

IMPORTANT

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Interview Transcript Title Page

Collection title:	AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive
Ref. no:	98

Interviewee Surname:	Morris
Forename:	Anita
Interviewee Sex:	Female
Interviewee DOB:	15 February 1920
Interviewee POB:	Stanislawow, Poland

Date of Interview:	7 April 2005
Location of Interview:	Salford, Manchester
Name of Interviewer:	Rosalyn Livshin
Total Duration (HH:MM):	3 hours

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

INTERVIEW: 98

NAME: ANITA MORRIS

DATE: THURSDAY 7 APRIL 2005

LOCATION: SALFORD, MANCHESTER

INTERVIEWER: ROSALYN LIVSHIN

TAPE 1

RL: I am interviewing Anita Morris and the interview is taking place on Thursday 7th April 2005. The interview is taking place in Salford, Manchester and I am Rosalyn Livshin.

What is your name?

AM: Anita Morris.

RL: And what was your name at birth?

AM: Anita Katz.

RL: Did you have any other names?

AM: Yes, I was married before and my name was Anita Segal.

RL: And do you have a Hebrew name?

AM: Do you know what? I have, I think it is Yenta but I am not quite sure, I don't like to admit to that name, but I think it is, I am not sure.

RL: Were you named after anybody?

AM: I don't know, Anita not, I don't know.

RL: And where were you born?

AM: I was born in Poland. Can I tell my story?

Tape 1: 1 minute 25 seconds

RL: Whereabouts in Poland?

AM: In Stanislavov. Which is Poland or the Ukraine, I am not quite sure, but it was Poland at the time.

RL: And when were you born?

AM: I was born on 15th of the second 1920.

RL: How old does that make you now?

AM: 85.

RL: So, you wanted to tell me something about where you were born?

AM: Yes, because my parents came from Poland, but they went and lived in Vienna for a good few years, because my brother who was three years older than myself was born in Vienna, but when I came along, I was the fourth child, and my mother unfortunately lost a child in Poland but when I was, when she was pregnant, and I was, she wanted to be near her mother and father so, just, she must have left about three weeks beforehand, on the train, to go to Poland and that is why I was born in Poland.

RL: Even though the family were actually living in Vienna at the time?

AM: My family were, yes, my father with my sister and my brother, yes.

RL: Can you tell me something then about your mother's family? You know your grandparents and what you know about their background.

AM: I know my grandparents lived originally in Poland and had four children. No five, four sons and my mother, and one girl, and two of the boys managed to go to university in Poland. One became a lawyer and one became a Judge. The other two eventually, one of my uncle's moved to Germany, I think when he was 16 or 18 and the other brother, I am not quite sure, also went perhaps to live in Germany, but he went to Israel, to Palestine I would say at the time. My grandparents eventually went to live with one of my uncles in Germany, but as they got older they came to live with us in Vienna. We moved into a larger apartment and they had a lovely room there. They were quite, I was only young, but to me they looked very elderly. They must have been perhaps 75 or 80 at the time, but we were very happy to have them, and I remember one seder night all the sons came from wherever they were to Vienna and a big table was set in our dining room and my grandfather wore a white kittle and I remember I must have been eight or nine at the time. And then my grandmother died, and my, in Vienna, and my grandfather, and their graves are in Vienna.

Tape 1: 5 minutes 24 seconds

RL: What kind of people were they?

AM: Very gentle and very nice. They were retired and they were quite happy to be in Vienna. We were in a very nice, we moved into a large apartment when my grandparents came to live with us, and opposite us was a little park, so they were able to, you know, go out and have a little walk, and in spring time there was the lilac trees, it was very nice. We lived in the second district in Vienna which meant it was really the Jewish, well there was a lot of Jewish people were living there.

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

AM: I meant to look it up in the ... I can't remember ... the Bourse, I can't think of it, in grain, he, I don't know exactly, but he did his living, he was a kind of a businessman, I am sorry I should have prepared myself for that.

RL: What was his name?

AM: To me he was my grandfather, I don't really know. I have got his marriage certificate and I have got all the documents.

RL: What was your mother's maiden name?

AM: Pardon?

RL: Your mother's maiden name?

AM: Amalia Horowitz.

RL: So he would have been Mr Horowitz.

AM: Oh yes, but I am sorry I don't know the name, I am forgetful now with names, I get them mixed up, I should have looked it up.

RL: You mentioned that two of his sons became, one became a Judge and one became a lawyer. Was that in Poland?

AM: In Poland ...

RL: And what happened to them?

AM: Unfortunately they died in the Holocaust. The solicitor was married with two lovely children. Because when I was about 14 or 15 years old I lived in Vienna, my mother wanted me to visit the family, and all I had to do was get on the train. I remember it to be a long journey and I stayed with my uncle who was a solicitor. The girls were

Tape 1: 8 minutes 19 seconds

lovely, I have got even a photo of them. They were great Zionists and they learned Hebrew and my aunt at one time went to then Palestine, she went through Vienna and visited us, and went to Palestine but at the time Palestine was, I don't know it wasn't very attractive to her and she went back, and unfortunately they perished in the holocaust, yes.

RL: And the other family?

AM: They also perished in the, the Judge, with his wife and two children, I visited them, and they perished in the Holocaust, yes.

RL: And two brothers who went to Germany. You say one went to Palestine ...

AM: Eventually ...

RL: And the other one?

AM: My Uncle Jacob, that was my mother's brother, he lived in Arfurt, and he was a businessman, he imported leather goods and he had two sons. One of the sons, he was a very good and kind person and you know in those days they were all very family orientated and conscious and whoever he could help, he helped.

One of his sons, I think it must have been maybe when Hitler came, or when Hitler was coming, they knew he was going to come, one of the older sons went to Palestine and he was, helped to build Kiryat Anavim, which was near Jerusalem. He was one of the founders I would say, and my uncle and my aunt and the younger boy were still in Germany, and they were trying to leave Germany when Hitler came, when it was really serious, somehow my uncle didn't think anything would happen to him, because he was very well known in Arfurt. He was a chess champion and, but it didn't make any difference. They had to flee and they went to France, through France, their, they wanted of course to go to Palestine, but unfortunately the younger son, I don't know what happened. He was sh..., he wanted; he was shot, while he was trying to hide or something. But my uncle and aunt did manage to go to Palestine and lived eventually, my uncle lived eventually in Kiryat Anavim, and many years later, in Kiryat Anavim, in 1958 or something I went to visit him in Kiryat Anavim, yes. It was a very good experience.

I have got quite a lot of the Horowitz family in Israel still, but not my generation, in fact I am the oldest know of my generation, so I have been asked to write what I know about, you know, my grandparents and great grandparents, I don't know much about, but I will let them know.

RL: What do you know about your great grandparents? This is on the Horowitz side is it?

Tape 1: 12 minutes 34 seconds

AM: I don't know much about my great grandparents, but my grandparents lived with us in Vienna, so I have told you what I know.

RL: And the great grandparents ... Do you know anything at all about them?

AM: I don't, no, my son was trying to do a family tree and he found out one or two things, but I don't know exactly ... they must have been quite a ... I do know that in Vienna we had some oil paintings of my great grandmother, because in those days there was no cameras and people had their portrait painted, yes, that I know ...

RL: You have got photographs haven't you, of your great grandparents

AM: Yes, I have, yes ... but unfortunately I don't know much about them. I think they were Ishhorowitz, so they were quite a well known family.

RL: Right. Do you know what kind of religious upbringing your mother had as a girl?

AM: Orthodox, orthodox ... her mother wore a sheitel, I remember, and her father ... but her father was in business, so, it has always been an orthodox home.

RL: Did she, do you know what kind of education your mother had?

AM: My mother was very well educated. I don't know how, but she spoke Polish, German, French, a bit, and because of her two brothers learning Latin she used to sit there and, what shall I say, she used to, ask them questions "What is this word in Latin?" or "How would you say that?" You know, she would ask them if they would know this word in Latin, so she knew a few words in Latin, and she was a beautiful writer, I have still got letters which I treasure, one in particular, but I will come to it later.

RL: Did she work at all?

AM: No, in those days, she didn't work, but she used to help her mother and when they came ... She told me ... What is before Purim? She made Hamantaschen, before they finished, I think weeks and weeks ago before hand they used to make Hamantasch for Purim, but not the Hamantasch, you know with the dough, it was pastry, and she did it until the very end, until she lived with me at Meadhill Road, she lived with us. We were very, very lucky that my mother came over, yes.

RL: So if you can tell me something about your father's family and his family background?

Tape 1: 15 minutes 59 seconds

AM: My father's family, I met only his brother, they died, they must have been dead because I never met them, and he had a very, a brother in Stanislavov, where I was born, and he was not married, but he was an engineer and his hobby was photography, and he even had a Leica, which was, a Leica camera, in those days was quite something, he used to come to Vienna, quite often to stay with us, or go further a field to Italy etc. with his camera and then I was in Poland and I stayed with him for a few days. He was always, you know he had no children of his own so he was always very kind and always brought us presents and ... You know my father and uncle were in Stanislavov and were very close, but unfortunately he also died in the Holocaust. He, oh, I wrote it down, but I can't look at it now ... can I?

RL: Not at the moment, but we can always come back to it later?

AM: Yes ...

RL: Yes ... So did your father have any other brothers and sisters?

AM: No, no. Oh yes, there was a sister, Auntie Anna, I remember, but I don't remember very much. I don't remember, she came to visit in Vienna, but when I went to visit Poland she wasn't there any more. She must have died, because they were a close family.

RL: Did she have children?

AM: No, not that I know of.

RL: Did you know anything about your father's parents?

AM: I have a, my father's parents, I haven't met them as a child, no, they must have, no I have not met them. I had a photo of them, that is all, yes ...

RL: Did you know anything at all about them?

AM: Not really, I am sorry, no. Just that they had the three children, they had my father, Uncle Munier (?), and then they had a daughter, Anna, no I am sorry.

RL: Do you know what kind of upbringing your father had?

AM: Similar to my mother but not probably quite as religious, if you know what I mean.

RL: And what kind of education?

Tape 1: 19 minutes 18 seconds

AM: He must have had a very good education because he spoke Polish and German, even before he came to live in Vienna. But I don't know what education he had. He had an office in Vienna and an office in Poland and he travelled to Germany on business and to Poland, but we lived in Vienna.

RL: What was his business?

AM: He imported razor blades and knives from a very well known German firm to Poland and to Vienna, and he had an office in Vienna.

RL: And did he have to travel a lot?

AM: He did travel a fair amount, but he was always happy to come home. Not a lot, but a good few times during the year.

RL: Do you know what happened to your father during the First World War?

AM: I don't, I am sorry. I don't remember. You see I was a child, my father died when I was 12 and it was very sudden, he was walking and he had a heart attack, coming back, I think from meeting a friend, and I remember coming home, and in those days there was no ambulance, and he had died on that very day. I remember when my brother came home, my sister opened the door and said to him, he was only 13, I was 12, no, he was about 15 or 16 and she said "Sigi", Sigi was his name, Sigmund, Sigi, "Sigi, you have got to sit shiva." And he ... that is how it was, we were children. I was very sad for my mother ...

RL: Coming back to your parents, do you know how your parents met?

AM: I should imagine it was a shidduch, you know, I don't know, but they were very happy, and they were wed in Poland, I think I have got their marriage certificate, it is all brittle the paper, and I have got lots of old papers, some of them I don't know, they are in Polish anyway. My birth certificate was originally Polish, and was translated afterwards, because after three or four weeks my mother came back.

RL: When did they marry?

AM: What date?

RL: Or what year?

AM: When did they marry? You see I have it all, if I had known beforehand I would have been able to tell you. I can't tell you ... I can't ... you know how old my mother

was ... we found out when my mother was born, so she must have been about 22, my mother was I think 22 and my father was perhaps 25 ... 6.

Tape 1: 23 minutes 40 seconds

RL: Right. How old? Just thinking of the children that they had, go through the family and go through who there was ...

AM: The oldest was my sister.

RL: Yes, when was she born? How much older was she?

AM: She was 13 years older than myself.

RL: Right. So you were born 1920, so she was born 1907. So your parents probably married just before then, 1905/1906.

AM: That is right.

RL: And your sister's name?

AM: It was Ida.

RL: And who came next? If you go through the family. Who was born next?

AM: Then there was Lonik. My parents at the time were living in Poland and Lonik was born perhaps two or three years after, but unfortunately he died when he was eleven, I think he had scarlet fever, and in those days there was nothing, no antibiotics and he died, and my mother often said what a lovely boy he was, what a good boy. And I, that was before my time, because as I say I was born later.

RL: And what other?

AM: Oh, and then my brother came along in Vienna, three years before me.

RL: His name?

AM: His name was at the time Sigmund, and he was brought up in Vienna and he was going to be an engineer and when Mr Hitler walked in on 13th March he of course, that was terrible ... Shall I go on from that?

RL: Well we are not quite up to there yet, because I have your childhood really to do first.

AM: Yes ...

RL: Really ... to do first ... So there were the four children.

AM: Yes ... yes ...

Tape 1: 26 minutes 5 seconds

RL: What is your earliest memory as a child?

AM: I was the youngest, so I must have been a little bit spoiled and loved. I was a very happy child. I had a lovely family. And a lovely life, really, really a lovely life in Vienna. A lovely childhood, I was living in the district where all my friends lived, the Jewish district, and it was lovely. Every Yom Tov, you know, it was nice, my friends lived nearby, I went to a school, where, I think almost everybody was Jewish, although it wasn't a Jewish school, maybe a few teachers weren't, and maybe a few girls weren't but it was fine, we all got along very well.

RL: Can you describe the apartment that you were living in? What are your memories of the apartment?

AM: Well, let me tell you one thing. First we lived in a small apartment, also in the second district, and in this particular block, it was very nice, I remember one Chanukah especially, because we had a grand piano, and my sister was playing and then the candles were lit, and it wasn't a big room, but it was very nice, and in the same block lived another family called Reiss, and Mr and Mrs Reiss with three daughters, and the eldest daughter, they were very, very Orthodox and we were friendly, and we both, my mother came from Poland and this lady came from Poland and I was friendly with the older daughter and we played together, but the schools, they went to a Jewish school. Why I am telling you this is, to this day, I still have connections with this family, but I will tell you later, because from that apartment, because my grandparents came to live with us we had to move into a bigger apartment, and we lived in a really lovely apartment where my grandparents had their own bedroom and they even had a washbasin in their own room. And people thought we were very wealthy, but it wasn't the case, it was just that we wanted, we and probably, maybe my uncle helped, to see that his parents should be living in a very nice place.

RL: Do you remember the address?

AM: Of course, it was 59 Oberer Donau Strasse, Zweiten Bezirk. And ...

RL: Did your mother have help in the house?

AM: Yes, yes ... there used to be a big apartment with a kitchen and a maid's room attached to the kitchen. It was really in the corner of a building, so there was a lovely room for my grandparents, with a wash basin. Then there was like a library room, where we had hand painted ... paintings, I am terrible, I am not very good at this ... of my great grandmother and books and my father had a desk there and two leather chairs and then

we went around the corner to a very big dining room, and in the other corner was a closed in balcony, it was closed in so we could have plants. I am always very fond of plants and then there was another room, going around the other way, I think my brother slept there,

Tape 1: 31 minutes 15 seconds

yes, and then another bedroom and bathroom and a hall, actually it was a very nice room, and we had help, yes ... my mother was doing most of the cooking but she had help, yes.

RL: And what floor was it on?

AM: On the first floor, yes ...

RL: How big was the block?

AM: Quite a big block, I have got even a picture of it, but I can't put my hands on it right now, yes ... in fact in 1988, I went back to Vienna, with my daughter and granddaughter. I always promised them that the three generations would go back, and we stayed in the hotel in zweiten bezirk, so we walked round to see the flat, and I never did as other people do, go knocking on the door "Can I see the flat please, I lived there?" No, we didn't do that, thank you. But I saw the building and I saw the little park and it was very interesting for my daughter and granddaughter, they will never forget that. And I certainly won't, and we went to the cemetery where my father's grave is. I must say that the cemeteries are kept beautiful. It was on a Sunday morning that we went and there were quite a lot of people there, I don't know, it must be the Jewish community, or whoever the cemetery, but the stone was perfectly straight and well looked after.

RL: Did you have any non Jewish friends?

AM: Not really. I worked with some, when I was a milliner, but my friends were Jewish.

RL: And did you belong to any clubs?

AM: I belonged to the Hakor, which was a swimming club, in, we were very fortunate, where I lived there was this wonderful swimming pool, covered, very modern, and the Hakor had it for one or two evenings, one evening a week I think. In fact I was trained to swim breast stroke, and on one occasion, I must have been about 16 or 17, there was a competition, and there was an international, I can't remember, I wrote it down, and the girl who was supposed to swim wasn't well so I had to be, I had to be the substitute, so I swam quite well breast stroke, I didn't win, but I didn't lose either so I did my best. Yes, I have always loved swimming. I remember my grandfather saying, my mother's father, that Jewish people should be able to swim, I don't know if it is in the ... if he said that ... because he wanted to say it, but I loved swimming, yes. Otherwise I didn't belong to anything else, no.

RL: So, how would you spend your spare time, after school ...

AM: After ...

Tape 1: 35 minutes 21 seconds

RL: After school or at the weekend, how would you spend your spare time?

AM: Well, I came home, and my mother always had something ready, you know, like all Jewish mothers do. And I might have done my homework, and then I met a friend, the park was just across the road, we would go and play, I don't think you know that game, Diablo, have you heard of it before? Yes? I am trying to find it for my great grandchildren, somewhere, they don't sell it here. It was two sticks and you throw it up and ... swimming, go out, after school, later on as I was growing older I used to go to the cinema or the theatre and used to stay, we had standing room for the young people so we didn't have to spend so much money. And yes, there was, I had a lovely, ice skating, yes ice skating I did go, I used to love ice skating, I wasn't very good at it, at 12 I broke my arm, but it soon mended when you are young, and I was ... oh, I learned French when I was in school, and I even had someone come in, I had my mother come in to make sure I learn it well, and it was always, oh yes, dancing, and I went to a dancing class, a Jewish dancing class if you please. And even my friend, one of my friends, whose mother was very orthodox with a sheitel, she thought we weren't, but we were, you know, kosher if you know what I mean. She let her daughter also go to dancing classes. She went with her daughter and she sat there, all the mothers sat there, well I didn't have to do that, because I went with my brother, and so I didn't need a chaperone, and it was very nice, the boys had white gloves on, and when it was Chanuka we had a Chanuka party. It was very nice, and strangely enough one of the boys came to Manchester but he is not here any more, so now I was, I had a very lovely life in Vienna, really, really ...

RL: Did you take holidays?

AM: We took holidays ... you know, we had very hot summers, in Vienna, so we took all our belongings, you know, I mean dishes etc and hired, rented a home in the country, perhaps for three or four weeks, that was very nice. I remember we had a boat trip, but I don't know where it was, and we took our maid with us, and the boat was quite, a little boat with a family and a few friends, and she got up and we nearly sank, nothing happened, but it was very frightening at the time, yes ... we took the maid with us, yes ... it was a different kind of life.

RL: And which synagogues did you belong to?

AM: I don't remember, but it was a very big synagogue in Vienna, and it is still there, and I am sorry that I have got such a memory that I can't put a name to it, but it is still there and strangely enough, my grandson and his wife, I have got a grandson in London who recently got married in May, last May, and they went to Vienna to a wedding and it was held in that synagogue. In any case when I went back to Vienna with Linda and my

granddaughter we went to the synagogue, we went to the kosher restaurant there, it is quite a big Jewish community.

RL: Do you remember who the Rabbi was?

Tape 1: 40 minutes 18 seconds

AM: No, no ...

RL: Did you have any Hebrew lessons?

AM: We did have a professor, yes, everybody was in love with him. Not love, you know, we were only kids, but I didn't learn very much there. I wish I had learned more Hebrew when I was young, yes, it is easier when you are young but we did have Hebrew lessons yes ...

RL: Where was that? Where did you have ... ?

AM: In school.

RL: In school?

AM: Yes

RL: How orthodox were your family? Where did they come in the religious spectrum?

AM: Well we had milchig and fleishig. Friday night dinner. Nobody had cars in those days anyway. I remember my father having a rest after his Shabbos meal. And I remember him putting the light on when Shabbos went out and said "Gut Voch" you know, and ...

RL: What about memories ...

AM: Pardon?

RL: What about memories of the Yom Tovim?

AM: Oh yes, we kept all the Yom Tovim, yes. Passover, my mother was busy, when I was little I knew where the dishes were kept, and I had a certain blue cup with a blue brim and I was looking out for that ... yes ...

RL: And Sukkos, did you have a Sukkah?

AM: No, we didn't have a Sukkah, but in our block there was a very orthodox family, it was quite a bigish block in Vienna, and there weren't only Jewish people in this

particular block, but they had a sort of a, in the yard I would say, and they invited me in once or twice. No, but we didn't, we weren't "so" orthodox.

RL: Was your father involved in the community in any way?

Tape 1: 42 minutes 33 seconds

AM: Not really, no, I would be telling a lie, not that I know of, I know everybody thought very highly of him that knew him but you know ...

RL: And how did your mother manage after he had died?

AM: Well, we had property in Poland and that brought some rent in and when my sister got married she lived, had a little flat, and a little child, but when my father died this big apartment was much too big for my mother, my brother and myself, so my sister and her husband and my little niece came to live with us. There was plenty of room there, and my brother in law, Robert Klinger, he kind of tried to continue with the business, but things were not quite the same, this is why, when I was 16, I felt I wanted to contribute and do something to help, this is when I learned millinery. We decided, my mother and I decided that that is a good trade, if that is what you can call it. Because in the end, when I used to go for a walk to the city they had such lovely little shops, especially the millinery shops had an attraction for me, and you could see the four seasons, the different kind of hats, and I somehow thought I would love to make them, and I did get a job, I think my mother had to pay for that, anyway as an apprentice with a Jewish family, and there I started to mix with non Jewish girls, because they worked there, and that was very interesting, a bit boring in the beginning because they would only let me do menial jobs, you know, I was the apprentice, and I looked around and I learned a lot by seeing other milliners doing some work. And straight away I did some work for my mother and my sister and later on I made a hat for a friend of my mother's, and she brought me a pair of pure silk stockings this lady, you know that was a big thing in those days, yes, and I was glad I had a trade in my hands, especially later on, my school friends were still in school, but I kept in touch with them. They stayed at school until they were 18, whereas because my father died I felt I had to do something.

I want to tell you something else, while I was in school; it was arranged from school for girls who wanted to go over the summer holidays to stay with a family. It would be a holiday and it would entail looking after a child who would like to learn German. So I went one summer, I must have been about 16 then, to Hungary, to the Balaton Lake, to near the Balaton Lake, to a Jewish family who were farmers, which was a most wonderful experience, because all I had to do was look after Stella, who was 12, I was 16, and there they had a cook and all sorts of help, you know, I had never been in a farm, I used to take her to the Balaton Lake to swim and she learned German, and I read to her, it was very nice, it was a nice family, and they were happy to have me. We even went to the synagogue on Shabbos, I don't remember how we got there, or we went before, or, we don't ... You know some of the things are blocked out, but you know that was a wonderful experience for me, and it was a very nice time, and the girl knew quite a lot of

German. And they had a horse and cart, and we used to ride on the horse and cart and pick up peaches and melons and all sorts of things, it was a different kind of life than we had in Vienna, as you can imagine, so that was nice.

RL: Did you ever come across any anti-Semitism in Vienna at this time?

Tape 1: 48 minutes 23 seconds

AM: When I was a schoolgirl? No, no ... When I was working as a milliner, I can't say, but when Hitler walked in and I was once in a park and I met one of the ladies I worked with she ignored me, but I can't say I had any other bad experience, except when Hitler walked in you were very careful where you went, but that is another story which I will tell you ...

RL: How aware were you of what was going on in Germany?

AM: I must admit, very little, I am sorry to say, and seemingly so did many other people. Maybe because we didn't ... I don't know why, my uncle in Germany didn't warn us, because he thought he was safe, you know ... and ... I was going to say something, oh yes, when Hitler marched in on 13th March it was a Friday, my mother had a frozen shoulder, I remember she was in bed. And candles were lit and my brother walked in and he said, what happened, that Hitler is in Vienna, and that was a terrible, a terrible thing, we really didn't know what was going to happen. My sister was there and my brother in law, but nobody knew, that was really a great shock.

RL: Did you see the troops coming in?

AM: No, I didn't. I didn't see them, no, but the whole, everything altered, my lovely childhood in Vienna, my lovely city, the lovely flowers and trees and lilac trees and everything, concerts and music and theatre and schools and friends, all of a sudden, everything turned ... and, what are we going to do? What are we going to do? And I will tell you what happened, this, I told you when we lived in the smaller flat my mother was very friendly with Mrs Reiss, and one day this Mrs Reiss came, we had a telephone, and I don't know if she had ... not everybody had a telephone in those days, she came to our home and she said, you know you could be so friendly with people but you still called each other, by Mrs Katz and Mrs Reiss. "Mrs Katz," she said, she came in my mother, she came into the lounge, "Mrs Katz, you must send your son away, Sigi and you must send your son in law." Because she must have heard it from somewhere, so that was really very kind of her, and because of her my brother went to Italy, I think the week after, or as soon as he could go, because at that time we did not need a visa, he took a case, and he went to Italy, and my brother in law, he went to Poland, because Poland was not occupied and we had still a property there and a business, and he thought he would go and his wife and child would be able to join him. And so we were in that big apartment, was left, my mother, my sister, myself and my little niece of 8. What were we going to do? We didn't have family in America or England, we had family in Palestine at that time, but you could not go to Palestine because it was illegal, so we did, we wrote, I

remember going to the library and we got the address book out for London and New York, and we wrote letters to people who were called Katz, and I wrote letters to say that maybe we are related and please can you send an affidavit and help us to get out of Vienna, now this was one letter and I copied it perhaps twenty times, and nobody ever replied, but again, this Mrs Reiss, had a sister in Manchester who originally came from Vienna. This lady, who was married for the second time a Mr Reiss in Manchester, years
Tape 1: 54 minutes 28 seconds

before Hitler came. He was a widow, she was a widow, it was a shidduch and she lived in Waterloo Road, so because of this Mrs Reiss I said I would come back to her and I will come back to the family again, she obtained for me a visa to go to, a permit or a visa, I don't know what you would call it to go to Liverpool as a maid, yes. So I was going, my brother was in Italy, my brother in law was in Poland and I was going to go to Manchester first to stay with Mrs Reiss. So we were allowed to take one case, with some very nice clothes my mother managed to get for me, and I had a few hats and ten shillings and I remember in October, I think the 18th, I went to the station in Vienna, and a young friend of mine with a boyfriend who was able to carry the case for me, and I remember sitting on that train, somehow high up, and I down there my mother which I thought was an elderly lady, she was only 56 or 58, in black, with her little black hat and my friends, and she was waving goodbye to me, never knowing if she would see me again. And I, well I had my future in front of me, but I was sad, but there were other girls in the same predicament as myself, mostly my age and a bit older, because the younger ones eventually went with the Children's Transport. So I came to London, and there were a few ladies picking us up at the ... oh, I must tell you about the journey. I remember going to Aachen, where the border was, 3 minutes, yes it was the border, and I will tell you about it afterwards, because they kind of, addressed, dressed, made sure we had nothing hidden, and I lost my little address book.

RL: Right, so we will continue on in the next tape.

TAPE 2

This is the interview with Anita Morris, and it is tape 2.

You were just telling me about your journey from Vienna to England ...

AM: Yes ...

RL: I just wanted to ask you, did anybody have to supervise the packing of your case?

AM: No ...

RL: When you packed ...

AM: No ...

RL: And what kind of things did you put into your case?

AM: Clothes, maybe photographs a few, address book, no the address book I had on me ... mostly clothes I must say, only a small case you were allowed, as I said, the address book, was, I had it on me, and when we came to Aachen we were, searched thoroughly, and for some reason I must have lost this precious address book, so when we came to

Tape 2: 1 minute 18 seconds

London, I must tell you, I do not remember going on the boat, that is ... I don't know, I know I went on the train, but the boat journey I do not remember at all.

But I did arrive at Euston, I remember that, and there were quite a few tall nice ladies waiting for us, and I think, not all of them were Jewish, they were very, very nice, they could have been the Quakers or whatever, and they took us to a big hall and I don't remember the name, but I am sure other people do. It must have been a Thursday, because on Friday morning, I don't know, I could see a big hall, mattresses were laid out for us, and I remember it was also Friday night there, there was a table, candles and I didn't know anybody really, and I suppose everybody felt the same, a bit sad and lonely but also probably glad to be in England. And they had showers in the morning, cold showers, and I must have left that place after Shabbos, was it early probably, it must have been early, because I arrived ... and somebody must have taken me to the train.

And I arrived in Manchester looking for my little address book and I couldn't find it. I knew the family were called Reiss, and I knew where they lived, and I had, I was 18, and I left my case at the luggage department, I didn't know what to do, I thought I would look at the phone book, but I don't know what I did, but I went up to Victoria Station, it was dark, Saturday evening, and I went up to a policeman, and in those days they were six foot tall, and in my broken English, what happened, when I found out that I am coming to England, I took a refresher ... not a refresher course, I am sorry, because my second language in the school was French, but I took a course in English, in Vienna, a few weeks before, about six or eight people of all ages who knew they were going to England and they wanted to learn a little bit of English, so with my broken English I went to this tall policeman and I told him my plight and he was very, very nice, and he suggested that I could either sleep in a police station or, I thought it was a hotel, but it turned out to be a pub, for two shillings, so I said I will stay, I have got ten shillings, which I had at the time, so I said I will stay in the hotel. It was a pub, and when I went up into the bedroom there was cigarette smoke, and, but I must have fallen asleep for a few hours, and I woke up early and eventually the lady knocked at, the landlady knocked at the door, and she said "breakfast is ready" so, I go into this breakfast room, and there is this table laid out, full of different foods and a smell I have not come across before, but there was toast or bread, and I had a cup of chocolate, yes, and she was very nice, she really was.

And somehow the next morning I managed to find the address of this Mrs Reiss, I don't remember how I got there, it was not all that far, I don't remember if somebody came for me, I don't remember. It was October 1938, I went into this Waterloo Road house, a very old house, open fire which I have never come across, the gentleman had a beard, Mr

Reiss, you know, they were very well known orthodox family here in Manchester and she was more of a, more modern, this lady, but as I say, it was a second marriage, it was a shidduch, and because of that, you know how it is beshert, she helped a lot of girls. I was not the only one, she brought over, so I stayed with her for a whole week and I have never, ever come across fog, in October, like black fog, it was a bit frightening, when I looked outside, but I was safe inside. And this lady took me across the road where there

Tape 2: 7 minutes 40 seconds

was Butensky and Frieze and I think they sold materials. You know the Friezes? He will tell you ... Mr Frieze ... he was a young boy then, he was 13/14, and it was Chanukah then, and this Mrs Reiss took me there to introduce me to people, and his grandmother made latkes in the back of the kitchen, yes that was nice, but the main purpose of meeting people was "please help me bring" ... ah, I wanted my mother and my sister and my niece to come out, and they did, I felt so lucky, they didn't ... but eventually ...

RL: How did you find ...

AM: Just a minute ... pardon?

RL: How did you find people to help?

AM: Wait a minute ... So I had a job to go to Liverpool, because for some reason Mrs Reiss managed to do that. It was a young couple with two children who wanted somebody to help them, but while I was with Mrs Reiss, a middle aged couple of about 56, 60 came, and they said, we have got nine children, and we would like to have somebody, we would like to take somebody in. They were not wealthy people, but we would like to have a girl. So me, I was there, "what about you" she said. I said "I have got a visa, a lady signed for me in Liverpool and I've got to go there." So Mr Segal, it turned out he was Mr Segal, he said, "I go to Liverpool on business every Monday, because I have a small factory in Devon Street." And I think they were doing, was it British Home Stores, for somebody they were delivering every Monday some goods. "Would you like a lift?" I was delighted, because I only had a few shillings left, so on Monday morning, prompt, they came and collected me and they took me to the house in Liverpool. I do not remember the name of the couple, and I do not remember the address either, and Mr Segal said, Mr Segal didn't drive his son drove. Mr Segal himself came from Russia when he was very young and somehow, although he was a lovely man, a very good man, he never learned to read and write in English, he did Yiddish papers, but the children were educated. He dropped me there, they dropped me there and said "we will come next week and see how you are going on, if for any reason, you know, you can always come to us." I had to go in, I had to go in the attic there, because they had a maid before me, and it was a bit difficult because I wasn't used to, it was cold, because there was these blankets, and I was used to feather beds, like you are used to duvets, but that wasn't all. I, there were two little children and I tried to do whatever she asked me to do, wash the nappies and do some baking which I said I knew how to bake, but it turned out the flour was self raising and not plain, it didn't turn out as good, but I did my best. And Monday came, and Mr Segal came and I said "I am alright and I am in touch with my

mother, she writes to me and I write to her everyday.” Again I was trying to find someone who would help them but there was a very strange atmosphere in that particular house. The husband and the wife didn’t talk much, the children were lovely, they were, and I, after a second week when they came I said “If it is possible I would love to come to your home.” I think after three or four weeks I did go, I somehow managed, I don’t know if Mr Segal had to pay some money, because maybe they had to pay some money

Tape 2: 13 minutes 8 seconds

for me, £50, I am not quite sure about this. So, I went to the Segal home where there was originally nine children, but one of the sons didn’t live at home, because he was studying, and two of the girls were already married, and even so I did what I had to do, making beds and peeling potatoes, everything really, which didn’t do me any harm, and they were very ... but the most important thing is, straight away, they sent for my little niece in the Children’s Transport, I mean she didn’t come straight away, but they did everything straight away. There was a Quaker family near them who signed for my mother to come over and they managed to obtain for my sister a visa as a cook somewhere, and that was the most fantastic thing. You know ...

RL: How was ...

AM: While I was at the Segal’s for some reason, don’t forget there was Krystall Night, I was not there, there was only my mother, my sister and my little niece there, and they came in the flat and they took everything, all the silver and jewellery, and my sister had to carry the case, the two SS men went and my sister had to carry the case behind them. But for some reason the Shabbos candles, three of them, these are the big ones, and two little ones, were somewhere, though everything was hidden, but they found it, they didn’t find the Shabbos candles, which, you know, who has got one, Linda got one when she got married from my mother in law, and my son has got some probably from Poland and my granddaughter has got little ones and I have got the Shabbos candles which were saved which was ... but that was wonderful, it was beshert that I should come to a family like that, not a wealthy family, just an ordinary family who signed for them, and because of that they came in March 1939.

RL: So did they sign for everybody?

AM: No, they did not sign for everybody. Maybe they signed for my sister, but the Quakers signed for my mother, with the Children’s Transport they probably signed, because my niece, who was eight at the time came before her mother and my mother. She came in December; she came Chanukah, around Chanukah time. When did I have latkes? That was when I was in Waterloo Road in October. I remember she came in December. Can you imagine my sister letting her child go? She didn’t have her permission at the time to come to England, so she put her on the train, an eight year old child, as you know so many of them came, but my niece was very lucky because she came to a home where she knew her auntie. That was so lucky, can I imagine these children coming to a strange home at eight. I look at my great grandchildren now and think, terrible, some of them came to nice homes amongst unserter, and some to, you

know, nice homes, Jewish homes, but my niece came to Howe Street where I lived and she stayed there for, straight away, her name was Gerta, straight away she changed her name to Susan, because that was German and she hated a German name, and she went to school and she made friends and she was one of the top pupils and she was friendly with Fulda's daughter who is in Israel now, one of them lives in Israel, and she was friendly with Malka Haffner, school friends you know, she was a bright child. But when my

Tape 2: 18 minutes 26 seconds

mother and sister came they rented a house in Great Cheetham Street and with the help of the Segals. It was the rent, the rent I think it was 30 shillings a month or something like that, and my mother who had maids and help, she rented out rooms and she was fantastic, and my sister also learnt how to make bras before she left Vienna so she should be able to earn some money because my sister had a very nice childhood and she went for one year to finishing school, but not away, it was for the day in Vienna, where you learned etiquette, where you learned decorating cakes and even secretarial work, you know. She was a very clever lady, but of course she came here on her own, and her husband was in Poland. She came with her mother, and then when we had, my mother lived in Great Cheetham Street, I went to live in Great Cheetham Street with them and I worked as a milliner, during the war probably, was it? No it was before the war, that was before the war, yes.

RL: Did your mother speak any English?

AM: Pardon?

RL: Did your mother speak any English?

AM: No, but she picked up and we spoke German at home and she had, it was a big house, and the way that we could live was to rent out the rooms, and these were also refugees, we had somebody, a Mr Ansbacher who came to live with us. He was very, very orthodox, and he ... a lovely man, and he got married from our house. I made the hat for his wife, and I worked in Cannon Street at a milliners and I worked at night as well, private customers, you know, you do that when you need to do it, and we were very happy to be in England. My brother, who was in Italy, he had to leave Italy when Mussolini came in and he went to Colombia. It was the only place he could go to, he didn't have an affidavit or anything, and my brother worked in the mines. It was a very difficult job, and my mother wasn't very happy with where he lived and all the time I have still got still, I tell you, I have letters from my mother which he has written to him since 1938, and for some reason my brother kept all the correspondence which I have written to him and my mother and my sister, till, for many years he kept them, and I received all these letters only a few months ago, because my brother died in July last year and my sister in law sent all these letters to me, and they were very moving and very interesting. But also he was lucky because a friend, eventually, who lived in New York, a school friend who had family in USA sent him an affidavit. This friend sent an affidavit to my brother so he was able to go into America. That was before the war, and he got himself a job as an engineer, but in, when the war broke out, in America, when the

Americans joined the forces, he joined the forces and he came to England when we lived in Great Cheetham Street, as an American soldier. After five years my mother saw him again, we saw him again, it was wonderful, you can imagine. He came to England as an American soldier because he was an interpreter and he had to go to, he went to Germany and, but while he was in America he was wonderful, he used to send us food parcels ... I have stepped ahead a bit really, because we were in Great Cheetham Street, weren't we,

Tape 2: 24 minutes 8 seconds

last time ...

RL: Yes, you were in Great Cheetham Street ...

How long were you with the Segals before you moved into Great Cheetham Street?

AM: Well, once my mother established herself, you know, and there was a little room there, I had a little box room; a bed was there, probably second hand wardrobe. Next to my bed was an orange box, you know there were shelves in it and I put all my little bits in it, and my mother did lovely embroidery so, an embroidered cloth was on it and a little plant, and we were very happy to be in England and my brother was in America, the only sad thing was that my sister's husband, she was trying so hard to get him over to England, and it wasn't to be, the war broke out, for some reason it just didn't work out and he perished in Poland. My poor sister, she really, she was young, she was only 32, wait a minute, how old was she? Yes, something thirty two, and she died young in England when she was 46 I think. She had glandular, was it glandular fever as a child, she had something, you know, as a child, and she had heart trouble, and in those days, even here in England she was in hospital. And my niece lost her father when she was eight or ten, and she didn't see her father after eight years old and her mother when she was 18 years old, but her mother had great pleasure because Susan my niece was very clever, she went to university here and she eventually went to America and got married there and we are in very close touch, because I feel she is like my younger sister and we speak to each other very often, and she is married with children and grandchildren. In fact, all being well, in July she will have her golden wedding anniversary in, she lives near San Francisco. I have seen her in between, because she lived in Philadelphia where my brother lived and I used to go. I was very close to my brother as well. We used to talk to each other very often, but when I was widowed young, when I was 46, I often, where do you go when you are on your own? You go to family. So I went either to America to my brother, or to my cousins in Israel, that is where I had cousins. They were very kind to me, and still my Uncle Jacob in Kiryat Anavim, I went to see him and, ya ...

RL: Coming back to England in the war, or before the war, first of all, what was your impression of England when you arrived?

AM: When I arrived? I told you these tall ladies were waiting at the station, and they were very kind. And I saw this big room. It was wonderful in a way. When I was in

Waterloo Road it was foggy, black, I had not experienced that, but I felt safe amongst unserer, so I felt safe.

RL: Did you find that life was different here to what you were used to?

AM: Very much, but, very much different, but I didn't query it because I was so grateful, everything was different, everything was different. I came from perhaps a

Tape 2: 29 minutes 8 seconds

different background as well a little bit, but very grateful, so was my mother and my sister, and I think that England was a very good country, is a good country still.

RL: What kind of things were different? What did you notice about the differences?

AM: I think ... I think when you live in a house with nine children it is a different story, I mean they weren't children, there were grown ups already, some were my age. Only one went to university, the oldest boy, my husband Mark, he was bright and brilliant but he had to go in the factory when he was 15, because you know there were the younger ones and they also were hairdressers or whatever and they had to give money to the mother and, they weren't poor, and, they were not poor, don't get me wrong, they were not poor, but it was a different style of living, that is how it is, and you do. I was very fortunate ... I have to tell you this that when I went to Liverpool, one of the sons was driving, that was Ivor, and he was a bit of a lad anyway, and he wanted to take me out once or twice, but he already had a girlfriend and I wasn't rushing or doing anything and I didn't want to get involved really.

And there was Mark, he was shy, quiet, and I have got a grandson who is like that, and he used to like going bicycling and read a lot, he really, if he really had the opportunity he would have been a professional man, and when I was in Great Cheetham Street, he came round. First he made excuses that he wanted to see my little niece, because he was the one who went to London to fetch her, you see, he went in the car, he fetched her and he brought her to Howe Street, so I think that was a bit of an excuse because he took me out once or twice. And it was Chanukah, one Chanukah, it must have been 1941, he got on his knees and proposed to me, and I accepted. He was really very nice, my mother was pleased and we got married in, when I was in Howe Street I was in a synagogue there, wait a minute, I have got that written down, not Stene ... errr ... I am sorry, you know the synagogue that Rabbi Cutler used to be in, I am sorry, how can I ... that is my problem with my age now ... ba ba ba ba ... (sound of turning pages) where is that? Here I was still in Vienna. Wait a minute. I will know it as soon as I ... sorry ... it will come to me soon. The Higher Broughton Synagogue, I am sorry, Duncan Street, yes, I got married there and it was very nice. And the Segals made the wedding, a little afternoon tea, I thought it was very nice, and my mother wrote a letter to my brother that I looked like a princess. I had a white lace dress on, it was all inexpensive but it wasn't important, I made my own headdress, I made all my mother's hat, and my sister's hat and all the

families hats for this wedding, and we managed to rent a little house in Wellington Street when we got married.

Mark was not, the war broke out in forty ... no when did it ...

RL: 39

AM: 39?

Tape 2: 33 minutes 58 seconds

RL: September '39.

AM: But Mark wasn't ... September '39. yes ...

He wasn't, he wasn't in the army because he had stomach trouble already then, and it wasn't diagnosed, but he was fine. He enjoyed life, he had pain at times and he saw the doctor etc, so we managed to rent a house in Wellington Street, which was very convenient, because my mother lived in Great Cheetham Street, and we saw each other a lot, and Linda was born in 1943 and Alan was born in 48 and he was a very proud father and we lived there for 11 years, until we saved up enough money to have a house built in Meadhill Road. And Mark, my husband, used to go there often while they were building the house and it was in mind that my mother would come and live with us, because my sister died and my niece went to America. She wasn't living on her own, she had a few lodgers, but my mother was getting a bit older, she wasn't quite 70 at the time, but we had a room. We were allowed to have an extra room, because after the war there were limitations, only one toilet, but we had a lovely house built with a garden and he took a lot of pride, Mark took a lot of pride in it, and my mother came to live with us.

RL: Can I just take you back a little bit?

AM: Yes.

RL: You know how you said when you lived in Great Cheetham Street you had lodgers.

AM: Yes.

RL: And you mentioned one lodger. Do you remember any of the other lodgers that you had whilst there?

AM: Yes, there was a Mrs Metzger who is still now in Morris Feinman Home, she and her husband came for a short time. Her husband died, I have seen her a few months ago in the Morris Feinman home, her daughters are in Israel and, people came, stayed, and then moved on if you know what I mean. I didn't take so much interest, I was busy, I was working during the day, and in the evening I had a few private customers and I made

the hats, people tell me “You made me a hat”, now that is going back to Great Cheetham Street, it is another story in Meadhill Road as well, when I lived in Meadhill Road ...

RL: Do you remember the out break of war?

AM: Yes, yes ... yes ... but Mark was in the Home Guard, and map reading he did with a lot of people, I don't know ... he did what he could, but he didn't have to go into the army, whereas his brother went into the air force and he got the DFC or something and he was a pilot, he was a pilot.

Tape 2: 37 minutes 50 seconds

RL: What did Mark do?

AM: Mark ...

RL: Yes.

AM: Mark was in a factory, yes, we were in Meadhill Road.

RL: I was thinking of the war years. What did he do in the war years?

AM: In the war years he worked in the factory because they were doing uniforms, you know, instead of, you know. He was in the Home Guard, because he wasn't well he did not go into the army. He was ...

RL: Who owned the factory?

AM: His father, his father owned the factory.

RL: Where was it?

AM: Dutton Street, near Strangeways, I went as well to help. I helped, especially when I lived in Meadhill Road, when Mark wasn't well I went to help. That is after the war of course.

RL: That was after the war ... Did you help during the war in that factory?

AM: I think I worked there for a time while they were doing uniforms, but then, I must have done, I must have done. I think I did the millinery in Cannon Street before that, I worked in a big place, I sometimes walked from Great Cheetham Street to Cannon Street to save a couple of pennies, I walked with another girl who came from a very wealthy home from Germany, but we didn't think anything of it. This is why I wanted to write something down for my children and grandchildren. My children, my children knew, but my grandchildren bless them, they are quite spoilt, you know, I don't want them to go through anything I have done, but life can be so not so easy at times.

RL: Do you remember the blitz in Manchester?

AM: Oh yes, as it so happened the house that we rented was owned by Mr Samuels who was quite a wealthy gentleman, and he moved into Broughton Park when we rented the house, and it had a shelter, that house had a shelter.

RL: Was this the Great Cheetham Street House, or was this the house in Wellington Street?

Tape 2: 40 minutes 16 seconds

AM: No in Wellington Street, when I was married.

RL: Right.

AM: Also, I think, I think they tried another, my father in law had another factory which was bombed out completely, yes, yes ... well you know around Strangeways it was pretty bad.

RL: Do you have memories of that bombing? Of witnessing that bombing?

AM: Well, we survived; we are survivors, aren't we? We survived, we were together, I was with my husband and my children, and my mother was not far, we didn't go to pieces if you know what I mean. We were together, and I remember pushing the pram, and queuing for a bit of fish and Great Cheetham Street, and all this didn't do us any harm, no.

RL: Did you used to go into the shelter when there was a ... ?

AM: I think we only went once or twice, yes. We were lucky we were alright in the neighbourhood. It was mostly in town and near Strangeways where the bombs fell. But my niece was evacuated in Accrington, and funnily enough, amongst the letters, I found a letter she wrote to my brother from Accrington, oh no, she wrote in German, I had sent her the letters that she wanted to have. These letters, you know these letters coming only six months ago were so interesting to me and I will tell you one thing, which I realised when I read these letters, was that we were in Vienna my brother in law was in Poland, my uncle was in Germany, my brother was perhaps at the time either in Italy or in Columbia already, and there was such a closeness in the letters "What can we do for you? What can we do for each other?" It is unbelievable; I was very touched with that. And even myself, my brother was wonderful but he didn't like to write, and my mother was waiting, looking, every day at the post and there was no letter. And there is a letter which I wrote to him in German "Please write, I am going to send you a pound", a pound was a paper pound "Write, mother needs your letters, she wants to know everything." You know, a boy doesn't think about this so quickly, but he was a good son after all, I must say he was a good son, but when it came to writing. Yes he, yes he kept every letter he

received, that is the main thing, from my Uncle Munier in Poland, from my sister, from my niece who wrote when she was in Accrington when she was evacuated and the people are kind to her, and yes, that helped me a lot, reading these letters. It is like a diary sixty years ago.

RL: Yes ...

AM: What else can I ... ?

Tape 2: 44 minutes 19 seconds

RL: Just, if you can remember, just the wartime years in Manchester and what was going on here during that period.

AM: Well, I was very lucky, I had a very, we had a home in Wellington Street, it wasn't posh or anything, but my husband was working during the day and in the evening perhaps map reading or whatever he could for the war, home guard or whatever else, and I even worked when I was married a little bit, altering a hat, you could alter hats in those days, because they were felt, and you could stretch them, put a new trimming on, and I could help my mother you see, or whatever, so. And they had a, there was a car in the factory, they had a car, so occasionally we went to Southport for the day, or even Blackpool, you know. And one summer, we rented something in Blackpool and my mother and my sister came as well, and my niece, and we all managed to have a few weeks there, you know, that is what we did during the war. And Buxton, in the beginning I wasn't allowed to go to Blackpool until I was married I think, because I was an enemy alien, until I got married and I became English. So my mother and sister could only go to Buxton. And Buxton was a very nice place in those days, very elegant little place.

RL: Did you have to register with the police?

AM: I think I did, until I got married. And then of course I became English, but my mother became English, she got naturalised, and my sister, and my niece, yes. My mother could read English, yes.

RL: How aware were you of what was going on in Europe?

AM: I must admit that when I was married, in 1942, we didn't know what was going on. Because, the communication wasn't there, no, I feel guilty in a way that I was happy and having babies when what went on with the family in Poland, my cousins etc, we actually didn't know, we should have known more, it wasn't in the papers and ...

RL: When did you find out?

AM: I don't remember when I found out, but it was with my brother in law, my sister found out soon enough ... and, but, yes with my uncles, we didn't ... I think it was when

we went to Israel, I don't know what you call it, but you go to a certain place and you can find who, who went to concentration camps, but not everybody was taken to concentration, they were also killed out on the streets and there was no record of it, you know. And I didn't have family in Vienna, because, as I say, I was so lucky ...

RL: Do you remember the day war ended?

Tape 2: 48 minutes 26 seconds

AM: Not really. I know I must have been happy, I don't remember, no. Everybody was happy, I don't remember, we didn't have on the street in Wellington Street we didn't have a party, but I am sure everybody was happy.

RL: Which Shul did you belong to?

AM: I belonged, I have forgotten already ...

RL: Higher Broughton?

AM: Pardon?

RL: Higher Broughton.

AM: Higher Broughton I belonged to and then when we lived in Meadhill Road we joined Heaton Park Synagogue, and when I came to live here in nineteen thirty ... thirty two years ago, I belonged to Stenecourt.

RL: Right. And did you, during the war, did you mix with any other refugees.

AM: It was all family at the time if you know what I mean. My husband's family was quite near and especially my mother and sister were near. And Mark didn't have many friends, he belonged to a bicycle, he used to go bicycling as I said before, and I made friends with a few refugees but mostly I was going to, my friends were my mother and sister and my niece. They came to us, we went to them, and we occasionally they babysat and we managed to go out and meet people, but I can't say that, but I have found friends since then, but that is later on when I was on my own.

RL: Who were the refugees that you did become friendly with at that time?

AM: Well as it so happens, this Reiss family, they came to live in England, in Wellington Street, Mr and Mrs Reiss with three daughters, and they lived in Wellington Street, and when my Linda was born, they bought me a Haggadah. A Haggadah, how do you say it? For Pesach ...

RL: Haggadah, yes.

AM: One where you can pull out, can you imagine in those days, it must have been quite expensive and it must have come from America, when Linda was born. My friend Sally bought me that, and we were friendly, she lived with her parents, her father is buried here in Rainsough, amongst the Rabbis, he wasn't a Rabbi, but he was very, very frum, and the mother with her three daughters went to live in America, yes, and I kept in touch with them. Unfortunately, my friend Sally, I think was murdered in America, she was on a roof top once, sunbathing, not sunbathing, she wouldn't have been on

Tape 2: 52 minutes 8 seconds

sunbathing as such, but she might have been with a friend, and that was very sad, so Mrs Reiss has two daughters and none of them is alive any more.

But one of the daughters grandson, lived in New York, his name is Yossi Orbach, and years ago when I lived, I lived here already, he works for a very big bank firm, Solomon and something, I don't know, and he came to London, and he wanted to visit his grandfather's grave, so he phoned me up, and at the time, it must have been ten twelve years ago, I was driving, so I picked him up at the station and I took him to Rainsough and he came back here and then he wanted me to look at where his grandparents lived, you know, and he even took a photo of me etc, and he went back, and he came a couple of times and his mother and father lived in Israel and his mother, his father died recently, but each time Yossi went to visit his parents, especially the last couple of years, his father came on the phone and said a brocha over me, this was very touching, and last time he said a brocha I felt so moved, because he died soon afterwards, yes. But, actually, Yossi, that is what I wanted to tell you, every Wednesday or Thursday he phones me, and he knows I am not as religious as he is, he phones me to wish me Good Shabbos and Good Woche, and that is very nice. Yesterday he told me he is going to Israel, he is younger than my son and he already has grandchildren, married in Israel, and he has got two children at home now but he is going for Pesach to Israel. The reason I am telling you is because it is a nice connection, isn't it, and it is very sweet of him to do that, it is not necessary, how many young fellows would do that. I told him once, I do appreciate it, it is really nice, because I know you are working and you know, but I don't talk in front of ... I think it is a minute or two. My son will tell you and my daughter, I am very quick on the phone, not because I am mean, because I don't want to, I am not one of these people who can sit for half an hour on the phone and speak, although today I have go to lot, fine ...

RL: Coming on to your children ...

AM: Yes ...

RL: Where did they go to school?

AM: My children unfortunately didn't go to King David for some reason. Alan did go, Alan, my son, did go to that school here where high up, it is not a school any more, I

don't know what it is called any more, he went, before he went to grammar school to this Jewish school, which was ... Is it still a school? On Park Lane, the corner?

RL: What? Broughton Jewish?

AM: Yes ...

RL: He went to Broughton Jewish?

Tape 2: 56 minutes 16 seconds

AM: Yes ...

RL: Cassell Fox Broughton Jewish?

AM: Pardon?

RL: Cassell Fox Broughton Jewish ...

AM: No ...

RL: Broughton Jewish, Broughton Jewish ...

AM: I can't think ... the headmaster ... yes, he was very well known. Yes, he went there for a couple of years, and my daughter went ... Where did the girls go? Great Clowes Street, Linda went and then, yes ... in fact, I am sorry, I am sorry to this day that they didn't go to King David, but I didn't arrange that at the time, but it was meant, Mark was very, very good, he wanted the kids to have a good education, he went to Bury Grammar and Alan went to, Manchester, no, Bury Grammar, yes Bury Grammar ... three minutes ... good ...

RL: Okay. And did they have Hebrew?

AM: Alan had Hebrew lessons, and Linda must have had Hebrew, but not as good. My great grandchildren are getting it now, they are there.

RL: Well we will just stop here.

AM: That is very good, because I have got to go somewhere and then ...

TAPE 3

RL: This is the interview with Anita Morris and it is tape 3.

So you were telling me about the letters that had been sent to you after the death of your brother and that he had kept them all of these years. We were just looking through them

and there is one letter here that we thought it would be good for you to read out to us, and if you would like to explain what this letter is and read it to us.

AM: Well, this letter I translated into English, because my children can't read German, or understand, they do understand a bit but they wouldn't understand the whole lot. This was written on the 28th December 1938 and at that time I lived at Howe Street, Higher Broughton, Salford.

“Dear Siggy”

It is written to my brother.

Tape 3: 1 minute 5 seconds

“I am sorry that I have not written to you before but I hope Mutti kept you informed.”

Mutti is mother.

“I really do not know where to start, because I won't be able to finish this letter, however I will try to write the most important news. I was only one and a half weeks in Liverpool as a help, with a family who signed for me as a maid. I was in a strange land, in a strange home, and besides being home sick I found the family I stayed with very strange. It must have been difficult for you in the beginning but I am pleased to hear that you at least found work. In Manchester I knew a Mrs Rappaport who helped me to get a job at a nice family. The people are good to me and try to be helpful. They are rather ordinary people, but Mr Segal has a heart of gold. They have already arranged for Mutti and Ida to get a permit and for das kind” that is my niece, “Gerda, to come to England, with the Children Transport. In any case this is very, very helpful and please G-d will help as well.”

I am not a very good letter writer.

“My big wish is that they should arrive as soon as possible. Mother has already sent some silver hidden in a feather cushion. Mother and Ida send every month 10 German Marks. I opened an account for them in the Post Office so when they will arrive, there will be a little money for them. I receive ten shillings every week so if you need money I can send it to you. I am quite well and I have to thank the A-mighty that I am here. There are nine children in the family.

Please write to me.

Do you meet people from Vienna?

Do write everything because everything is interesting to me.

I kiss you a thousand times.

Your sister

Anita

PS Please write to Mutti.”

RL: Very nice. Did you yourself meet people from Vienna in Manchester?

AM: A few people, yes, of course, I think we met perhaps in town once or twice, somebody arranged it, yes.

RL: Do you remember who they were?

Tape 3: 4 minutes 7 seconds

AM: There was a girl around the corner who lived where I lived in Howe Street. Milita Wyman was her name. She came over with her parents and she was a ballet dancer in Vienna and she met a very nice boy, who also came from Vienna, and she got married and I think Mark and I were present at that wedding, yes. But they have moved to London and I am still in touch with Milita occasionally, but otherwise I don't think, well I didn't need anybody with my mother and my sister there ...

RL: Were you involved in any Zionist activity at all?

AM: Not really, I wasn't involved with anything until later in life.

RL: Do you remember the creation of the state?

AM: Oh yes, oh yes, very much, very much so, of course I must have been involved then, because I had family in Israel, cousins, and I was in constant contact with them and in fact after Mark died I very often went to Israel, because when you are on your own you tend to go to family and my cousins were very nice. In fact I am the oldest of my generation now so I get asked what happened years ago, which I don't always remember.

RL: When did you start joining groups or societies? And what have you joined?

AM: I think that happened because Mark was ill etc. and I was busy, my mother lived with me. That happened when I became widowed when I was 46 years old, Mark died when he was only 51. I was rather sad because my daughter was getting married a few days after, before, and around Christmas time he was told he was going to be very, very ill, I realised then, because in those days they didn't mention cancer and there was not any help, there was no McMillan nurses and even the doctor didn't say much, and the date was for May, yes, 29th May, and he was very ill at home, but he was hoping to be able to do the wedding, to be present at the wedding. However, a week beforehand he had to stay in bed, he couldn't move, but on the Shabbos when the aufruf was, we went, my daughter and I, he was happy to see us, you know, dressed up and I remember him saying to my daughter "Count your blessings." And I suppose he did that in his way. And on the day of the wedding Linda was in her bride gown and the bridesmaids, and they were able to go upstairs and he could see them, and that was nice, and the wedding was, I have forgotten, it was locally, very locally, I should remember, it was locally, Mrs Fruhman probably, you know. I know it was local because I went back home, he wasn't left on his own no, but, so, and the wedding, the chuppah was actually in Crumpsall Synagogue although we belonged in Heaton Park, but Rabbi Wulick was there, and Linda's grandfather was next to me, because my husband wasn't there, Mark's father was

still alive, and you can imagine it was a very moving service and there was, they didn't stop the dancing, I remember, Mrs Fruhman catered, and as I say I went backwards and forwards, and at least he did see her married, not at the chuppah but he saw her in her gown and a few days afterwards he died, so, I don't know, why am I telling you all this.

Tape 3: 9 minutes 34 seconds

RL: I had asked you about organisations and societies that you joined.

AM: Yes, I understand. So I had no time to do this or the other because I would willingly have looked after my husband and my mother, and then I joined, I think the League of Jewish Women, and I had a little car and I was driving, I think it was at the Levy House at the time, and they didn't have a dishwasher at the time and I suffered from a bad back. You know when you are younger you go through all sorts, lumbago and this and the other, I am not going to say all that I had, but I am here to tell the story so I am grateful. But when I got home, you know these ladies came for lunch, and a nice lunch was served for them, and we ladies had to wash up afterwards. Oh, I can't tell you, I was so happy to get home on top of the bed, and they were older than me, they were like as old as I am now most probably, but they enjoyed it, I worked with them for a while.

And WIZO, I have been a member for a long time, Prestwich WIZO and I go to JNF club occasionally now. Margot Rubins is chairman and it is very nice and she tries to do her very best although she is the same age as me, almost.

And the Phoenix group, did I mention that before? I don't know. The Phoenix group I belong to ...

RL: What is that?

AM: The Phoenix group, you know, we, Ruby Oper used to be the chairman, it is a very nice group, it used to be the Bnei Brith and now this is the branch, not a branch, a completely new branch, and that is very interesting, I don't go very often now, I don't drive, but I do go if there is a good speaker or Chanukah or Purim or whatever I go and I have some very nice friends there. But some people go nearly every week because there is a book club and a music evening, which I go to, you know, we are so fortunate in Manchester, there are so many places to go to if you want to, but personally I am content to be at home as well, I can cope with my own company and I have got a loving family, and they are there when I need them, and when I don't need them they are still there.

RL: Coming onto your children, the last we left them they were at Bury Grammar School.

AM: Yes ...

RL: What did they do after ...? Well first of all did they belong to any clubs themselves in Manchester?

AM: Oh, I am sure, yes. Well, Linda is the older one so I will start with Linda. Linda went to Bury Grammar and then she, because my husband Mark went for a visit to America and he was so impressed with the schools he wanted her to have a few months

Tape 3: 13 minutes 8 seconds

or a year in America so she went to stay with my brother, so in a way she would have preferred perhaps to go to university but then she got a job in a cardio – what is it called? In a cardiologist's department and she worked in Manchester Royal until she met her husband.

RL: And who did she marry?

AM: She married Malcolm Suss.

RL: Where was he from?

AM: He is a Manchester boy, his parents were very proud of him to become a pharmacist and Linda helped her husband, she belongs to several things. To the League of Jewish women, I think to the Fed now, Malcolm, they are very conscious of the community. They belong to the Holy Law Synagogue.

RL: And what children do they have?

AM: They have two children. Linda has a daughter Michelle, who is married to Danny Phillips, and they have got three children, and that is my delight because they don't live very far.

RL: And the other child?

AM: Robert lives in London who was married last May to Simone and he phones me often and probably will come Pesach to stay with his parents with his wife.

RL: What do Michelle and Robert do?

AM: What did Michelle do? She is very clever, she is very artistic, and then she got a very good job at a firm, first she tried to, she thought she would open up a business, but then she worked for a, was it import, imported stuff, children's ware, and she was selling and going to different places. She had that job for quite a few years. And now she has got the three children she has still got a part time job, yes, and she has been made a governess of King David School which will probably take a bit of her time.

RL: And Robert?

AM: Robert, which school did he go to? Robert went to Manchester Grammar. I remember because I picked him up one day when he was only 13 or 14 and I stood there and I looked at all the boys and all the boys looked exactly the same, but he is now in London working for a big bank. Can I think of the name? I can't think of the name. It is terrible, but he is alright bless him, I can't think of the name, it is very well known, he

Tape 3: 16 minutes 48 seconds

will kill me if ever he sees that video, and I will probably remember it at the end of the interview.

RL: And then your son?

AM: My son became a dentist, he went to Bury Grammar, and that was a joy for his father. He is lovely, he married a girl from Glasgow, her maiden name was Vallance and the wedding was in Glasgow but they came to live here and so did her parents and her mother was one of my best friends, so that is nice when you get a machutensta to be so close, but unfortunately both of them died and Alan and Marlene have got four children, three boys and one girl. None of them are married yet, but the oldest is an accountant in London. The middle one is with Alan, not as a dentist, but as a ... Alan also supplies dentists with materials etc. The youngest one took a year off and has been all over, but thank G-d he has settled down in London and stays with his brother and has got a job now recruiting and Amy is 19, she is at home, she is at the university in Manchester, but she wants to do something with art, design, she is not quite sure yet, but she is lovely. I will show you a photo of them, I have got a photo ...

RL: We will do that later.

AM: Only that photo is perhaps two or three years old, yes.

RL: Right. How interested were your children in your past and in your experience as a refugee..

AM: Well, actually, as children, they didn't know I had an accent, you know, they didn't know, and it is only recently, and maybe only since I have written that little story, and I will tell you who remembers it best, is Hannah, my little great granddaughter. She remembers it, "You have read it grandma" she says, and when it was recently 60 years, 50th anniversary, they read it in school for the nine year olds. I don't know if it was read all of it, but some of it, because it is not really sad this, I didn't put anything in, I did write it for grandchildren and great grandchildren. Really I can't say I have anything very sad to say except that you know when you lose your loved ones, but life has been good to me.

RL: Of course we haven't followed your story through, in that your first husband died ...

AM: Yes.

RL: And you did remarry.

AM: Yes.

Tape 3: 20 minutes 27 seconds

RL: How did that come about?

AM: Well, I was 46 when Mark died and my mother still lived with me for a few years which was very nice, and I was busy helping my daughter with the two little ones, you know that kept me busy, and also because he was ill, that little factory had to close, and I remember, before Christmas, he died in June, before Christmas, and we were all told eventually that he is very, very ill, so we had to close the factory. He could hardly walk up the flight of stairs, but in those days you, I think now as well, you had to give redundancy money to people who worked more than 25 years, but at the end of the day there wasn't, you know, very much left, but we managed, but we were sitting there about three weeks before he died and he said "How are you going to manage?" Because I didn't know how to write a check, you know, I had left it all to my husband and managed, I was always contented, whatever I had, I didn't, so I said to him "Don't worry, I will manage, you know I can make hats, you know I am a milliner." So he said "Oh" and then he said "Well, I saw you make a fur hat once", and you know when you have got two pieces of fur and you stitch them together it makes one big piece, it doesn't show, because of the mink or whatever, "and don't sit in a shop waiting for customers, if you do ..." It might have been a couple of months before he died "Make fur hats, because I saw you do it, and you did it very well." So that is what I did, when my mother was still alive I didn't want to go out and have a job and I put an advert in the Jewish telegraph "New fur hats made out of old fur." And people came, ladies, with ties, in those days they had ties and they didn't want to wear them. So that is what I did, not a lot, but it helped, you know, it kept me occupied and it also helped financially.

And then in 1970 my mother died, she was 87, and she was a wonderful lady and everybody loved her and I was thinking perhaps I ought to go into a flat, and one day I, yes, I looked at one or two flats, and then ... but my brother was an engineer and he used to come from the firm he worked in America, very often to Newcastle. So on, that was wonderful for my mother, because each time he came, he came to Manchester first, went on to Newcastle and so I told him that we were looking for a flat, and he came with me, and he said "You must have a new this, and it has got under floor heating and this is this is that and the other ..." and at the time I thought it was a bit expensive although they were just being built in 1972 maybe, he said "This is a good flat, central heating is laid on, the kitchen was fitted, the wardrobes were done, you can just walk into it." And thank you, I have always been grateful to him for advising me because I had no help otherwise from anybody. Not from the family, the Segal family were not here any more, and I don't want to say too much, but he advised me and that was wonderful and I have been here since it was built and I have got to thank my brother for that.

RL: And how did you meet your second husband?

AM: Well, after many years, 14 years I was on my own, and maybe a year before I met him, he was at a friends house and he was widowed, his, he was married with a son, and his wife unfortunately had Alzheimer and she was, I think, in the last few years, at the

Tape 3: 26 minutes 20 seconds

time, in Prestwich, because they weren't that many places where she could have been. I think she stayed home for as long as she could, so he had a difficult time, he was a dentist, one of these old fashioned dentists who knew his patients family, he didn't charge if he didn't think he should do, he was very much liked by his patients, yes, and even his brother in law advised him to get married again, and I think he was lonely, yes. He must have been, because in a way when you are that ... I was 61, 60, and he perhaps was 65, he had just retired, he was a retired dentist, not when I met him, but I think he retired in between, so he had a similar upbringing to myself. Originally his parents were from Russia, and they went to Tel Aviv, and his father was the first dentist seemingly. And when Moshe was about 18/19 years, I only found that out later, that he wasn't going to be a dentist, he was going to be a surveyor or something, but then it was decided he should be a dentist and they sent him to, not Glasgow, to Edinburgh, where there was a very good medical school and, for dentists and for doctors, he must have been 19/20 when he went there. And there was a family there called Harris, and they had six daughters and one son, and this Harris family, every Friday night they invited a lot of students, so one of his daughters married Casper, one of the daughters married Dr Keller, one of the daughters married another doctor from London and that's how it goes and Moshe married one of the daughters. And I don't think they lived in Edinburgh in the beginning, but they came, I don't know exactly, they came to Manchester and they lived in Broughton Park and had one son and the son gave them quite a lot of pleasure but I think he was not so well at 10 or 11 but he is fine now. Then they moved to Whitefield into a bungalow and Moshe had a surgery on Bury Old Road. So I don't know, that is how it, we met at friends and he was lonely and I was on my own, I didn't have many friends because when I was married we were just a family, and later on I had married couples friends but it is not very good to be the third wheel, if you know what I mean. I had a few friends, they kept in touch and so we married and he came to live here and he was retired, although he tried to work a little bit but he couldn't, his eyes were bad. I didn't have ... my children were very pleased. His son and daughter in law were not, I don't know why, because he gave them everything, the surgery, the property, went straight to the son. I knew all about it, he was retired and didn't get a pension. I didn't marry him for that, you know, and it was a pity that the children, his son and daughter in law were a bit awkward, but I have never fell out with them and they are very nice now. I suppose as they get older, they realised it more after he died really, and even more so now when they are the same age as their father.

RL: How long were you married?

AM: Ten years. It was really a bonus for both of us, because Moshe went to Israel, every holiday he went to Israel, naturally because he had his brother and sister there, and I went with him quite a few times. It was wonderful, because I had family there and he had family and I became very friendly with his sister and his mother and one of his nieces and nephews, but when we were married we managed to go to America. He had never been to America, so my brother was well then, and he drove us around and we went to

Tape 3: 32 minutes 3 seconds

lovely places. Then his eye sight wasn't so good and we went on coach trips etc. We had a nice time. And he died very suddenly; very sad it was, as happy as one can be, one Friday morning out on, with the car on Cheetham Hill. He had had a cataract operation before, he had I think, a, and a full anaesthetic, but he was fine on Friday when he walked out, and I am waiting here, waiting for him to come home and he is not coming home, so I thought there must have been a car accident, that is all I could think. All of a sudden I see a police car coming here, and I ran down and I said "Did my husband have a car accident?"

They said "No. Come upstairs." And they told me. He went to Boots and had a heart attack, I had to, of course, my daughter came, and she phoned his son up and that was very sad, very sad. But we had ten good years, but this is something. Yes. And he enjoyed going to different places. I will tell you actually who wanted him to get married, the young boys, you know, you know they used to meet, the young dentists at the meeting tried to find him somebody, you know, they felt kind of sorry for him, and it worked out very nicely.

RL: Do you think that your experiences have affected you psychologically in any way? You know, your having had to leave Vienna and having had to come to Manchester and being a refugee. Do you think that it left any mark psychologically?

AM: No, no, no ... because I am grateful for every day. I mean when you think back, what any person goes through in life, as long as you can cope with it, there have been some very sad times and very happy times. And now I am only praying for my children to be well, the grandchildren to be well, the great grandchildren to be well. No, I have no complaints.

RL: And what about religiously, has your religious beliefs altered at all over the years?

AM: No, no ... I feel very happy amongst my friends, they are all Jewish, but I can be very nice with non Jewish people, I mean, in fact, no ... it is not important but I am happy to be as I am. I keep a kosher house, it is nice, it is wonderful, I am living again in a Jewish neighbourhood, but I can be with non Jewish people and be contented ... yes ... I have got one school friend left here in Manchester, we are in touch, she used to come here, I used to go there, but now he is 95 and she is 85 so we phone each other.

RL: And that is somebody from Vienna?

AM: Yes, yes ...

RL: Who is that?

AM: It is Morgan, Morgan ... Minnie Morgan and her husband, Ken Morgan, he is 95. He was a wonderful driver until recently.

RL: And have your children continued along the same religious lines as yourself?

Tape 3: 36 minutes 12 seconds

AM: Yes, my son has, and my son has donated in his synagogue a Menorah. The new synagogue now in Hale, you know, in memory of his father, who unfortunately did not see nachas, but I think he does, he does live on in the children. Now my daughter belongs to the Holy Law, she is shomer Shabbat and so is my granddaughter, I am very proud of each member of my family.

RL: How do you feel towards, towards the Germans?

AM: I have nothing very much to do with them, really. I wouldn't be rude to them. It doesn't come across that I have any dealings with them. I wouldn't be ever rude to them because this is a different generation and I have ... strangely enough you should be saying that, my grandson and his wife went to a wedding in Vienna recently and they went to the synagogue that I used to go and they enjoyed that, and he felt very, he said, "Yes, it is a very nice city, but I don't like it because of what they did to the Jews." So that is his opinion.

RL: How did you feel on your visit back to Vienna?

AM: I didn't feel bad because, don't forget my mother came out and my sister, my father died a natural death. I stayed in a hotel in the second district where I lived, next to amenities, as I told you before, the synagogue, the restaurant etc. I was with my daughter and my granddaughter, so on Shabbat we walked, you see it is all small, so you walk into town as you walk onto Bury Old Road, you walk onto a bridge, and we walked and we looked in the shops and we walked to the park, I used to sit, and I think on Sunday we went to a museum or something. I think in the park there was a museum as well, you could just walk in.

RL: How did you feel being back there?

AM: I think if I would have gone on my own I would have been sad, but as I say, I was with my daughter and my granddaughter, and it was a wonderful experience for them as well, and as I said we went to the cemetery. Have a said that before?

RL: Yes, yes ...

AM: It was a very good experience, I feel maybe I should go once more to visit my father's grave but, I don't know, I am not well enough to do that, my thoughts are there.

RL: How, in terms of identity, how would you describe yourself? First of all, nationality wise.

AM: British, definitely, very, very, er ... glad, to have ended up in England, although I had family in Palestine, I don't think my health would have permitted me to have lived as long as I did, because I can't stand the heat. It would have been lovely because I

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would have had a lot of family around me, but as you heard I came to a very, very nice family who helped me a lot, so where could have gone better than England. I know lots of people came to England thinking they would go to America, the Goldena Medina, and maybe my sister hoped to do that, but, she wasn't able, and my niece is there and she is there ... and my brother was happy there, he was very happy there. So fortunately for him three years before he died, he and his wife moved into a retirement home, a Jewish retirement home near Philadelphia, and that was the best thing they could do. So, my sister in law I am in touch with, she is happy to be there, she is not on her own, and they are going to erect a garden in his memory, because he was, he was very active there, and well liked.

I got a letter; it is a different custom there, even amongst the Jewish people to send a donation when somebody passes away. I knew that, so I did it to the Magen Dovid Adom, which I know was, is very good charity, but recently I got a letter, not from my sister in law, but somebody that, because they are erecting a garden in memory of my brother, thought, what can I do ... I will send something ... no, I have just given my donation. It's not the money, it wasn't the money ... and then one night I thought, I couldn't sleep, I am a very bad sleeper, so, although I take sleeping tablets. I thought, oh yes, his birthday would have been 16th of May, so in Vienna in May time the beautiful lilac trees used to blossom, so I sent a donation, I hope they will plant some lilac trees, and I got a very nice letter back.

RL: So where did that go to?

AM: That goes, that garden will be in that home where they lived, and there is a little synagogue there, and one Pesach I went over and it is a wonderful, we don't have anything like that in England, I had my own room and bathroom there, they have two rooms for visitors like that and one Seder night his whole family came, that was lovely. Yes it was very nice and we had a table to ourselves and it was very nice.

RL: Coming back to your sense of identity ...

AM: Yes ...

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

AM: Pardon?

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

AM: To the British?

RL: Do you feel different?

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AM: Than the British?

RL: Yes ...

AM: That is a difficult answer to question ... to that question. Do I feel British? I feel Jewish, that is all I can say, but I feel British. I am very glad to be in Britain, I like the four seasons, I like my plants, I like my family ...

RL: Do you think you have any kind of continental identity?

AM: Yes, in a way, of course, when I meet my people from Vienna we speak a little bit of German and, yes I have, yes I had a nice childhood in Vienna, but I wouldn't like to go back, I don't know how people can go back and live there, that is to me very strange.

RL: Have you ever come across any anti-Semitism in Britain?

AM: I don't think so. I don't really think so. Nothing I could remember ... so if it had really hurt I would have, so I don't really treat anyone who is not Jewish differently, than ... you know, than I would do a Jewish person. So if I have contact with Jewish people, no I haven't come across it, personally if there is a person, if they are a nice person they are ok, and if they are not nice they can be Jewish as well, but I don't have to tell you that.

RL: Do you belong to any sort of refugee organisations?

AM: Yes, just the, what is it called, the AJR, and I go on holiday with them. I have been twice to St Anne's, and that is lovely, and the letter, that little letter that you wrote, a lady wrote, she is 91, she comes from Glasgow to St Anne's and it is very nice, and there is some, you must have met Susanne Green from Liverpool and Ruth Firestone, she is very nice, two lovely ladies who look after us very well. Now I come to think of it there is another girl from my school, Liesl Woolfe, she lives on the other side but I see her on these occasions.

RL: Did you ever receive any restitution?

AM: Well, I do ... unfortunately when I, when people were applying and you could pay in, everybody kept shtum, because, I don't know why, but by the time I applied I couldn't pay in to get a decent pension, but I am getting a small pension, yes, yes. But each time I write to them they are very nice, and they write back in a very nice manner, I think they are doing a very good job there.

Unfortunately I wanted to go back to Vienna with a group, because they have invited people, but the fact is that I mentioned that I was born in Poland, and it was out of the question, you had to have Austrian on your passport, born in Austria, so I couldn't, this is

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why I think perhaps one day I want to go ... perhaps my daughter will go with me or somebody, my granddaughter, somebody ... just to look at my father's grave, but I have got to ask Reverend Brodie, is that really necessary, because my thoughts are there.

RL: Is there anything that you think we might have missed out that you would like to tell me about.

AM: No, I have never, ever, in all my life talked so much, I can assure you, I am a very good listener.

RL: And is there any message that you would like to end with?

AM: Well, I can only say that I am very grateful for my life and I hope that I won't be a burden to anybody and I just wish for my children and grandchildren to have a happy life, wherever they are. And thank you very much.

RL: Thank you.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Tape 3: 49 minutes 40 seconds

AM: This is my great grandmother, my mother's grandmother, Feige Leah Horowitz, taken in Krakow, in 18 ... approximately 1890.

This is my great grandfather, Yitzchak Leib Horowitz, taken in Krakow about 1890.

This is my mother's father, Israel Horowitz, taken in Krakow about 1900, nice looking man.

This was taken in Stanislovov in 1910, on the back row from left to right is my, my, father's brother, Munier, my mother, Amelia Katz, and my father, Julius Katz. Middle

row is my father's mother, my father's father and my father's sister, Anna. Front row on left is my sister Ida and brother Lonik.

This is my sister Ida and brother Lonik in Stanislavov in 1914.

This is myself, Anita Katz, and my brother Harry, in Vienna in 1928.

These are my parents Amalia and Julius Katz, and myself, Anita, on holiday in Czechoslovakia in 1931.

This is my passport, I had to queue up early in the morning for a few days before I received it. This is my picture. And this shows my Visa stamped 3rd October 1938. The entry date to England. Landing in Dover on 21st October 1938.

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This is a photograph of my wedding day to Mark Segal, 29th March 1942 in Manchester at the Higher Broughton Synagogue.

This is myself with Moshe Morris in May 1991 in Manchester.

This is myself with my brother Harry Kent in 1991 in Philadelphia.

This was taken at my 70th birthday in 1990 in Manchester with my daughter Linda and son Alan.

Now, this is, this was taken with my grandchildren and great grandchildren at my 80th birthday party in 2000, February 2000 in Manchester. Back row, left to right, are Anthony, Richard, Mark and Robert. Front row, left to right, are Michelle with Hannah, myself, Amy and Talia.