why was he travelling around so much?

AW: He was trying a little bit of business for my father, helping my father a bit, and then he couldn't do much in Germany so he, I think in Italy he was trying to teach some Italian children languages because he was fluent in quite a few languages.

RL: When did he get married?

AW: Late in life. When he got married he was in his fifties, he got married late, but married to an American girl, she was also a little bit younger.

RL: And your sister, what did she do after school? Your sister?

AW: She worked in an office, in Hamburg. She was a secretary for some company there, and that is where she met her husband, in Hamburg. And her husband emigrated to America and they got engaged before, and he applied to bring her over to America, and intended to get married there so that is how she managed to get there without needing a quota number, she got in right away.

RL: So she married there without any of the family being there?

AW: That is right. No, we didn't know, well there were other family members there, cousins there, but we all came from Germany and had had hard times over there, how could we have anybody else there. We had some relations there who emigrated there already in the 19th century, into America, some quite prominent members, one was an architect who was connected with building Carnegie Hall in New York, a very well known architect. So we had far reaching members of the family who emigrated there a long time ago, but they were more distant

Tape 1: 54 minutes 36 seconds

members of the relations so we were not always in contact. You had to stand on your own feet there.

RL: And your parents were hoping eventually to emigrate?

AW: Yes, but then, I tried to get them to move to England, but I had no chance, three months after I came to England war broke out so there was no chance of coming to England of course, and they didn't get a chance to go to America because of the quota number. It took a long time.

RL: One thing I have just remembered that I haven't asked you is about your Bar Mitzvah.

AW: Yes.

RL: What happened on your Bar Mitzvah?

AW: We had a Bar Mitzvah where family members came over in Fulda. And it was not as comprehensive as it would be in normal times. But, there was a number of family members there, and we had, yes, I said part of the sedra and the haphtarah there. And then we had a family get together and a nice meal, also on the next day on the Sunday, and that was also the last time quite a few of my aunts and uncles were together there, after that I saw some of them later but not together any more. I have no photos or pictures unfortunately of that occasion, only memories and not many of that. In fact it was probably the last happy occasion in Germany there.

RL: How big a gathering was it?

AW: There were about a dozen people there. No more than that.

RL: And was it mainly celebrated at home?

AW: Yes, all at home. You couldn't ... it was not the time to have big celebrations there.

RL: Now this film is about to end ...

AW: Yes.

RL: So we will stop here.

TAPE 2

RL: This is the interview with Arnold Weinberg and it is tape 2.

I was just wondering, did your parents in Germany have a maid?

AW: Before Hitler's time, when I was a little boy they had a maid, yes.

RL: And what happened after Hitler came to power?

AW: Now, there was no way that any non Jewish people could help a Jewish family in that way. It didn't exist anywhere in Germany.

RL: Did the family keep in touch with the maid?

AW: They must have done, because, later, I am not sure, I am not aware while I was still in Germany, I was not aware, they probably did have some connections, because they were nice people, and we treated them well, and we had always been on friendly terms, while she was a maid with my parents.

RL: And did you have contact with her later?

AW: No.

RL: No ... which was the maid that you did have contact with?

AW: The maid I did have contact with, well, in 1987, the City of Fulda, invited all former Jewish residents of Fulda, inhabitants there, to come to Fulda at their expense from anywhere in the world. And there were about three or four hundred people, from all five continents there, coming to Fulda together for a week and one day, it must have been after about five days or so, there was a message in the hotel where we were staying, somebody wants to contact me, I didn't know who it was, then I found out. It was the daughter or family of the maid my parents had years ago pre Hitler times in Germany, and they were trying every day, they knew about the meeting of former Jewish residents of Fulda and they were hoping that I and my brother and sister might be there, and they

were trying every day to find out, and they couldn't find out, and then they found out from the hotel that there was somebody with my name staying there, but I only found out after a few days of already being there, and they wanted to meet me. That is when, then I got the message from the hotel, they came down from the hotel and we met. Obviously I had never met the daughter and the family of our maid, former maid, but they were very nice people and we stayed, and the whole family came, and we had a nice talk together there about former times and they told us about our parents. In the end they had to move to what was called an old peoples home in Fulda, which used to be in former times the communal building there, and Jews had to move into there as far as possible.

Tape 2: 3 minutes 45 seconds

And they told us there was, there wasn't a lot of food, they were very short of food in those days, the Jewish people. And they told us they used to bring at night some food into my parents, in that building there, to help them out a bit, they couldn't do it, they were afraid during the day and that is what they did. Ever since then we have stayed in contact. Once a year I send them a nice present over there and I get a nice present from them there as well. Even last year, amongst other presents, I got a bottle of wine from Fulda, which was specially done, for his, I think 1200 years old, it is a very ancient little city, and they sent me quite a lot of books on the Fulda Jewish community there, which I have got and which is very much appreciated and we stay in contact. Some members have passed on of their family, others are also not well and even their children, we always keep in contact.

RL: Coming back to you leaving Fulda ...

AW: Yes ...

RL: What kind of preparations did you have to make before you left?

AW: We were hoping for, we waiting for every day, that we should hear that our application to join Yeshiva was accepted, and in the end the one from Manchester came first, as I was hoping for, and then we had to get, as soon as possible, we had to travel to Frankfurt to the English Consulate in Frankfurt to get an entry visa here, which we got, but there were a lot of people there, everybody was trying to get out, and we got that. And when I got that, my father thought, it's not very nice, a boy travelling on his own, never been out from home that far before to go on the long journey to England in the most prevailing circumstances there, he thought he had better join a Kinder Transport, which I did, and it was of immense help to me, and it was a tiring journey. It was a hot, June day, and no food, except a bit what my parents had given me, some sandwiches, a long journey. There was a stop at the border, the Dutch border or course, but as soon as we came over the border the first stop there were tables with nice fresh drinks, it was as I say a *mechaje* [Yiddish] to have a fresh drink after such a long time. And from then we went on to the Hook of Holland where we got on a boat and we travelled overnight to Harwich. When we woke up in the morning the boat was already in the harbour there, and from there we travelled to London. In London, I cannot remember the station we arrived in, but there were people there from Jewish committees there, and it was most

people stayed in the south of England, the children there, to me it was of immense help because I had to make my way to Euston station, on my own I would have had terrific troubles to get around the big City of London, with the bit of luggage I had, to Euston station, but having Jewish people from Jewish committees, from refugee committees in London, they saw me on the train, got me on the train to Euston, and I arrived here at eight o'clock

Tape 2: 7 minutes 55 seconds

in the evening at Central Station. There was nobody there to welcome me because they didn't know, they knew I would arrive, but they didn't know what time exactly, or exactly what day, they didn't know. So, that was help that I could speak English, in a fashion, but I could make myself understood and I asked for a bus to Seymour Road and Central Station was not far from Albert Square and I was told to get a 62 bus going up Cheetham Hill Road and ask the driver or conductor to let me off at Seymour Road, and that I did.

And that is how I arrived at the Yeshiva at Manchester. And there, it was bursting at the seams; they were trying to get as many children out from Europe as possible. And so, they sent me to, for that night to a couple in Bignor Street, where I think there was two other Yeshiva boys were staying there, just so that I should have a home for the moment. And that is where I stayed until eventually another family from Fulda, who also came to Manchester, they were not ready to have a house, but they had a house in George Street in Manchester, a family Yochnovitz. And when they were ready, I moved in with them, and that is where I stayed then. At the Yeshiva I only stayed three months, because I did not want to become a Rabbi, but my parents wanted me to have a good grounding in Jewish values and yiddishkeit, which I am always grateful I did. It helped me throughout life, to have some good values in life. But after all, then the Yeshiva authorities said, if anybody wants to leave do that, because we would like to get more people out, more children out if we can, and I said it was time to leave then.

I couldn't do anything. We came from a middle class home, but there was some factories were willing to take on young boys to work in the factory there. And I started work as a machinist in a clothing factory called Stark Brothers in Sussex Street and that is how I started. I did not want to be a machinist but you have to earn a living. My first wage slip was 15 shilling a week. Even in those days you couldn't sustain yourself on that amount of money, but the Jewish refugees committee in Manchester, we went down every Sunday morning, there was a gentleman called Mr Apfelbaum, so I think we got £2 every week, so we had to go down to their office in a building in Deansgate in the city centre, and that is what we did.

RL: What kind of things were you able to bring with you?

AW: Very little. We were only allowed to take, I had one big suitcase, there was very little I could take with me, necessities of life, not much else.

RL: Did somebody have to supervise your packing?

AW: We did that at home? Then we went to, my parents came with me, we took a train to Frankfurt, and from Frankfurt we took a train directly to Holland. But on the border, frontier guards, German frontier guards went through the train, they

Tape 2: 12 minutes 24 seconds

opened some cases and others they didn't, and that is where it was help that I was on the Kinder Transport, because on my own I might have had trouble there, and that was also a big help to join the Kinder Transport. Mine weren't opened, but others in my compartment others were opened, and if you were there quite some time, I don't know how long maybe an hour or so, it might have been slightly more until they gave the all clear to go into Holland.

RL: How did you feel about going to England and leaving your parents?

AW: It was terrible. I knew as soon as I left, I don't know, I had a feeling, a conviction, utter conviction, a feeling in my bones that I would never see them again. I don't know how, but I knew, I knew that I would never see them again, no matter what I tried or how I tried to get together.

RL: And then when you arrived in England, and in Manchester, what were your first impressions of the place?

AW: Some were not very nice. For example in Germany everything was very nice. Spick and span and clean, I came into England and I see the children wallowing on the road in the dirt and it did not make a nice impression, or a good impression on me. That I must say, I was well treated, and the people were all very friendly, and it was very nice to come here, and it was a relief to be able to be free and not having any fear that anything else might happen. To be like any other human being to be here which was not the case in Germany. Especially in later years it was terrible there.

Also, I remember one occasion, I was buying some apples, I think, or an apple, not some apples, and with the money I got I could only buy one apple, so I bought one apple, I think I it was tuppence hapenny, and I was not properly familiar with the English coinage, so I gave him half a crown instead, so they told me, not half a crown. I do remember that particular incident.

RL: Who was the family that you stayed with in Bignor Street?

AW: I can't remember their name, it was with an elderly Jewish couple. They might have been about 60 years old or so.

RL: And where did you eat your meals?

AW: The meals I ate in the Yeshiva.

RL: And over the weekend? Over Shabbos?

Tape 2: 15 minutes 29 seconds

AW: The weekends we went, there was a hostel in Upper Park Road. There was a namesake of mine, a Dr Weinberg who was in charge there, and we went there for Shabbat dinners, and quite a few other Jewish boys from the continent, from all over the continent, but mainly Czechoslovakia, Germany and Austria. To there we went every Shabbat until I moved to George Street, and there I stayed all the time, I stayed there and I had meals with them. I also gave meals to quite a few other Jewish boys from the continent, refugee boys for Shabbat and some other Yeshiva boys there as well on the Shabbat.

RL: How many boys were at the Yeshiva while you were there?

AW: Here? In Manchester?

RL: Yes.

AW: It is hard to say, it was, there was a lot there, could have been sixty, seventy, might be more. They took in as many as they could. I don't know how many exactly.

RL: How many of those were from abroad? Of the say sixty, seventy ...

AW: The large majority, I would guess maybe seventy eighty per cent.

RL: Did you know any of the boys?

AW: No, not until I came here. Some of them I have been close friends with ever since.

RL: Who can you remember, who were you with at the time?

AW: I remember there were two brothers called Wagschal who stayed with me in Bignor Street. I don't know what happened to them later on. There were some who became quite well known Rabbis later on. I remember my present Rabbi in Heaton Park Shul, from those days, Rabbi Olsberg, and I was there, my memory goes, it is not so good any more. There was Rabbi Gurdes, he used to be in the Prestwich Synagogue. There was Boruch Steinberg, who was there, you remember Boruch Steinberg, he stayed with us here. There was, what is his name, who, there were some others, who were English boys, who were at that time Yeshiva Bochorim there at the Yeshiva there.

RL: Do you know

AW: And of course, what is his name, your Rav, in Stenecourt.

Tape 2: 18 minutes 38 seconds

RL: Brodie.

AW: Gaby Brodie, I knew him from the first day there, I was there. He was there also at the same time, yes. And I knew him very well.

RL: How full a day of learning did you do there?

AW: We went there in the morning and we had mainly a short break for coffee or tea and then we had some lunch there, and then later on in the afternoon again. There were two categories of food, one was the ordinary food for the community, and some were glatt kosher from the Machsikei Hadass community. But most of all I would say, 80% were the ordinary Jewish community kosher from the Beis Din here, there, and there were some who were Machsikei Hadass, who wanted a bit frummer ones, glatt kosher who sat on a different table. So we had a sort of a separation there. Not always anything, no animosity or anything like that, they just felt that way, so we had different food, we had it at a different table. I had the ordinary Beis Din food.

RL: Were there many boys like yourself who only stayed for a short while?

AW: Some of them, obviously, the boys in the Yeshiva, their object was mainly to get as many boys out of Europe as possible. They were all came from frum homes of course, but obviously some did not want to stay in Yeshiva, many went into, also once they left, they had no, no profession or trade or anything, and they couldn't learn in Yeshiva because they were too young, their whole life was interrupted, so they had to find whatever they could find, to earn a, that is why I went to a factory as a machinist, that is why a lot of other things. Some of the friends I mentioned, some were sons of prominent Rabbis in Europe, from middle class families, they never thought about going into a factory, but they did, they had to. And that is how it started, but later on they went out and they became prominent business men or in their profession or whatever they went to later on.

RL: You mentioned before how you tried to find a way of bringing your parents out.

AW: Well, you needed somebody to give you a guarantee here so they shouldn't be a burden on the country, and I tried to find somebody but in three months that was impossible for me to find.

RL: Who had you approached? How had you gone about it?

AW: I approached; I had tried to find some people here. I remember some people who had a chemist shop in Bury New Road, well it is not there any more. I can't remember the name. I asked some other people, but I couldn't find

Tape 2: 22 minutes 3 seconds

anyone who was willing to guarantee that. Not enough time left in three months time.

RL: And then you say you moved into the Yochnovitz house.

AW: Yes.

RL: How many people did they have living with them?

AW: They had nobody else living with them, I was the only one living there because I knew them from home, from Fulda of course, apart from the family, but they had seven children, so there was no room for anybody else really. But at weekends, Shabbat, Fridays, there were quite a few, there were five, six or seven, other Yeshiva bochurs came for meals.

RL: What did Mr Yochnovitz do here?

AW: He was a shochet here. He, the old man was a shochet here. Then, well the children grew up into different ways, one went to university and became a prominent doctor. He lived in London, he passed away a few years ago, he was the eldest one. The others went into business or became teachers, or they married Manchester people who, well known Manchester people here.

RL: So you were telling me how you took your first job as a machinist.

AW: Yes.

RL: How did you get on with that? What was that like?

AW: It was not, it was difficult at first, I know once I got a needle in my finger, and when I was told, it is like, really like, how can I say, everybody gets it at first, if you haven't got it you aren't a proper machinist, though, after that happened you get more careful I suppose, and it never happened again. And after a while I left because I wanted to earn more money. I didn't get a rise there. So I left and went to another place, also as a machinist, I don't know how much I earned there, but it must have been more, doing more or less the same work, raincoats. Working what they called then section work, which meant I machined a certain section of the coat, for instance collars or sleeves, I may have got maybe two or three dozen collars or sleeves to stitch together and another machinist got a different part of the coat to stitch together, and then somebody else sewed them altogether, probably a better machinist already, we were only still learners, so we got the easier part, it was very boring work, but we had to earn a living and that was all we could do.

Tape 2: 25 minutes 24 seconds

RL: What did you do in your spare time?

AW: Not much, I had no money to go anywhere, we stayed at home, mainly listened to the radio, read, and I was always interested in music, I listened to a lot of music on the radio, and that is all we did.

RL: Did you ever go out anywhere?

AW: No. It was too, no we didn't go out, in those days we didn't go anywhere, no.

RL: Did you have to register with the police?

AW: Yes, of course. When I came here, I didn't have to register after that, but when war started of course I had to register.

RL: And how did you get on doing that?

AW: I remember I had to go down to Bexley Square, where there was police headquarters in Salford, off Chapel Street, there was a fellow called Sergeant Radford who I dealt with, who, it was his job to deal with these kinds of matters. I suppose we all went to him there. I don't know whether he endorsed the passport or whatever it was, but that is how it was, have to tell, you can't travel to the seaside, because there were restricted areas if you were an enemy alien, and they didn't make any distinction whether you were Jewish and a friendly alien or if you were German, that was that. I was certainly not an enemy alien. But a lot went on until 1940, and then the Germans invaded the west, into France, Belgium, they overran Belgium, Holland into France.

Before that I changed my job again. Where did I go? I went to a place called Jack Meek in Derby Street, after I left Stark, because I got more money there. It was a bigger factory, and I didn't stay there very long. I moved onto, also in Derby Street a factory called Sartor, S A R T O R, and that is where I worked after that.

RL: Was it all the same kind of work?

AW: More or less the same kind of work.

And then, when the Germans invaded and overran France, and they interned all the Germans here, me as well, and so one day I was told I had to report to the authorities here, and I was sent to Bury, a place, a big old warehouse, five or six storey big warehouse building, called Wharf Mill, which was terrible, absolutely terrible. The authorities here in a way panicked, they didn't know what

Tape 2: 28 minutes 45 seconds

to do, after France was overrun they were afraid the Germans might come here, and they didn't know who was friendly, and if there were some enemy aliens here they might pose as German Jewish people in order not to be detected, so all Germans were interned, and Wharf Mill was terrible. We had to sleep on the ground on straw, that will give you an

idea of how terrible it was. When we were there it was only, more or less, a station, a rail station on the way to go to proper camps somewhere else in the country.

RL: What kind of a building was it?

AW: It was an old disused mill building. It was empty, there was nothing there, and when they moved us in there, there were a few hundred people in there, from all around the area here, they only gave us, we slept on the ground floor, on a cold stone floor, and we put some straw on, that is all there was.

RL: What about sanitary facilities?

AW: Well, there were some, maybe two or three, maybe one lavatory on every floor, and that was that. But there were a lot of, there was, there was near rebellion there, because of the way we were treated there, but it was only until they found to send us somewhere else, until they found room to send us. I was there for two weeks. But those two weeks were terrible. And then I was sent to York.

RL: Can you tell me a little bit more about the conditions in Wharf Mill, you know, a few more details about that.

AW: Well, right, everybody was complaining. Well, they had also some people who spoke up for all, we made like a committee, some people who spoke up for all the people who were interned there, because obviously you can't have everybody there to speak to the authorities there who dealt with it. So they also had to find someone who we could deal with, and that is what we did. I think it was someone called Maurer, if my memory is correct. And he tried to get better conditions, but I couldn't see any better conditions in the two weeks that I was there, because they obviously were only stationed, to distribute us to proper camps somewhere else in England, after all when the government panicked at the time, everybody was interned, and they couldn't find enough room for everybody to be put in camps there. And that is what they had here. This was one of those places here. And then they sent us into different camps. Obviously that happened in the London area and everywhere else the same thing.

RL: What was the food like? What kind of food were you given?

Tape 2: 32 minutes 5 seconds

AW: I don't remember, it was very basic. Obviously you could have some food sent in from PR, from other people who were not interned. Obviously, they didn't take women, only men folk were interned. But I couldn't get any, because I didn't have anybody here, I was all on my own here, apart from that, it was very, very basic, to put it mildly.

RL: After two weeks you were sent to ...?

AW: I was sent to, with some others, to York. That was in York, but not in the city, I was on York Racecourse. We stayed on the York Racecourse, that is where we stayed.

RL: What kind of facilities?

AW: It was much better there. They obviously took, they knew they couldn't stay in Bury at Wharf Mill, so they tried to find places where they could stay, I mean York Racecourse is not exactly a place for people to stay for long, but it was a lot better anyway.

RL: What kind of building? Where did you stay? In what kind of building?

AW: It was the, what do you call it, the ... where people went there to watch the races, that is where we stayed. Obviously during the war there were, there was no horse racing there, so they could use it for that purpose.

RL: And were there proper beds there?

AW: There were proper beds there, yes. Also basic, but at least it was more humanised like it should be.

RL: How many people were there?

AW: There were more people there. I don't know how many. Maybe 150 or so, I don't think there were more than that, probably less.

RL: And how long were you there?

AW: Not very long, only a few weeks, and from there I was sent to the Isle of Man to a proper camp. We were sent to Liverpool and went across on a boat to the Isle of Man to Peel, not to Douglas, Peel is on the west side, on the other side of the island, where they requisitioned a row of boarding houses on a promenade and it was fenced off, the whole complex was fenced off. And that was very nice, it was a nice summer, it was a very good summer, and it was very nice there, it was nice boarding houses there, the whole promenade was fenced

Tape 2: 35 minutes 10 seconds

off and behind the promenade was a tennis court there, and there were facilities, on top of a hill, and a few more houses there as well, not many, maybe two or three, but mainly it was a row of boarding houses on the promenade. The whole promenade was cordoned off, not cordoned off, fenced off, like fencing around a tennis court.

On one boarding house, we used the ground floor as a Shul, because at that time it was just before Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, not long before that, and we were on our own, we could do what we wanted to do, we had facilities for tennis, we put on plays there,

and we had some quite some prominent people, actors there, we must have had there about 250 people or so.

RL: What did you do during the day? How was your day organised?

AW: We socialised, we sat out in the sun, the food was better there. At one point I got ill there, I don't know what it was, I didn't feel well so I complained and they sent me, and I was sent to a hospital in Douglas, so I was sent with an escort to a hospital in Douglas and I found out I had pleurisy. I had problems with breathing and that is what I had, and then I went back to, and then they sent me back, it was only for a day, they sent me back to Peel to the camp there, and there they had also, it wasn't a hospital, but one boarding house was used as a, more like a hospital with beds, I mean facilities there, and that is where I stayed for a while, and also I happened to be there over Rosh Hashona and Yom Kippur, I was in hospital there, and then I got better. And I remember somebody came who blow the shofar for me there, but eventually I did get better.

RL: What kind of food were you eating there?

AW: Well there was kosher food, kosher food of course, normal food, it was much better. No fancy foods of course, but there was plenty of food and no problems there. There was no problems except that we were interned, we were restricted and couldn't go anywhere else. But there was, it was quite a big camp now, it must have been about 150 metres long, 150 yards/metres long, or 200 metres, I don't know how long it was, there was plenty of room there.

RL: Were there any minyonim organised?

AW: Yes, every day. Yes, we had that.

RL: Was there somebody in charge of that?

AW: There was somebody in charge, yes.

RL: Do you remember who that was?

Tape 2: 38 minutes 51 seconds

AW: There was also one person who was interned there, he came from Fulda as well. His name was Fulda. You may know people here called Fulda. All those people originate from the town of Fulda, he was the younger of two brothers, he wasn't a Rabbi, but he made himself a sort of a Rabbi there, and he took all the services there, and he saw to that there. And he came and blew the shofar for me as well when I was in that so called hospital. Yes, we had services every day. There was no reason not to go because we had nothing else to do. For shacharis, for mincha, for ma'ariv, there was no problem.

RL: Did you have your tefillin with you?

AW: Yes.

RL: So you were able to take things with you?

AW: Of course, yes, you could take things there, yes.

RL: So were there Siddurim and Chumoshim? Were there books that you could use?

AW: There were ... but I probably bought one of my own. But, they saw to it that we had those facilities there, it wasn't a problem, if we needed anything like that we asked from the person in charge, the governor of the camp and he made sure that we got all that.

RL: So, was there a Sefer Torah there?

AW: We had a Sefer Torah there, yes. So we, I don't know whether we asked for that or whether or if the community here saw to it that we had one there, and so on. We maybe applied to the Jewish community that we had a Sefer Torah to us there, but we certainly had one there.

RL: Were any shiurim held there?

AW: There was shiurim held there. All sorts of things went on there. Shiurim, classes to learn certain, if you wanted to, maybe certain trades, I think some people were there. Most of the Jews from Europe were middle class people, the overwhelming majority were middle class people, so they had trades, there were some famous people interned there as well.

RL: Do you remember any names?

Tape 2: 41 minutes 16 seconds

AW: I don't remember any names, but I do know some were interned there. So, all sorts was going on there. Yiddishe people like that have to exercise your mind. You couldn't do much else there. What else could you do? We had all day there, there was plenty going on there, probably more than in some small towns in normal times here.

RL: Were you aware of what was going on in the war? Of the outside news?

AW: Yes. We had daily news there. We were well informed, we knew what was going on. There was no problem. We didn't have, in Bury, at the mill where we first went, there was nothing there, there was nothing at all there, it was terrible. But there we had all the facilities there.

RL: And the guards? How did you ...

AW: We didn't need guards, it was fenced off, we hardly saw any guards, we had a normal life there, and that was that, if we had, I suppose I must have been, somebody must have been in charge. If we had anything to discuss with the commandant, with the governor, he discussed it with them and that was that, he got any messages of requests we had, like normal civil behaviour that was no problem.

RL: And how long were you there?

AW: I came out, I was in there for about four months, I came out, when was it, it must have been five months or so, because, when was I, I don't know when I was interned, it must have been in May, I must have been mid May, it must have been about this time of the year and I was in Wharf Mill, in York it must have been only a few weeks, because in the Isle of Man I was about four months and I was released in October.

RL: What did you do when you were released?

AW: I tried, I went back on a machine, I had to get a job on a machine because I didn't know anything else, but I tried to get to America, because my brother and sister were over there and I wanted to be with them, I had no family in England, except I had relations in London who had been living here a long time.

One was related, a cousin of my fathers, but they were quite well off, but they were not very nice to us, they didn't want to know. I mean, in Germany we were there where there was no shechita, soon after Hitler came into power, we had no meat at all, other people had relations from abroad and they got vorshet sent over or sausages or meats sent over from abroad, kosher meat, we didn't get anything, he didn't want to know. He sent nothing over; he didn't want to know,

Tape 2: 44 minutes 50 seconds

He must have known the situation in Germany, and I remember in early 1940 I was very badly off for money and I plucked up courage to ask him if he could advance me £5, and he, I have still got the letter that he sent me back, and he said, he was surprised that I couldn't find a job, there were all careers, he said a milk boy, delivering milk and all sorts of things, I was disgusted with that. As if I didn't know that. You don't send a letter like that to somebody who is a member of your own family, they had a shop in Oxford Street, they were quite well off, and they lived in Hampstead. So in the end he sent me £5 after a hue and cry he sent me £5.

And another cousin, who lived, you know who, I told you, a brother of that one who left his parents, who was a founder of Chofetz Chaim Kibbutz; he doesn't want to know anything with him now. His daughter, she lives in London now, I have never met her but we are friendly, we regularly communicate, he doesn't want anything to do with her, it is not her fault, you can't blame her for that, he doesn't want anything to do with the whole family, he was so disgusted, but she is a nice old lady, she is in a wheelchair now, she is, it is not her fault because her parents were like that. But we are in contact. It is just I was

in London and I couldn't contact her to visit her, because I couldn't get through to her on the phone. So I have never met her, but we are in contact through letter writing.

RL: So you said you took a job as a machinist?

AW: Yes.

RL: Where was it this time?

AW: Another factory, Blacks. Do you remember a person called Lionel Black? He was prominent in the Zionist movement here, he was either president or one of the machers in the Manchester Zionist community. He was one of the directors there. They had a factory off Bury New Road, at the bottom of Bury New Road, near Broughton Lane there, and they made, they had a contract for government uniforms. And when I came back, obviously I was already older, I had to do, I either had to join the forces, which meant the Pioneer Corps, or do war work. I didn't want to go into the forces, so I did war work, and being a machinist, and that was, and that was doing, working for the government making uniforms, that was treated as war work, and that is what I did until near the end of the war.

RL: Where were you living?

Tape 2: 48 minutes 38 seconds

AW: When I came back from internment I moved in with Aaron Segal, Reverend Aaron Segal who was a Chazzan Sheni at Central Shul, the first Chazzan was Chazzan Stern then, Chazzan Price rather, he lived in Bentley Road, the number was 17. I will come back to that later in my life. That number.

RL: How did you get that place to stay?

AW: I probably knew them from before. I don't know why I knew them. And then they had a room there and so I moved in there, I moved in with them. They had two boys which is Hymie, who is now the president of Heaton Park Shul and a younger boy, Monty, who I think is a doctor, he lives in Huddersfield, that is what I was asking you before.

RL: Did you join any kind of club or group? What did you do?

AW: When I was working here? We went to, not really, but I remember on Shabbat we used to go, we had B'nai Akiva meetings in the afternoon, Shabbat afternoons.

RL: Where were they held?

AW: I think they were in Crumpsall Shul in the hall or somewhere. I am not sure. What was his name? I can't remember his name. There was a rabbi there, was it not Twersky?

I can't remember his name. A similar name and that was very nice. It may have been also in, I think it was also in Upper Park Road, I think it was in Upper Park Road where we used to go for Shabbat meals and it was also on Shabbat afternoons.

RL: What, to that hostel was that?

AW: Yes, yes.

RL: Right.

AW: I didn't stay there, I only went for meals, until I moved to the Yochnovitz family.

RL: So the people who met at these meetings at Bnei Akiva, were they a mixture of English and refugees?

AW: Yes, yes.

RL: Do you remember other families or people that would attend?

Tape 2: 51 minutes 30 seconds

AW: I remember some others who I am still friendly with who went there.

RL: What were their names?

AW: Yochnovitz who went there. One called Buchwalter, a friend called Buchwalter, Walter Buchwalter, then there was my cousin there, Kurtz, who was still living in England then before he immigrated to Canada. There was another friend who also immigrated to Canada, I can't remember his name now. He passed away some years ago.

RL: What kind of things would you do?

AW: We had, well we had some Shabbat afternoon things, we had some discussions there, it was quite nice. And maybe some kichels and lemonade. It was quite nice, we had songs, nice songs.

RL: Did you still go to the refugee committee on a Sunday? Or did that stop?

AW: When I got back, I think it stopped after I came back, no, I still went there for a short time because I still didn't earn enough money, but it stopped soon after that, I cannot remember exactly when it stopped, but when I earned a certain level, it stopped, because they were also limited of course, because the less people, the more they could give to the needy boys, there were boys who didn't have enough money for less, it wouldn't be right to disclose I did not earn enough money, although it would be hard me even so.

RL: Besides giving you help like that, did they give you any other kind of help?

AW: Refugee, no, we only went there for, I must also say when I came to England at first, when I went to Yeshiva, before I even went to the hostel in Upper Park Road I was invited out to families, English families who wanted to take boys in. And I remember, I think the first family I went to was a family called Bor, B O R, they lived in a house on Cheetham Hill Road, just on the corner of Queens Road, where the traffic lights are. On the opposite side, I don't know if I went there just once or twice, a few times, not many times. After that I was invited to a home of one, when I worked at Stark Brothers, my first job, one of the directors who took me in, his name was Black, and they lived on Meadhill Road, it might have been number one, it was right at the top, on the corner of Sheepfoot Lane, opposite Heaton Park, and there I went for quite some time for Shabbat dinner, but not Friday evening. So Friday evening I would have gone to the hostel until I moved to Yochnovitz's, but I also went, I remember to some Shabbats to the hostel, but it could not have been many, because mostly I went to those families until I was interned.

Tape 2: 55 minutes 19 seconds

RL: And then after you came out of internment? Did you eat with the families then?

AW: I went to Yochnovitz, I went just for meals to Yochnovitz, I did not stay there, but they had quite a lot of boys like myself who went there every Shabbat for quite a few years after that. You see, that is how they earned their living, to have boys, they paid them money for that, obviously there were about six or seven boys who were given meals for Shabbat. That helped them, but of course they also had to earn a living there, it was not easy. That is the parents.

RL: Socially, you've mentioned Bnei Akiva on a Shabbat afternoon. What about on Sundays? Did you do anything?

AW: Sundays, well, some of our friends played cards in the afternoon. A few of us, who came to us played cards. And when I stayed with Reverend Segal, I did not stay there all that long, because we had, we just had a room there, because they didn't have much room there, but I moved out soon after, and I moved in with an elderly family who were on their own, and English family, called Danziger, they lived at number one Broom Lane, at the corner with Leicester Road.

RL: What did they do?

AW: They were retired. They must have been in their seventies, maybe older even. I think the wife was, used to be a nurse. I don't know what the husband did, but he was retired, he was already an old man. But there we had a downstairs room we could use, and there was an Anderson Shelter in the room during the war, and we played cards on top of the Anderson Shelter, which we used, that is what we used as a table there. Me and some friends, a few friends, two or three friends. Or sometimes we went to the pictures.

RL: Did you go on any rambles or walks?

AW: No, Heaton Park was probably as far as we got. Not until after the war, then it changed.

RL: Now this film is just about to finish, so we will stop there.

TAPE 3

This is the interview with Arnold Weinberg and it is tape 3.

You were living in Manchester during the war. How did the war impinge upon you at that time?

Tape 3: 0 minute 29 seconds

AW: It impinged very much because I was so worried about my parents and all the rest of my family who were, in a way marooned, they couldn't get out, couldn't do anything, under terrible conditions, and I didn't know what happened to them. At the beginning of the war we could write to each other through Red Cross Letters, we were restricted to 25 words, that is all, just, well what can you write in 25 words, that we feel ok, that we hope you are ok, best wishes and that is about all. But it was enough, at least it was a sign of life. And the rest, we can guess, it was not easy to put it very mildly, I have still got Red Cross letters.

RL: How long did you keep receiving them?

AW: Not many, once maybe every two months or so.

RL: Up to what date?

AW: I suppose some months they got lost, during war time you don't know. it took a while until it got here anyway.

RL: Up till what date?

AW: That was in summer 1942, I have still got the Red Cross letter where my parents wrote to me, our address changes, please write still to Auntie Cilla, an auntie of mine and she will contact us, and I knew what it meant.

RL: And that was the last time?

AW: That was the last time.

RL: And do you know what happened to them?

AW: I know that we have got exact dates when they left, I have got a book of that, with all the details. I know they left in, I think it was May or June 1942, the exact day, I think it was the 30th, and they went east, as far as I know they went to a place called, a place inside Poland to the border, to a place called Zamosk, with all, I have tried for many years to find out what happened, at different places, in Germany, in New York, in Yad Vashem, in other places in Israel, all I can find out is there is no news. I suspect that they may not have survived the train journey even, because the Germans kept records, I do know the Germans kept records in Zamosk of those who arrived on the trains there, but there was no, as far as I could find out, what I believe is right, there is no record from them at Zamosk, and that was the end of the trail, we will never find out.

RL: How aware were you in Manchester of what was going on to the Jews in Europe?

Tape 3: 3 minutes 50 seconds

AW: Very much. I was always interested in news. I have got a very inquisitive mind. I have always been interested in news on what is happening in the world, and in those horrible days, terrible days of course.

RL: So you were aware?

AW: Very much aware. I was aware of it even at home, before I left home, I knew more than probably the government in England, because I was absolutely 100% sure that there will be a war, and that was two or three years before that. They did not think so even in the cabinet in England. This is not a place to go into details of why this was so, but that was the case, I was not alone, lots of others were aware, of my age at that time.

RL: Did you experience any bombing?

AW: Yes. I have never been in an air raid shelter yet. My first experience was when I lived in George Street, when I still lived in George Street, I think it was the blitz before Christmas, it was a terrible two nights blitz, I never went to an air raid shelter, I stayed in the building, I am not one who was very much afraid, but I could hear the house shake when a land mine fell near the Assizes Courts in Bury New Road near the bottom, and I was later told that is where it happened and they razed it, on that building, where I was in George Street it shook, but I stayed in the building for all later bombings.

But also remember, after I came out from the internment, in the Isle of Man, I tried of course to go to America to emigrate eventually to be together with my brother and sister, who lived there as I had nobody here in England. I had to go to the American Consulate, which was not in London then, it was evacuated to Epsom, to get a Visa. Of course I couldn't go there, there was no proper way to go to America at the time, but if you are able to go, then obviously you go, maybe there is, well I went there and a got a Visa, but when I went back, I stayed in London obviously overnight, and for a starter I took a train from London to Manchester which left here about 11 o'clock in the morning and then we

got about somewhere in the afternoon. That was about late October early November 1940, then we get near maybe Bedfordshire, towards approaching London, it was already getting dark, there was a notice on the train that there was an air raid over London, pull all the blinds down on the windows in the train, it took us about eight hours to get to London, I had no idea, I had nowhere to go, I didn't know where to go, so I stayed in the air raid shelter, not air raid shelter, in the station, Euston station, underground there, people slept all around there on the trains or near the trains, but there was no room there, there were thousands there, all I could have was sit on the stairs, and I couldn't sit there the places were all taken up, there were no trains running so people sheltered there. I had to sit on the railings around the corner all the night, until the early morning, and

Tape 3: 7 minutes 58 seconds

the air raid didn't finish, the all clear came about 9 o'clock in the morning, and I was one night, the next night I tried to meet some friends up in Hampstead somewhere when the air raid started, and I also didn't know where to go, I was marooned there, I hadn't been to London apart from when I arrived here. So I went to a house where I saw some signs of life down in the cellar in the basement, and we stayed there for some time, and that was that. I couldn't get to America of course, the Visa lapsed, it wasn't valid for long, and I stayed in England.

RL: You were telling me about, the social activities, and how you played cards on the Anderson Shelter and so forth, was there anything else you were involved in, in those years?

AW: No, we didn't do much, it was still during the war, we didn't do much, except for during the week we worked, we were very tired, and we didn't go out, we maybe visited some friends where we lived, but weekends maybe went to the pictures, I maybe went to a Halle concert, I always liked music.

In the Odeon cinema in the town centre, which was then called The Paramount, we used to have in different places, in Stretford in the picture house, and we used to go to concerts.

RL: Did you continue to work for Blacks?

AW: I worked for Blacks for some time. And where did I go from Blacks. And after Blacks, I worked there for quite some time.

And then, it must have been around 1944, I don't know exact dates, and I don't know how I know the person, there was a gentleman called Wiener, W I E N E R, he had a small factory, you couldn't even call it a factory, better call it a work room, in the city centre, in a place called, in a street called Peel Street, it is not there any more, the Arndale Centre has now been built on top of it. And he was making some cheap little bags, small bags, I don't know how I got to know him, or how I came to him, anyway I worked for him doing that on the machine and I did that for, probably until about the end of the war.

But I also had, I got an order that I had to do fire watch duties, once a week, and that was at the Devonshire Street, there was a Devonshire picture house there, it was not at the picture house but it was at the hall next door to it, and that is where I had to fire watch, one evening a week, that is what I had to do, it was a boring job, you couldn't do anything else, there was me and another person there, and then one, and then I missed one evening to go there and I was afraid I might be prosecuted but then war stopped so I never heard anything any more, it

Tape 3: 12 minutes 13 seconds

was near the end of the war already. By that time I had already moved from where I lived in Broom Lane, and I moved to not very far away to a big house in Bury New Road, the number was 321, which is near The Rialto, just passed the Rialto on the other side of Great Cheetham Street, that is where it was, I had a first floor flat there.

RL: Was that a flat that you rented? Or was it a flat with a family?

AW: No, it was me and a friend, me and a friend, together there.

RL: A friend. Who were you with?

AW: A friend called Leo Kalisch, who you may have heard of. There was another Austrian refugee living on the ground floor, called Engel, he is passed away.

RL: And you lived there? Did you have to cook for yourself then?

AW: Yes, we cooked for ourselves, by that time we already cooked already for ourselves, yes.

RL: The fire watch duty, what exactly did you have to do?

AW: All we had to do was watch the alarm and if there were any incendiary bombs or anything we had to deal with it, but there never were any, so we hadn't any trouble, we had to sit there for the evening, and that was it.

RL: Did you remember the end of the war? What you did?

AW: Very much so, very much. I went down to London to celebrate, because I didn't think there would be much of a celebration here in Manchester, so I, what was it, on 8th of May, on 7th of May, I went on the train down to London. My friend Leo Kalisch, was already in London on business, from before hand and I intended to meet him there and stay in a hotel with him in the East End. He had, he stayed in the Regent Palace Hotel, which you may know, just off Piccadilly Circus, but I couldn't find him. There were thousands, tens of thousands of streets all over the place. I got to London and didn't know where to stay the night, I can't get a hotel room, I will have to sleep on a park bench somewhere, but you wouldn't believe it but amongst all those thousands I bumped into

him and we stayed together and I stayed in his room in his hotel there, and that was that, and we celebrated there.

RL: And then ...

Tape 3: 15 minutes 14 seconds

AW: Outside Buckingham Palace of course, and outside parliament, White Hall, it was very interesting, we certainly celebrated, probably me more than a lot of people.

RL: And then after the war did life change for you in any way?

AW: I intended to still to emigrate to America, because family were there, I had family in America, and then I got a Visa for America, it was soon after, not long after, but how do I get to America? There were only, there were no flights available then. It had not started yet then. You had to go on a boat. I tried to get on a boat and my friend was also going over, for some reason, Leo Kalisch, about the same time, not to emigrate, but I think he had family over there and I think for some business, I don't know what the reason was. So he managed to get a passage on the Queen Elizabeth. For some reason I couldn't, for some reason the Visa was valid for one month or three months, that is all, and I got a notice, there was change in legislature and I needed another certain paper, and somehow I changed my mind, because I wasn't sure I could get it in time, and I stayed here ever since. That was the end of that.

RL: Did you take out naturalisation?

AW: As soon as possible, yes. I have still got that. Of course, I live here.

RL: And in terms of where you were living and your work, how did that alter after the war?

AW: Come again?

RL: Where you were living, did you move from that first floor flat?

AW: I lived in a few places, yes, because we moved. My friend, he moved into a, I think, I don't know if he bought it, he had a good business then and did quite well. He moved into a house in Blakely New Road, right on top, where now, used to be a shop Angels Court. He used to have a fruit shop or so, greengrocery, sort of. It was the first house there on the same side, I don't know if it was 432, it might have been, the number, the house number, I lived there, it was very nice there, but not for long, because he got married soon after and that was the end of that. We both moved out.

RL: So when was this?

AW: When did he get married? I think it was nineteen forty ... nine ... forty eight or forty nine. He moved out which meant that I had to move out. And there were not many flats in this part of Manchester in those days, so for a short time I

Tape 3: 18 minutes 40 seconds

moved in with an old lady in Peru Street. It is not called Peru Street now, I don't know what it changed its name to, but it is just round the corner from where we lived in Bury New Road, where is now a swimming pool, passed the side of the Rialto. The street when we passed on one side used to be called Peru Street but it has changed its name now. And that, well the whole area has changed now. But not for long, then I moved into Murray Street, which is off Great Clowes Street, it runs up, not straight up to Bury New Road, it finishes somewhere below that, also for a short time.

RL: In lodgings?

AW: Yes. With another boy there. His name was Chenocho Glayzer.

RL: And who were you in lodgings with? Who was the landlady?

AW: It was a married couple there, I can't remember their name. Not for long because I was looking for something more decent, it was very difficult to find.

And then I moved to south Manchester. To Birchhall Lane, which is not far from Birch Park. There was a bit apartment building there, which was owned by two Jewish sisters called Kay, and I had a flat there. I also got to know some other friends who also lived there who I am still friendly with. All Jewish people, no not all Jewish people, there was, there was a correspondent for the Manchester Guardian, was living there, who specialised in French matters. There was a well known person living on top of me, who you will certainly know, called Michael Frane. Do you know Michael Frane? The author? He was a reporter for the Manchester Guardian. On some of the stairs the steps were creaking, and when I was in my flat on the first floor he kept, I kept hearing him creeping past my flat on the stairs, on the second floor flat upstairs, in the evening, when he had finished his day's job as a reporter for the Manchester Guardian. And there I lived for about ten years.

RL: When were you there? When did you go down there?

AW: No, I was there 16 years. Since, I have since. Yes, my friend Leo Kalisch must have got married in 1948, because I lived there 16 years and I moved back north in 1964.

RL: And how did you find it in south Manchester? Did you find it different to north Manchester?

AW: It was not different, but all my contacts were in north Manchester. Excuse me. I knew very few people in south Manchester. Besides, then I was already in

Tape 3: 22 minutes 23 seconds

business, it was difficult to make contact with north Manchester. It was not a good situation, eventually I moved back.

RL: Tell me, business wise, what had been happening with you?

AW: Yes, well as I mentioned, eventually I worked with a gentleman called Wiener, he made some small ordinary shopping bags or so, and then, not for long, and eventually I knew so many who also went into that business, a refugee called Englander, you will know a family called Englander, there was the old man and there were three sons and a daughter, and they had a factory on a floor in Shude Hill, going towards Swan Street, and I did the same thing there.

RL: That was bags, was it?

AW: Yes. From there I worked for my friend Leo Kalisch, Leo also had a business already in Bury New Road, and they had, they had a well, a sort of a warehouse in Bury New Road, but across the road, which was near Sherbourne Street, they had a small work room, just a few of us, and I worked there.

RL: What were they making?

AW: I was making also bags there.

And then eventually I started on my own.

RL: When did you do that?

AW: That was 1953, I already had some customers, I started out in my own, making bags, shopping bags, travel bags. And my first workroom was in Bury New Road, what's it, opposite Northumberland Street, you know, that row of buildings there, on the left hand side, on the first floor. On the ground floor was an electrical shop, Ward and Mitchell, he was the landlord. And before him was a fellow called, what was his name, Sheila will remember, my memory goes again, Jerry Phillips, he had a workshop there, he did very well later on, he moved out, he went quite big, he was a nice fellow. Actually I got to know him, through going to The Ritz, he was also a Ritz. And I had a workroom there, I took it there, my first workplace there, and on top of him, on the second floor was Frank Pine, he had a stockroom there, he was the father of Shimmy. That was my first workroom there.

RL: How did you set up? What did you have to do to set yourself up there in business?

Tape 3: 25 minutes 53 seconds

AW: Well, all you've got to do is, there was only me, I was doing everything, the lot, on my own, then I got a couple of people working for me there, and eventually, that was no

good, I was there only about a year, I was looking for premises, and I moved into Chatley Street, I think it used to be called Clarence Street then, and I was in the street next door, and that was a big building, you will know it, where Shnecks, where his menswear is. There used to be, what's his name, cap manufacturers, made Macs, they had the whole building on the side, but there was a three or four floor building, like a mill building, and we were two on the side, two buildings on each side, and a yard in front which you can use as a car park. I had one room on the right hand side, and below on the first floor and I had an office on the ground floor and the workroom was on the top floor.

RL: How many people did you have working for you?

AW: I had about, six people working for me.

RL: And you were making?

AW: Six/seven people working for me. Same, mostly travel bags and shopping bags.

RL: And you built up a range of customers?

AW: Yes, I had no problems selling my goods. And I was there for quite some, in fact I was there for as long as I could, the reason I had to move out was, I am sorry to say, Nathan Marks, who was the owner then, one of the younger brothers of Nathan Marks, sons of Nathan Marks, he was a gambler, he gambled all his money away. His mother had to bail him out a few times, he lost his wife, he was a councillor as well, a local councillor, and that is it. It ruined his life. And he died young, and the business went down, and went mechula, and I was still there, I had my premises there. One day somebody comes in with a demand, "you owe me so and so much for electricity", and the electricity bill hadn't been paid because the electricity for my premises was included in the rent I paid to him and it has been for the main building, and I didn't know anything about it, I never got a bill, so they were about to cut the electricity off, so then I told them, "You can't do that!" I didn't know anything about it. I was in luck, I was in the place, I could have been out to see a customer there, and when I came back, there was no power for the workers to work there, that is how I found out, I said sure I will pay the electricity bill, so that is how I came, and I had to move out. And I looked for premises, which is not easy, it takes a bit of time, it is not an easy job moving your factory and premises and I moved, not very far, to Bury New Road, on Cheetham Hill Road, just around the corner, it's not far from Derby Street. You know, somebody told me later, it used to be a picture house called The Bijou, which I never knew. Does that mean anything to you?

Tape 3: 30 minutes 21 seconds

RL: Yes ... yes ...

AW: That is where I had the two upper floors. The ground floor was a company called, it was actually a public company, Rexmore, they sold cloth and also some kinds of material

which I could use for my manufacturing, some I bought some items from them as well, though not a lot, they had the ground floor and I had the two upper floors.

RL: So when did you move there?

AW: That was in, good question, when was that? In the seventies, no in the sixties, that was in the sixties, exact year I don't know.

RL: While you were living in south Manchester were you travelling up all the time?

AW: Yes, that is why ... all my customers were living in, most were local people I knew, they lived in north Manchester, then when they finished, the staff had gone home, I locked up and I had to go and see them and take orders for the following week, what they wanted, and get paid for them, and like that, watching television with a cup of tea I asked, Timmy, cup of tea, I said no thanks, I haven't had my supper yet, I want to get home. And it is a long time getting home in the evening sometimes, usually Thursday night was a late night, it was 9 o'clock by the time I got home, even later sometimes, and in those days, there were still very foggy days, and I remember once going to see a customer in Cavendish Road, it was a bit misty when I got there, by the time I came out of the building I couldn't see my hand, the buses had stopped running, I couldn't get back home, I had to walk all the way down to Piccadilly, and by the time I got there it was gone 12 o'clock, and about half past twelve there were some buses running to south Manchester, it seemed to have lifted there a bit, and I must have got home about one o'clock in the morning, and I said, "I have had enough of that." And I had to move back to north Manchester.

RL: What was the reason that you moved down to south Manchester?

AW: I couldn't find flats in the north. I didn't want to move south, but there there were far more chance of finding a decent flat, there were none in north Manchester, very difficult to find here, now there are, but there weren't in those days.

RL: Did you get to know any of the Jewish community down there?

Tape 3: 33 minutes 9 seconds

AW: Not really, as much as I could I came to Shul here in north Manchester, but we were, if I couldn't, I used to go to Wilbraham Road Shul, it was not too far away.

RL: Which Shul did you daven in north Manchester?

AW: Crumpsall Shul, Central Shul first, then Crumpsall Shul, later on, Shrubberies, Prestwich, and now I am a member of Heaton Park.

RL: Why did you change Shuls?

AW: I changed Shuls because I lived where I lived. The nearest Shul of course.

RL: Ok. So we are back to, so you have moved into Cheetham Hill Road, and how long were you there?

AW: I was there until I gave up the business, 1978.

RL: Ok. And living wise, where did you live at that ... where did you live after the last residence that we have spoken about? Where were you living? Where were you living then?

AW: In 64 I moved back north. It happened to be mid October, it was the day when Gorbachov came to power, that is why I remember that date. There was also a general election around the same time here, it may not have been that particular date but within a week or ten days or so.

RL: And where were you living?

AW: Yes, I moved to Dorchester Avenue, off Kings Road. It was a semi, then divided into two flats, upstairs and downstairs flat, and I had the downstairs flat.

RL: Were you on your own?

AW: On my own. I have always lived on my own after that.

RL: How long were you there?

AW: I was there quite some time. I must have been there sixty four, seventy, yes ... I must have been there for about 16 years, maybe longer even ...

RL: And after that?

Tape 3: 36 minutes 10 seconds

AW: I moved to Bentley Road, believe it or not, the same house I lived a long time before, number 17 Bentley Road, it belonged to a Haredi family, who didn't live there, but they owned the house, and they let off the ground floor and the upper floor and I had the ground floor there. It was a coincidence moving back into the same house after many years.

RL: You mentioned going to The Ritz.

AW: Yes.

RL: Can you tell us a little bit about the Ritz?

AW: There used to be a group of friends of ours, Leo Kalisch was one of them, Leo Englander sometimes, we used to play football together, a group of us, somebody called Wertheimer and quite a few others, we always used to go to The Ritz, and we got to know other people, Yiddishe boys who used to go to The Ritz. Specially on a Sunday, but mid week as well of course. Men hunting round, to meet the other sex. I didn't like The Plaza, I don't know why but sometimes The Plaza, but maybe, for once I went to The Plaza I went 40 times to The Ritz, in that ratio perhaps.

RL: And you said that there were a number of marriages made from there?

AW: Yes, there certainly were. I can think of one or two, yes ... yes ... Some married in, some married out, but that is how it is. But I would never marry out, or I would have been married a long time ago. That is one thing I would never do. That is where my going to Yeshiva and having a good grounding, it stood me in good stead, if I wouldn't have done that I don't know what would have happened.

RL: Do you think that your religious standard has changed over the years?

AW: It has changed, because I am not as frum as I was at home, because you are what you live in, and as a young boy from home I didn't know any different, apart from that, the place I lived as I said are all the Jewish people were frum, so I didn't know any different kind of Yiddishkeit then. You come to England, to a big city, after Yeshiva you find out that there is a different life as well, and it has also changed, I am now, probably what you would call Mizrachi frum, but I am not, if that, but, I would never change, it has always meant a lot to me, very important.

RL: In terms of nationality, how would you describe yourself?

Tape 3: 39 minutes 44 seconds

AW: I am British, obviously I am not English, I am British, I have never lost my accent properly, I suppose I never will after all this time. But Germany, no, because my bad reminiscences far outweigh the good ones, I was too young to have many good ones. But I cannot blame any later generations for what happened to their parents of theirs, I cannot blame them at all, but I have met people that can't even speak German, they don't listen to German music, they don't, these are educated people, they don't want to read German literature, they shut it out of their minds, well that has never been me. You can't blame it on, blame people or not. Even Wagner, I listen to Wagner music, it doesn't bother me one little bit as far as that goes, but some people, it does bother them, that is their point of view and that is fine. They are right in their way and I am right in my way.

RL: Do you feel different to the British in any way?

AW: I don't think so, no. After all this time, I am certainly British, properly British.

RL: Did you find it took time to feel British? Or did it come ...

AW: It takes a bit of time; especially when you are young and you travel outside your own life. Nowadays youngsters go to gap years and they travel the world which would not have existed in our time. And especially not in the circumstances that prevailed then, it didn't happen, I was more or less marooned at home, I had my parents and I was happy there, but it was a different life.

RL: Do you think you have got any kind of German Jewish identity?

AW: I suppose I must have. There is one thing I wished they would introduce here, which was the usual case in Germany, in Fulda and in other places, you paid one tax and that included Jewish hospitals, organisations..... everything was apportioned from there, here you have got 100 different charitable organisations, and that creates a lot of wasted, which could have been put to better use, which I don't like, but it never could, because not enough people want to sit at top tables. There are people there, and it comes to that as well, whether you say so or not sometimes a lot of that is true, and it won't happen, some have amalgamated but others don't, some valid reasons but a lot of reasons it could be done, it was done in Germany, there is no reason why it can't be done anywhere else. Apart from that I can't think of anything else.

RL: Is there anything you miss about Germany?

AW: No.

RL: Or about ...

Tape 3: 43 minutes 9 seconds

AW: I miss my family. That is all. And I think about them every day. I look at that photo of my parents, the only one I have got, every day I look at it, there isn't a go day goes by without me looking at it.

RL: How do you feel that you were received by people in this country?

AW: I was received very well. No complaints, I was received extremely well. People treated me very well. They knew what was going on over there, and even if they didn't I was still treated very well here. It is a very civilised country here.

RL: Did you ever experience any anti-Semitism?

AW: Not personally here. Only what I hear and read about. Thank God, no.

RL: How do you feel that you were received by the Jewish community here.

AW: The Jewish community, fine, no complaints, although I am, how should I say it, when I first came here, well not many people bothered about me, I don't know whether

they knew about me, I was somebody they didn't know. The people who knew me, they once invited me to dinner, like one of the directors of Stark, which was nice of him, he invited me to Shabbat dinner, but apart from that, well none of us knew people here except for some of us had family already before, so we all stuck together, because we were the only people who knew each other, or some friends remained here who also came over from the continent or you made friends with each other.

RL: When did you start making friends with the English boys?

AW: That was more later, more after the war, you came into contact with other people, you go to The Ritz, you meet other people, you make other friends, of course, sure. We were no different to anybody else. We were as human as anybody else, I am a different religion, all right, they do theirs and I do mine.

RL: What about with the English Jewish community? How long did it take for you to become ... integrated ... if you like? Or did you ever become integrated?

AW: Yes, I was integrated, fair enough, I went to Shul every week of course, and the Jewish community, was integrated. Even if I didn't know that many English people, but I was certainly integrated. You get to know people if you go to Shul, certainly you get to know people, or even you meet with other friends, quite normal.

RL: Did you join any societies? Clubs or societies over the years in Manchester?

Tape 3: 46 minutes 33 seconds

AW: Societies, clubs, I was not a big one for clubs. I had a lot of interests. I used to go a lot to theatres, I used to go a lot to pictures, I went to see a lot of concerts, it didn't leave much room for, I am sort of a culture vulture, so that took most of my time up, so it didn't leave much time for much else. Later, I mean going back, the last twenty years, we used to go, in fact that is where I met Sheila again, I have known Sheila for 50 years, again I mention her because I met her, we used to go on trips, on day trips with the Jewish Cultural Society, and on Sundays and midweek sometimes, and she sometimes went so we got together again.

RL: And what is Sheila's background?

AW: She has also got a, she can tell you. She has got a father who is frum. Yes, he is ... he has got a good Jewish background, and that is what I wanted. She married a son of Saul Rosenberg, so that tells you about her background as well, otherwise her parents, she would never have married any other way, and that suited me as well. We have got quite a lot in common, a few things not in common, but of course that happens. That is mainly TV, the things we have not got in common, but well, if you don't like it I will go and watch the upstairs TV.

RL: When did you marry?

AW: Five years, on Sheila's birthday, on 29th July 1999.

RL: And that was your first marriage?

AW: My first, yes.

RL: And that was Sheila's second?

AW: This was Sheila's fourth.

RL: Oh, her fourth?

AW: Yes.

RL: I missed out a few.

AW: Yes, you missed out a few, well one of her husbands passed away, and there was problems with the other husbands, but I have known her, I think I got to know her in The Ritz probably. I have known her for 50 years.

RL: So where were you? In terms of where you were living, we left you in Bentley Road?

Tape 3: 49 minutes 8 seconds

AW: Yes.

RL: When did you move from there?

AW: From Bentley Road, I had to move out there, because my landlord was selling the building to somebody who, to another Haredi who wanted to move in there. Bentley Road is now part of Haredi land, as you know. Manchester's Mea Shearim. So, I had to look for a flat, and I moved to Albert Avenue, the bottom end, you know one of those more newer buildings there, flat type buildings. And I was there, when did I move in there? I think it was 1994, oh, in the early 90s it would be, 91 I would guess. And then I moved, until I met Sheila again, Sheila lived in Brooklands Road, she had a flat in an apartment block on the corner of Middleton Road there, and she, when she got divorced, eventually she had to move out, she sold the flat and had to move out, and she moved in here.

And then, we used to come together and she said why don't you move in here. I felt it was a good idea, I was living on my own, and not getting any younger, and I didn't like the flat I was in anyway and I wanted to move out, I was looking anyway, and I moved in here. But it is very cramped here, but we have to get used to that, because I had been, I hadn't had big flats before, but roomier flats than this, I had to get used to the idea, get rid of a lot of stuff, get used to the way here, but the upside is you are safe here. I have had

some break in before in flats, so I know what it is like. Here it is security, in more ways than one, security from break ins, security as far as health is concerned, there is a warden, well, in a way on the premises, and there are other ways, if you want a social life you can socialise, if you don't you don't, it is your own choice, not anybody else, and we are together here. But I moved in, a year after Sheila moved in I moved in here, and the flat on the second floor, is exactly above this floor, the floor in between, but we didn't really want to, they had some double flats here for married people, but there are not many and they weren't available at the time, and they are not really big enough either for both of us either, we both spent money on the flats, we only had four bare walls here when we moved in. We keep it like this, we have a little bit more room, the two flats, and we kept it and we are quite content with it.

RL: And after you retired from business, what have you done since then?

AW: I retired, I gave up the business in 1978, because at that time my landlord, who lived in Southport actually, he owned the building, also a Jewish fellow, a Jewish person, my lease was up. And he wanted a big increase in the rent. He was a very, keen, let's put it that way, very keen as far as money goes. He used to come in now and again to me, he used to come in to make a phone call from me because he didn't want to spend the tuppence on the public phone, I won't say more than that, but it will give you an idea. My lease was up, and I was

Tape 3: 53 minutes 50 seconds

trying to give up the business because I was all on my own, I had no family, I was getting older, and I didn't want, I couldn't see myself carrying on like that in my old age, so I gave it up. I tried to get somebody else to take it over, which was going quite well for a time, take over goodwill and premises, in the end it fell through, but by that time we had reached the point of no return and I had gone past that, just past that, so I couldn't turn back, so I couldn't sell the business, so I gave it up, so I did, and I worked for somebody I knew quite well, a friend in advertising.

RL: What were you doing?

AW: We were advertising space. At one time we were selling, trying to sell advertising for a new magazine for foreign doctors here, a sort of medical magazine for them, and tried to sell advertising for some pharmaceutical companies, or anybody else who wanted to take advertising for them and get it on the way. And other advertising as well, for Manchester, it used to be called The Bulletin then, which was the magazine for the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and that kind of thing. Then eventually I gave that up. And I just worked a little bit, for a short time, part time, from home, and that was the end of that.

RL: Are you working at all now?

AW: Finished. I have been, no gave it up, it will be about five/six years ago. I am fully occupied now. I have as much free time as normal as I had before. We have got a social

committee here, of me and Sheila, we are chairman and treasurer. It takes a lot of time up, like organising a trip like yesterday for 53 people to Southport, we have a few more in the summer. People to concerts or other affairs, also, Sheila is not well, I have got to do all the shopping and look after her, so I have got a full time job. There is nothing wrong with that, but then I have always had many interests, I have never had a bored day in my life, and never will have, so that is a good medicine, the best medicine to have interests, physically and mentally.

RL: Did you join any refugee group?

AW: I didn't really. In fact there used to be houses in, what is it called? Smedley Lane. Sheila went a few times, I never went to any of them, but I know quite a few people who used to go there, they were friendly, who I made friends with, we met each other in my flat, later on when we met in their flats, we used to meet, but I had never been there at the time.

RL: This film is just about to end.

Tape 3: 57 minutes 39 seconds

AW: Yes.

RL: We will stop there.

TAPE 4

This is the interview with Arnold Weinberg and it is tape 4.

Did you ever join the AJR?

AW: Yes, I am a member of the AJR, yes.

RL: When did you join them and how?

AW: It is a friend of mine told me, and eventually I did join. My friend's name is Frank Henderson. His daughter is one of the prominent members in AJR now, she is one of the persons who works there, and she has got certain jobs there, and I joined, I don't know, it must be about 15 years or so ago.

RL: And do you go to any of their meetings?

AW: Yes we do, most of the meetings, we went to the one in the Morris Feinman home last month, and we had been to some in, we went last year, when we had a holiday week in St Anne's, we didn't go for the week, but we went for one day there, that was about a year ago, but we go to most of their meetings here, unless we are otherwise engaged we do.

RL: And how long have these meetings been going on for?

AW: Well, they have a meeting every few months and Werner Lachs who is the local chairman for it, he puts on certain meetings here, with different speakers, or things of maybe of interest to members like myself, and then we usually go. We must have them every three months or so, four or five times a year, sometimes they have a special meeting like an anniversary, and then we go, they had one in the Nicky Alliance Centre, not all that long ago.

RL: You mentioned before, how you visited Fulda?

AW: Yes.

RL: How did you feel going back to Germany? Was that your first time back?

AW: It was my second visit back.

Tape 4: 2 minutes 58 seconds

RL: Right.

AW: My first visit back was 1973, and the reason being this, my sister came over from America with her husband, who I had never met, in fact, I had never met my, my sister left home, I hadn't seen my sister since 34, 35 or 36, and it is a long time since then, for about, 36 years since I had met my sister and I had never met her husband. They came over to Hamburg because her husband's parents were buried in a Jewish cemetery in Hamburg, so when they flew in from America and I flew in from here to Hamburg to meet them there, and that is the first time we met there, we stayed there for a few days and we hired a car and travelled down, in fact they travelled down through into Switzerland. For me it was difficult, I had a business on my own, nobody to leave in charge, and it was summer time which is the busiest time for me, so I managed to stay away for one week. I am sorry I didn't stay for the other week, later on, but it was difficult, and I, we drove onto Frankfurt and from Frankfurt I flew back home. They drove on into Switzerland, all the way down where a cousin of ours lives in Zurich.

RL: Did you go to Fulda at that point?

AW: We did. Yes. We certainly made a trip, a side trip to Fulda. Not for long, we went in the afternoon, we went to Fulda, just to look round, it was a very queer feeling, the building where we lived in wasn't, there was a slight change, there was somebody living on the ground floor, a gentile family as I mentioned before. But now, there was a shop there, I don't know what it was selling, whether it was sweets or things like that, or newspapers or what, it was a small shop, but apart from that it was exactly the same.

RL: Did you go up to?

AW: I couldn't bring myself to go in the building. My sister went straight in. She even went up to the ring the bell of who used to be the Nazi member on the top floor. The old man had passed away, I don't know whether he died in the war, possibly, he was in the army I am sure, of natural causes I don't know, but she spoke to a son of his, my sister was not afraid, she went in. I remember, I am not really emotionally inclined, I have got full control of my emotions generally speaking, but I didn't want to go in. But the feeling is always there, and I ask others, and they all feel the same, whoever I ask, if you see somebody your age passing there, do you think of it, do you think could this person have killed my family or was involved in it. Especially the first time when I went to Hamburg, there were a lot of people and I was younger. Later on in 1987 in Hamburg, it was still there, less because less people of that age would still be alive, but they were still there. You see so many of my generation Nazis there, you can't help it.

RL: And when you went back to the reunion in Fulda ...

Tape 4: 7 minutes 0 second

AW: Yes.

RL: ... did you at that point visit your place of residence? Or did you?

AW: In Fulda? Yes. Fulda was very interesting, because there were people from all five continents there, nearly 400 people there with their children, they were there, all in one place, there were cities where a larger Jewish populations pre war, you couldn't do it, you couldn't accommodate them all in one go, it was a nice thing there, you could see them all. There were people I remember from school who I had forgotten about, and others I remembered from school and that was very nice, that was very interesting, and they had done a lot of shows there. We went to the surroundings, we went the cemetery, where I was looking for some of my family who was buried there and I couldn't find it, strangely enough I couldn't find it, I looked, and I was given exact details of it and I still couldn't find it, and in a Jewish cemetery.

RL: Did you feel differently going back for that reunion as to your first visit, when you went back?

AW: As I said, it is better, the Mayor, I think the Lord Mayor, they have the Lord Mayor, he had been a Mayor, it is not like in England where you are a Mayor for one year, you can be a Mayor for quite a number of years, he had been there for many years already and he was a very nice gentleman, he has connections, and has been quite a few times to Israel and he has been in contact with the Rabbi who was at our Yeshiva there who has got now a prominent Yeshiva in Israel, and he has met other people in Israel and one of my former teachers who has since passed away, he is still in contact with his sons in Israel. He is not Mayor any more now, but only about ten days ago I got a round letter from him, which he sends to all former Jewish residents in Fulda. And he actually apologised that he is late for Pesach, he usually writes for Pesach, because for various

reasons, he went for a holiday skiing in Switzerland and he broke his leg and they couldn't write, so he is late, but we keep in contact. I send him a good wishes card, a Christmas card every year, keep in contact, he is in contact with some other members he is probably more close to.

RL: And you say that there is someone in Germany who is writing a thesis on a member of your family.

AW: Yes, there was an uncle of mine, a doctor, Magnus Weinberg, a brother of my father, he was quite a well known prominent doctor of a province in Bavaria, and he wrote a lot of theses, in books on the Jewish community down there, and articles in local newspapers and that, and that pupil, I don't know why, he took it as his thesis to get a degree for his life story, and eventually, I got this life story, a most interesting reading, and since then we have also kept in contact with him,

Tape 4: 10 minutes 50 seconds

and his parents and his family. His parents don't speak a word of English, but I can still write in German, so I write in German to them. But, it is very interesting, and he travelled around, he travelled all over the place to find all the different, about the history of my uncle, to get any details he needs for his life and he managed to get them all.

RL: What did that student go on to do after that? What kind of job?

AW: I don't know. He had to go. I think he had to do some sort of army service for a year or two. But he is out now. I don't know what he does now. His parents write to me, when they write to me back at Christmas time. They also send me a little present, I send them a little present, keep in touch, which is nice.

RL: And, we have not mentioned Israel. Have you visited Israel?

AW: I have only visited twice. I visited once, that must be, early 90s, I don't know the exact year. The next time was last November, I stayed about three and a half weeks and I travelled on my own, I spent one weekend, over Shabbat, with a cousin of mine, who was a founder of Chofetz Chaim Kibbutz in Israel, and he left Germany in 19 ... a few weeks after Hitler came into power in 1933, and left his parents home where he lived and he went and made Aliyah to Israel, on his own, with a few other boys who were staunch Zionists then, and he has lived there ever since.

Eventually he studied and became a PhD and he became a lecturer at Bar Ilan University. Later on in years he travelled in Europe to give lectures, in Germany, I think in France, might be Belgium, Switzerland, I don't know, but he was invited every year, he got many invitations, he usually travelled with his wife and one of his daughters. But he has given that up now, he is too old, he has just had his 91st birthday, and when we went to Israel again, last November, with my wife, to visit my wife's daughter who lives there, in Netivot with ten children and a family there, we met, and we went to meet my cousin. I met him once before, he came to England with his first wife, and I went, I travelled down

to London to meet him there, just for a short time, and we spent time together for two days. I asked him many times, why doesn't he come to lecture in England, he would get many invitations, he said he doesn't feel confident enough to give a lecture in English. He speaks English, we write to each other in English, but to give a lecture is not the same, and for that, he has not got enough confidence to give a lecture in English. But when we went to Israel, last November, he lives on the kibbutz Kfar Haroim, near Hadera, and we couldn't get there, it was very difficult to get there. My wife is, cannot walk very well, she has got health problems, we could not get there, so he travelled, he arranged to travel with one of his daughters and we met in Ashkelon, so he travelled to Ashdod by train, and the daughter who is in Ashkelon collected him from the train station in Ashdod and brought him to

Tape 4: 15 minutes 22 seconds

Ashkelon, they have a nice home there, together with one of his daughters, Michal, who I have met, who came to visit me before, when I went to Israel earlier on in the 90s, she went to visit me in my hotel in Netanya, which was a very pleasant surprise.

RL: Did you ever think of moving there?

AW: I did think about it, but at the time, there was a time I couldn't afford to go, I couldn't start a business there, and then I also had roots here, but I would have liked to have gone there, I have always been a Zionist, most of my life, I would have liked to have gone there, but now again, there was a point of return, but I am married now, I am married five years ago, and I suppose I have my life here, but we will go and visit there of course, whenever we can.

RL: What family do your brother and sister have?

AW: My brother went to, he emigrated to America, before the war, it would be 1938, it would be 1938, late '38, before that he had lived in Milan in Italy for about 18 months, before that he lived in, it was then Palestine, in Haifa for about the same time or so, and he also lived in Spain for about a year in Barcelona before that time, but it was a long time ago. But then he went to, he immigrated to America.

RL: And did he get married?

AW: Later on in life. But he served in the American forces during the war. And he never told me what exact job he did because it was, in a way, not secret service, but not in the ordinary forces, as that goes, so he could not tell me exactly what he did, but he only married late in life, I think he was 50 years old when he married.

RL: So he had no children?

AW: He had no children, no, but he passed away about five years ago.

RL: And your sister?

AW: My sister, she used, she worked in an office in Hamburg when she was in her late teens, and that is where she met her future husband there. Her husband then was already immigrated to America; he probably had a job waiting for him there. And, for the reason that they were engaged, and because they were engaged to marry as soon as she came to America, she could travel there right away and did not have to wait for the quota system, when they got married she came over there.

Tape 4: 18 minutes 49 seconds

RL: Did they have children?

AW: They have two children, a son and a daughter.

RL: And are they married?

AW: Yes, the son is now 65 years old, he is married over there to his second wife. He has got a son and a daughter from his first wife, yes; there is no children from the second wife. The daughter also got married, a bit later, she is over ten years younger than her brother, but her husband suddenly died during the night, when he was only 42 years old, there was also no children, she lives now with my mother at the moment I mean with her my daughter ... I mean ...

RL: With her mother?

AW: Yes.

RL: Now is there anything else that you would like to say that we might not have touched upon?

AW: Quite possible, but as usual, as soon as you leave here I will probably remember it, at the moment I am trying to think, but it does not come to my mind.

RL: Is there any kind of message that you would like to finish with?

AW: A message, well the only message that I can think of is, the whole reason why we have these interviews is to let future generations know what kind of life we had, so that they should have a better life and should not have to suffer for all the traumas we had to suffer, and a lot of people who suffered a thousand times worse than I did, I managed to get out in time, after the hell of central Europe, but lots of others who didn't come out, or who did come out but suffered terrible over there, which I managed to avoid, thanks to my mother who got me out when I was arrested in Krystall Nacht time, but, that is the main message I can give, and we must never forget that. As time goes on, the memory of those days and the importance of it will dim with time and on this programme it will help to keep it in people's minds and hopefully let the future generations have a better life, it should be a better world.

RL: Thank you very much.

AW: Thank you.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Tape 4: 21 minutes 57 seconds

RL: You tell us what this photograph is.

AW: This is a photograph of my parents, my father, Max Weinberg, and my mother, Martha Weinberg, nee Herzberg.

RL: And where was it taken?

AW: This was taken in Fulda, I would guess, around about the mid 1930s, 1936, around about that time.

That is a photo of my brother and my sister. My brother, Harry, was born in 1913, my sister was born in 1915.

RL: When was this photo taken?

AW: That would have been taken in Fulda.

RL: And the approximate date?

AW: It must have been a few years later, they were quite little then. They were between three and five years.

This is a group photo of a number of members of my family, which was taken at a gathering of the families, around about the later 20s, in a small spa town, not far from Fulda, which we used to do every year or two years or so, to get as many of the family to get together. My father is on the top row, third from the left.

This is a photo of myself, taken in 1939 when I was 15 years old.

RL: In?

AW: In Fulda.

This is a picture of the boys of the Yeshiva in Fulda, which was taken in 1938. Now I am on the top row, third from left, and my teacher is the old gentlemen, Mr Yochnovitz.

This is a picture of myself, which was taken in late 1939 or early 1940, at the side of the house of the family Yochnovitz in George Street in Manchester, where I lived at that time.

Tape 4: 24 minutes 56 seconds

These are school reports from the Jewish school which I attended in Fulda. They are half yearly reports. The first from September 1936, the second from March 1937, the upper signature is from my head teacher, the lower signature is from my father.

This is a trainee order from my first job in England when I started work as a machinist at Stark Brothers in Sussex Street in Manchester.

This is the last communication that I received from my parents, a red cross letter from May 1942, in which they mentioned that their place of abode was changed and they have to leave Fulda. They also mentioned, write still to our old address, otherwise write to our Aunt Cilla who lives in another place, and that is the last I heard of my parents.

This is a photo of me and two of my friends at a function that we attended at that time. It would be about early 1950s. On my right is Leo Kalisch, on my left is Joseph Yochnovitz who became a well known doctor later on.

RL: And it was taken in?

AW: It was taken in Manchester; I can't remember at what occasion, it might have been at a dance hall, it might have been at a friend's occasion. It would be early 50s.

This is a photocopy of the quota number of my parents when they applied to immigrate to the United States in 1938. It was a high number and they never managed to get there unfortunately.

This is a photo taken on our wedding day when I married my long time friend and now wife, Sheila, it was taken on 29th July 1999, in the grounds of the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation in Manchester.