

IMPORTANT

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Interview Transcript Title Page

Collection title:	AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive
Ref. no:	7

Interviewee Surname:	Crewe
Forename:	Lilly
Interviewee Sex:	Female
Interviewee DOB:	6 November 1920
Interviewee POB:	Hamburg, Germany

Date of Interview:	23 February 2003
Location of Interview:	Manchester
Name of Interviewer:	Rosalyn Livshin
Total Duration (HH:MM):	4 hours 4 minutes

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

INTERVIEW: 7

NAME: LILLY CREWE

DATE: SUNDAY 23RD SEPTMBER 2003

LOCATION: SOUTH MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

INTERVIEWER: ROSALYN LIVSHIN

TAPE 1

Tape 1: 0 minutes 34 seconds

RL: My name is Rosalyn Livshin. I am interviewing Lilly Crewe and today's date is Sunday 23rd February 2003 and the interview is taking place in South Manchester, England.

Ok, if you can tell me first your name.

LC: My name is Lilly Edith Crewe, nee Neustadtl.

RL: Did you have any other names besides that.

LC: Yes, we changed, my married name was Krug, because that is very difficult for English people to pronounce, we changed it to Crewe.

RL: And you say your name at birth was ... ?

LC: Lily Neustadtl.

RL: Did you have any nickname at all?

LC: Not really, no, I was known as Lily.

RL: And did you have a Hebrew name?

LC: Well, I didn't originally, but when I got married here in England they wanted to give me one and I think it was Sarah but I am not sure.

RL: And, when were you born?

LC: On 6th November 1920.

Tape 1: 2 minutes 1 second

RL: And that makes you how old now?

LC: 82, and a bit.

RL: And where were you born?

LC: In Hamburg, in Germany.

RL: Starting first with your parents, and let's say with your father, what was his name and his place and date of birth?

LC: My father was Franz Neustadt, born in Prague in 1882. So that was Austria at the time of course.

RL: Did you know his parents at all, your grandparents?

LC: I knew his mother, his father died when he was four years old, so obviously I have never known him. He immigrated to Chicago, he was a master butcher and he wanted to start some sort of a meat canning business in Chicago but he got an infected mastoid and died, so my grandmother was left with four children to bring up.

RL: So had he gone to Chicago without the family?

LC: Yes, he went sort of to see how he would manage there, and when he was a little bit established, I don't know how long after he left, he apparently either cabled or wrote to my grandmother to pack up and come, and a few days before they were supposed to go to Chicago they had a cable, or whatever you had in those days that he had died of a mastoid.

RL: And she was left with four ...

LC: She was left with four children, yes.

RL: How did she manage to bring them up?

LC: One of them died of meningitis. My father was the youngest and the only boy. And there was an uncle who was well established in Prague. He had quite a well known firm of silk merchants and he supported the family to an extent. My grandmother tried to make a living in various ways, she had what they called a "lunch table" for some time, which was quite a common thing to have, where business men went to have their lunch,

and then later on she had an agency for domestic staff. So that is the way she managed. And I knew her as a child.

RL: What kind of lady was she? What kind of memory do you have of her?

Tape 1: 4 minutes 41 seconds

LC: Well I was quite young and my main memory is that she was shaking. She had Parkinson's Disease and she talked all right but that was for a child a bit off putting, but she was very sweet and very loving and that is all I can remember of her really. I must have been quite young when she died, about, I should think about seven or eight.

RL: Did she live in Prague all the time?

LC: She lived in Prague with one of her daughters and we used to go every October, which was her birthday month to visit her, so you know, I knew her reasonably well but it is limited.

RL: What siblings did your father have?

LC: I'm sorry?

RL: What siblings did your father have?

LC: Yes, he had, well as I said one died, he had two sisters. One of them was one of the first students of medicine, women student of medicine in Prague, but she didn't persevere to the end for some reason. The other one was married and divorced.

RL: What kind of education did your father have?

LC: Well he had, the equivalent, he had the Gymnasium, which was the grammar school and I am not quite sure, yes he had some sort of commercial education afterwards, he worked in a bank, first in what was then called Danzig, Gdansk, and later on I think, I don't know, he then joined the Commerz and Privat Bank, which is still going actually and rose very rapidly and then worked in various places for them, partly in Egypt and that is where he met my mother.

RL: In Egypt?

LC: Yes, but that is a long story, she, I will tell you about that afterwards.

RL: Right, right.

LC: And he ended up in Berlin as a director in the bank.

RL: What kind of religious upbringing did he have?

LC: I don't think he had any religious upbringing. He certainly let everybody know that he was Jewish but I grew up in a totally secular un-Jewish environment. In fact I didn't

Tape 1: 7 minutes 35 seconds

really know I was Jewish, not that it was kept from me but it was never an issue, it was never really discussed very much until it was sort of, rammed down my throat if you like.

RL: And you think that he was bought up in that kind of environment, a similar ...

LC: Yes, there was no ... really even when we went to Prague on visits, because I lived in Berlin then, I don't remember any Jewish holidays or anything like that at all. He never went to synagogue, so, in fact, I don't know if I should digress into that, but when I went to the elementary school in Berlin I was told I was Mosaic, which meant Jewish apparently, and at that school there were quite a few Jewish children, Catholic children, Protestant children and we all had religious instruction separately, the Jews in one room and the Catholics in another and so on and I remember having one lesson when I was about six, where the man who taught us was talking about the dish of pottage, I think its called, and in order to make it more understandable to us he asked us each what was our favourite dish. Now, in those days we used to have a washer woman who came once a month to do all the big sheets and all the rest of it and my mother provided a hearty meal for her and knowing what her kind of people like she used to do pigs tails and sauerkraut, which was quite a sort of common dish to have, and I loved it, because I never had it any other time you see, and when I was asked at religious instruction what was my favourite dish I innocently said, "Pigs tails and sauerkraut." He went red in the face and said, "Sit down, five." Now five was the worst mark you could have, and I was very puzzled about it all and when I came home I told my, she wasn't a nanny exactly, she was called a Kinder Fraulein, and I said to her fairly tearfully that I got a five in religion. And she said, "How can you get a five in religion? What happened?" So I said, "I don't know," and I told her the whole story and of course she was highly amused and she said, "Well your father can explain that to you." And that was how I found out about kosher. So it just goes to show you how secular the upbringing was and in fact I only know of one couple, friends of my parents, who were kosher, and when they were invited for dinner my mother used to consult her sister who seemed to know a little bit more about it and tell her the menu and said was it all right and was told, no, you can't have cream after meat, and so on, so I really didn't know anything about it until I was about ten, eleven. So that was the school story.

RL: Coming on to your mother's family, can you tell me something about her. What was her name?

LC: Milch, M-I-L-C-H, which was milk. No relation of the Air Martial Milch during the First World War.

RL: And her first name?

LC: Ada.

Tape 1: 10 minutes 55 seconds

RL: And where and when was she born?

LC: She was born in Smyrna which is now Izmir because my grandfather had an import/export business in dried fruits and almonds and this sort of thing, and so for quite a few years the family lived in Smyrna and she was born there, but when she was nine years old the family moved to Vienna and so the rest of her youth she spent there.

RL: What siblings did she have?

LC: She had eight siblings. There were seven girls and two boys in the family and she was right in the middle.

RL: Right - And did you know her parents?

LC: Yes, yes, I knew my grandparents, because at that time they lived in Berlin, where we lived. They have been all over the place.

RL: They had moved from Vienna?

LC: Yes. I can't tell you when, it must have been, I think just before the First World War because my mother, and I know some of her brothers and sisters were in Berlin at the time.

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

LC: Yes, she first, when she was in Smyrna she went to a Catholic convent, because those were the best schools, and she said at one time she was rather tempted but then she decided that it was not for her. That was as a little girl, and then they moved to Vienna and she went to a school there. I am trying to think of the name of it, Schwartz, Schwartzwald Schule, which was a sort of school for young ladies if you like, I don't think it was the most academic of schools, but it was all right, but she didn't have any further education than that.

RL: Did she work at all after school?

LC: No, no she didn't. She married when she was 21.

RL: And what kind of upbringing did she have in the religious sense?

LC: Secular, again you see I am almost ashamed to put that on camera, but we used to have sort of family Sunday lunches at times and we had what was the standard Viennese

Sunday lunch, or Sunday dinner if you like, which was roast pork with dumplings and cabbage, so you know, there was really no, no Jewish input at all. It was never denied, on the contrary, but it wasn't an active Jewish household in any way.

Tape 1: 13 minutes 46 seconds

RL: How did they meet? That is an interesting story isn't it?

LC: Yes, it is. My father worked at that time for the Deutsche Orient Bank, which had sort of, as the name implies, branches all over the place, and there was one in Egypt, and his boss was in Alexandria and my father was then given charge of one of the branches in a place called Mersina, in Asia Minor, probably because also he had, I don't know what connections where. And this man was married to my mother's sister, older sister, now, with having seven daughters my grandparents had to try and if not find husbands for them, then giving them the opportunity, you see, so my mother was the first one to send out to Alexandria to stay with her sister and my father of course appeared there, and apparently it was love at first sight and as you can see from the picture she was really a very pretty woman, and so they got married in 1910. The marriage took place in Austria, my grandfather used to take a house in St Wolfgang in Austria, took a house for the summer, and whatever children there were around used to come and stay, so they had the wedding at home, which was quite common and it had to be a Jewish wedding because under Austrian law you had to have a Jewish wedding, you had to have a religious wedding, so she had a Jewish wedding in St Wolfgang, but then they obviously went back to Egypt.

RL: Did they settle in Egypt?

LC: Well, I wouldn't exactly say settled, but he had a job there you see, and he was there until the outbreak of the First World War. And that is an interesting story as well, now, this was at the time under British rule, and the main branch of the Deutsche Orient Bank appears to have been in Alexandria, and the British came to my uncle who was in charge and they said, "Either you will open the vaults for us or we will dynamite them." But in exchange we will let one of you go back to where ever you want to go and in fact he went to Switzerland, but the other one will be interned. Now, since my uncle is that much older he, and more senior anyhow, he opened the vaults for them, there was no reason why he shouldn't, and he was allowed to leave, and I have found somewhere a post card written by my father to him in Switzerland, but perhaps I am jumping a little bit. Because my father was interned, by the British and he spent five years as an internee in Malta, in Valetta and I found somebody gave me a card which he wrote to this uncle in Switzerland and it is quite heart rending because he said, "This terrible war, when will it end?" and "Thank you for letting me know that my wife is well." And so on, you know, it was quite interesting.

RL: Did he ever speak about that period?

LC: Yes, yes, he talked about it. He came out as a friend of the British, yes he did. He felt they treated him fairly and I think he didn't have too bad a time, except that if you are imprisoned and you are away from your wife and all the rest of it, that is enough in itself, he spent five years there. And there were a lot of letters but my mother wouldn't let me see them, understandably, but I would have loved to know what he wrote. My mother, in

Tape 1: 18 minutes 1 second

the meantime, I don't quite know how this happened, but she and her sister went back to Berlin, so whether they went back to Switzerland and then to Berlin I really don't know, I don't know, I have nothing I can give as proof, and she spent the rest of the war in Berlin. My father was released in 1919 and they went to Hamburg, and there is a period of which I know nothing, something must have happened at that time, perhaps he had a nervous breakdown, I don't know, but he was only there for a very short time and I was born there, so he was there for I think about 18 months or so and then moved to Berlin. And I have always puzzled about it, but even my aunts didn't say, let's put it that way, so something must have been.

RL: Yeah ... yeah ...

LC: And after that we lived in Berlin.

RL: And what job was he doing after the war?

LC: He was again with a bank, with Commerz and Privat Bank in Berlin. I am not sure which bank he was with in Hamburg, I couldn't tell you. It may have been the same one.

RL: And what position did he have within the bank?

LC: He became director and he was, I don't know whether he was in charge, but he was in the foreign department, he was a very good linguist, he spoke many languages and when he was in Malta he learned Arabic and Turkish because there were a lot of them and he felt it was an opportunity. He spoke Czech and German, French and English, very good English because he was there for five years and I don't know what else, so he was in the foreign department and he was in quite a high position and he stayed there until he was thrown out under the Nazis.

RL: You were born in 1920.

LC: Yes, November '20.

RL: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

LC: Any?

RL: Brothers or sisters?

LC: No, no, I was an only child. My parents had been married for ten years by then.

RL: What is your earliest memory as a child?

Tape 1: 20 minutes 35 seconds

LC: Well I have a memory, how reliable it is I cannot tell you, because sometimes they aren't, but I remember being on holiday somewhere with my parents and my Kinder Fraulein whom I loved dearly and I had, as I got frequently, inflammation of the middle ear, so I was sort of in bed more or less, and she cooked something for me on a little petrol stove and the curtains caught fire, and I have a sort of flash of seeing this fire, now whether that is my fantasy or not it is hard to say.

I also remember a little bit later when I was about four we lived in Berlin and there was of course a housing shortage, as there always is, and we had an apartment, or rather they were two apartments knocked into one, and there was a long corridor and I remember rushing up and down with a doll's pram.

Another one I have is, again, I must have been perhaps six, this Kinder Fraulein of mine was very socially conscious, a bit left wing, and she felt that I had to learn about charity at an early age, which I quite approve of, and my father gave me pocket money at a very early age because he felt it was a good thing for a child to learn how to manage her money, so I bought my crayons for 2 pfennig. So this kinder fraulein insisted that I give about one tenth to give to the poor man, because this was in the early 20s and there was a lot of poverty and begging, and I remember very clearly the flat where we lived, at the back of it there was a kind of court yard with sort of tall houses all around it and we did get people who came with a harmonica and sang and you wrapped a little bit of money into paper and threw it out for them you see, and I remember that. And I remember people coming to the back door asking for, if they could have some bread with lard because they were hungry, so these are memories that I have, this was at the time of inflation in Germany, you know the hyperinflation, where my mother went shopping twice a day because by the evening the money was about worth half of what it was in the morning, you know you had paper money, of 10,000 Marks and so on, and I know she bought supplies of sugar and flour and sort of essentials which were kept in a little larder, because as I say we had two flats, so we had two larders you see, and I remember going and mixing the lot, so I was very popular. So those are the little childhood memories.

RL: What part of Berlin were you living in?

LC: In the west end it was called, well you can see it from the photographs, it was a very good area. It became Adolf Hitler Platz but when we were there it was Reichskanzlerplatz and it was quite a well known area.

RL: Did you stay in that, in those two apartments the whole time or did you move from there?

LC: Well, when we first, the first apartment I mentioned was on the Kurferstendamm And we moved from there when I was six I think, to this very luscious, sumptuous flat on the Reichskanzlerplatz and we stayed there until shortly before we

Tape 1: 24 minutes 45 second

emigrated to Prague, so I stayed there until I was, yes, I had my 16th birthday there, I remember, and we moved for a short time to a furnished flat and then on to Prague.

RL: Can you describe the apartment? I mean, I know we have got some photos but if you can just describe it to me as well.

LC: As far as I know there were nine rooms, there was a little entrance hall with a toilet and place for coats and so on. And then there was something called the Diele, I can't really translate it, it was an ante room but a big one, I mean big enough for my mother to have her bridge table there when she had visitors and so on. It was not exactly open plan but there were no doors except for one folding door, everything went into the other, you know, as you can see from the photographs, so there was then a very large dining room, when I was in my teens we had dancing lessons and we just put all the chairs to one side and there was enough room for ten couples to dance very comfortably, then there was the so called library, which was really the sitting room that we used most days, it had a desk in it, you know a writing desk and all the books and so on. Then there was the so called salon which was the sort of best room, which again it was all open plan, you can see this from the photographs, which was beautiful, it was furnished with furniture that my mother bought from a little hunting lodge, and she had it, it was in ghastly purple and silver, and she had it restored to cream and sort of dark yellow, it was really very beautiful, but it was used mainly when there were a lot of people, when she had parties or dinners or whatever. And then there was a sort of lounge which also went one into the other you see, and those were the entertaining rooms. Then my parents had a bedroom each, with a connecting door, then there was a bathroom which had three doors, one from my father's bedroom, one from my mother's bedroom and one into a little hall, because you had enough bedrooms but only one bathroom, it was the way it was in those days, and I had two rooms, in, well one was where I slept, and the other one was where I was during the day time, they were also interconnecting, there was a kind of still room with a primitive fridge, not an electric one, one where you had a sort of a, pieces of ice that were bought once a week, so it was a primitive kind of fridge and there were two small rooms for the servants and actually, yes, that is right, two of those, and a kitchen and the still room where this fridge was and that was it. And then we had access to where we dried our washing and there was also a second bathroom which the servants used. My kinder fraulein, nanny, used our bathroom but the other two, the cook and the maid used the one upstairs.

RL: This was an apartment within a block?

LC: Yes.

RL: How many ... ?

LC: You have got a picture of that there.

Tape 1: 28 minutes 39 second

RL: How many other apartments were there in that block?

LC: I think eight, altogether eight, as far as I remember, but I am a bit unsure, we were on the second floor, and there were two to each floor.

RL: Were there any other Jewish families in the block?

LC: Not that I know of. No, I don't think so. There was a janitor.

RL: How did your family get on with the neighbours?

LC: I have no idea, I don't think there was much communication, but I don't know. I am not aware of any of the neighbours; I have no idea who lived there, really.

RL: People kept themselves to themselves did they?

LC: I should imagine so, yes, yes, because I would have met them otherwise. I don't think, no I don't think so.

RL: What kind of social circle did your parents mix with? Who were their friends?

LC: Mainly Jewish, which is surprising from what I have told you, very surprising, my mother had to do quite a lot of entertaining for my father, because, particularly foreign visitors and so on were invited for meals. She gave them a party, and of course she had several sisters in Berlin and they kept in, they kept in touch, in fact one particularly, my father shared a room with a man, a Jewish man called Werner Schwarz, who had been working in South Africa and he was also interned there and so they shared a room and he married my mother's sister, and their child was two and a half years younger than I was, and we were very close because, you know we were parked on each other at decorating time or spring cleaning time or so on and she actually went to, eventually they went back to live in South Africa because he could get back in there, you see the trouble was not only getting out, but getting in somewhere which was even harder, and she, they eventually moved back, or rather my cousin, you know the daughter moved back to London and we are still very much in touch, so that is one of my connections.

RL: Did your parents, or your father, belong to any clubs or organisations?

LC: No, I don't think so, no.

RL: Was he active in anything in the wider society? Did he have any interests in any particular way?

LC: Well, not in a ... well in an official way, certainly yes, because professionally he certainly did, but otherwise, I don't think so. No, our friends were perhaps Jewish

Tape 1: 31 minutes 41 seconds

families who were just as un-Jewish as we were most of the time, you know, as I say, I only remember one couple who were kosher, they were Marranos actually, Spanish Jews, originally, and they lived in Berlin, they were called Mordo, I remember to this day, and otherwise they were partly also, mainly connections through banking. You know, they had very good friends, but they, most of them were somehow in the banking circles, not necessarily in, where he was, but, you know, you know like doctors usually know a lot of other doctors, so it was a bit like that.

RL: So what would they do for entertainment, besides making dinner parties?

LC: Yes, I know, music, theatre, that sort of thing. My father when he was younger, he played tennis, they went skiing. My mother skied very well, my father didn't. That sort of thing, you know. And he was interested in politics, well you had to be, at that time, you really had to be, I had my earliest intimation of anti-Semitism when I was about 11, going yet again to vote in elections, and that was always on a Sunday in Germany, and I went with my father and there was a lady who patted me on the head and said to her husband, "Nice little girl, pity she is a Jewess." So I must have looked Jewish even then and it almost puzzled me, you know, that was at the beginning.

RL: How did you get on at school? You said it was a school with ...

LC: Long story really, long story ...

RL: Uhuu ...

LC: I have never been able to keep my mouth shut, as you can probably tell from this interview, and I got myself into trouble. I started off in an elementary school and from there I went to a high school, a local high school which was the way it was in those days, and ...

RL: What were they called?

LC: Westend Schule. Which was about a fifteen minute walk, and no one would have dreamt about going any other way than walk, you know, and when I was 11 I remember I had only recently been to that school, you know you started at that time, there was a fairly simple exam, which I passed very easily, and in those days it was quite advanced

really, if your father had a higher income he paid, and if your father had a low income you went for nothing, so there was a real social mix, a little bit different from what happened in England I find. And I walked to school every morning, usually with two girls who passed my house and just sort of waited for me or I waited for them and we walked together. They were working class girls, one was the daughter of a railway worker and the other was, I am not quite sure, but also working class, and that was already in 1932/33 and I remember there were three black shirts walking along, more or

Tape 1: 35 minutes 37 seconds

less goose stepping, and I said, what I had obviously heard at home, "Another three swine". and nothing was said but some time later it had terrible consequences, and I had better go back a little bit, my father, after the First World War, he had the choice, being born in Prague he had the choice of being Austrian or Czech, he elected to be Czech, and as he rose in the bank he was told that particularly as he was dealing a lot with foreign clients he should be naturalised German, if he wanted to advance his career, so we became German, and I remember distinctly my father saying to me, "Now you're a German little girl." And I said to him, "And how do I notice that?"

Now back to my initial question, it was because it is what I heard at home you see, so one day, on 30th June 1933, not all that long after the Nazis took power, my mother received a phone call from the head mistress, Dr Muds, to say will she come to the school and bring her husband. And my mother, knowing I had gym that day, thought, "Oh God, something has happened to her." But, what had happened to me was the following.

This was the last day of school, she called the whole school to the assembly, and, except me, I was in her office, not knowing what was happening, and she took me onto, outside, was the podium, you know, standing there in front of all the assembled school and she said, "This girl is a criminal, she has called our soldiers, or whatever, Nazi Swine, she is herewith expelled." And do you know my hair still stands on end when I talk about it.

In the meantime my parents arrived there, I don't know where I was when she interviewed them, I can't remember where, and it's a blank. I think what happened was, is that I was taken home and I know a friend of mine, a very dear friend, ran home and told her mother, and her mother phoned my home and told my nanny what had happened, and my nanny, knowing my father very well, he had a short temper, she, I was at home then, I don't really know how I got home, I don't really know any more, possibly my mother took me, I don't know, and she put me in a room and locked the door with me, you know she didn't want my father coming in. So, my father was told about all this and the first thing he did was say he wanted a certificate to say why I was expelled from school, and the certificate was signed by Goebbels himself because he was I think minister, I think he was Minister of Education at the time, or whatever, I wouldn't swear to it, it is too long ago, but my father kept it and I always hoped I would get it one day but I didn't, he must have destroyed it, you know it was too dangerous to have it.

So the first thing we did was, we saw to it my father left the country immediately and he went to Marienbad, which was a very favoured sort of holiday place in Czechoslovakia, because my mother was afraid they would arrest him or something like that, particularly because he obviously fought against all this you see, nothing did happen at the time, so he stayed in Marienbad and since it was already school holidays we all went.

Tape 1: 40 minutes 0 second

Now my mother had to arrange for another school for me, because I was expelled from any German school, which was a year before everybody had to leave school, it was in 1933.

RL: I think we will continue that story on the next tape as this is coming to an end.

LC: Right. I am sorry if I am sort of diverting a bit.

RL: I don't want to break you off in the middle of a story.

END OF TAPE 1.

TAPE 2.

TAPE 2: 40 seconds

LC: Now, my mother had to find another school for me. And they weren't Jewish schools, most of them were religion orientated, and she knew I would be like a fish out of water there, there was one school called the Lessler Schule which was in one of the suburbs of Berlin which was not quite like that, the trouble was that in those days, you really, unless you went to a religious school as such, you didn't go to any private school unless you were either physically or mentally a little bit below par and that was the only option really. Well, she made enquiries and she was told that the two sisters who ran the school, Frau Lessler and her sister were at the time in Marienbad on holidays, so my father was already there and we went off to Marienbad and my mother obviously went to the sisters to tell them what had happened you see. So I was told to come and present myself and the first thing that Frau Lessler said to me was, "So you are the little criminal are you?" So of course I dissolved into tears, and the younger one who was a much nicer woman took me in her arms, she said, "You are a nice little girl, don't worry, you are not a criminal." So that was the beginning.

While I was on holidays there I met a girl of my age, she was the Godchild of a colleague of my fathers from another bank, and the two of us just took to each other, she was half Jewish, her mother was Russian, white Russian, her father was Jewish, but died when she was two, so she was brought up actually protestant because they felt who wants to be Russian Orthodox in Berlin, you know, so, that was that, and we took to each other, so it has some relevance. When we got back, I went to the Lessler Schule and was deeply unhappy because I was the only child at the time who used to go to the high school. The

rest were nice enough girls, you know, but that was that, and Nina, my friend, agitated with her mother that she wanted to go to my school. Now of course she was only half Jewish and her father was dead anyhow and I remember that she had a bit of a fight with her mother, now funnily enough I am still in touch with her, but she doesn't remember it like that. But it so happens, she remembers her mother was very keen for her to go there because it was a little bit outside the town and they had a big garden and so on, but I kept a diary at the time so I know exactly what happened, whatever she thinks that happened, that is only by the way. So when she came to join me there it made such a difference, I had one of my own kind there. But within a year all the Jewish children had to leave the

Tape 2: 3 minutes 38 seconds

public or German schools and also the teachers had to leave. So we then at the Lessler Schule had the cream of the teachers there who were looking for jobs. So she had a good choice. And after that the school doubled in size and I was very happy there as far as it goes. But of course the political situation impinged all the time.

RL: Just going back to your days in elementary school ...

LC: Yes ...

RL: How did you get on with the other pupils in that school and the teachers?

LC: Very interesting. Two of the, elementary school I don't remember an awful lot, but there was nothing that disturbed me in any way, I have far more memories of my high school, and when I was expelled, there were two teachers who took my part and argued with her. Funnily enough one was the maths teacher who had no reason to be fond of me, it was my worse subject, and the other one was the German teacher. They had apparently took my side and tried to prevent my expulsion, it didn't help them. But it is good to know that there were some, you know.

RL: Who were your friends at the time? Who did you mix with socially?

LC: In the elementary school or do you mean in the high school?

RL: Up to the point of going to the Lessler ...

LC: I see, well there were two very good friends who were both Jewish, in fact the majority of my parents friends were Jewish, although they had some others, that is about, you know I had cousins as well in Berlin, one who I mentioned went to South Africa and another who was half Jewish, she wasn't actually Jewish she was catholic because her mother was, but nobody took any notice of that, I mean they came to Bar Mitzvahs and we went to First Communions, it was like having blue eyes or brown eyes, no more, you know, it was quite accepted, so the cousins and one or two girls from school which were probably not Jewish, I can't really remember, my best friend was this Jewish girl who as I told you went to inform my mother.

RL: You mentioned Bar Mitzvahs. Were Bar Mitzvahs celebrated in any way?

LC: Well, this girl, who was called Hilla, her brother had a Bar Mitzvah. They were small affairs, they weren't like the Bar Mitzvahs here. You invited a few friends to the house. I mean my husband told me when he had his Bar Mitzvah that the mother sent them all to the local pastry shop, and have a good time there and, you know, apart from the religious part that was that, you know, there wasn't the celebration you have here.

RL: Right ...

Tape 2: 6 minutes 54 seconds

LC: Otherwise I didn't know any boys. I was an only child and the schools were single sex schools. I didn't really know many boys. I was very, I think when I got to my teens being confronted with a boy I used to blush ... you know.

RL: Did you belong to any clubs?

LC: Well, that is quite interesting.

First of all getting back to the business of knowing boys, a year later in the Lessler Schule they admitted boys because of the situation and I remember the first boy who came, he was the only boy in a class of girls and I took great pity on him, he was a very shy boy, and everybody else giggled about it, but that is how it was, but then we had about six boys in our class and I think about twenty girls. So that is that.

Now what was your question before that?

RL: Did you belong to any youth groups?

LC: Well, it was interesting, you couldn't have, you couldn't belong to any clubs except for anything Jewish, so we then had a, there was one Rabbi who was very charismatic, he was called Rabbi Prinz. He eventually went to America, he was quite well known and he used to have an Oneg Shabbat at one of the reform synagogues and I used to go to that, because it was the only really group of people that you could be with and then when I was about 16 just before I went, we had dancing classes, now again you couldn't go to any official ones so there was a Jewish teacher, and because a lot of people had flats like ours so you had it in people's own homes, so that was a Jewish one, and that is where I met the boys if you like, and other girls obviously.

RL: Were you able to go to the theatre and concerts and so forth?

LC: The first, my first theatre experience was quite a traumatic one, my father who was very fond of opera, and I became very fond of opera, he took me to Kohinoor at one of the big, I don't know if it was Stadts Opera or which one I can't remember, and we went

to that. And funnily enough I don't remember my mother coming, she may have been there, I don't know, and there was a long pause after the first interval, or even before that, they interrupted it and they said the Fuhrer was coming to watch the performance, "Alle Juden Raus", all Jews out and my father sort of just took my hand and said, "Sit still." And he waited until it was all dark and then we left, so I never saw the other half of it until I was much older, so that was my first opera experience, but then there was a sort of Deutsche Kulturbund, it was called, that was an interesting thing, they held, well of course again all the Jewish actors were out of work and so on and they had performances of concerts and operas and talks and so on and we joined that immediately and I did get some of that, and they were a very high standard as you can imagine, again we had plenty to choose from.

Tape 2: 10 minutes 44 seconds

RL: How did the racial law affect the family?

LC: Well, I had this Kinder Fraulein, I don't call her nanny because she wasn't in a starched uniform, you know, she just looked after me, and really I was nearer to her than my mother at that early stage, because my mother was busy with all sorts of other things and she looked after me. And she was over 40 when these laws came in, because the time came when you weren't allowed to have in a Jewish household, where there was a Jewish man we weren't allowed to have a non Jewish employee, and at first it seemed as if she was going to have to leave and there were big tears all round, but eventually it turned out that because she must have been over 40, I don't know how it worked, but she was allowed to stay and she really became housekeeper because by that time I was 12 and I didn't need anybody like that, on the other hand we didn't have the maid and the cook that we used to have so she was housekeeper. My mother was a wonderful cook, it was no hardship to her, and I think you were allowed to have a cleaner to come in and go out again, you know, apparently anything untoward could only happen at night and not in the daytime, so you know. Mind you I think my parents felt the same when I was in my teens, but that is a different matter. So, yes it did affect us, she eventually of course, well we left for Prague when I was 16 and of course she didn't come with us, but she came to visit us in Prague. I always swore, I kept in touch with her, not during the war, I couldn't, but one of my uncles who survived in Berlin, he went to see her quite regularly and so on, she was a lovely woman, she really was and very pretty. I always thought that after the war when I have a family I will see that she comes here and lives with us, but she died, so I couldn't, but I would have had her here, definitely.

RL: Did you witness while you were in Berlin any marches or rallies or ... ?

LC: Yes, somewhere I have a picture, it doesn't show very much but first of all there were clashes between the communists and the Nazis right outside our house and on this big square that I talked about. And my mother said, "You are not to go near the window," and so on, well of course I did, but I have no pictures of that, but at one point, it must have been after Hitler came into power the road was blocked off and the Fuhrer went, I think it must have been during the Olympics in 1936, I was still in Berlin, and he

came past and I have a picture of that somewhere. But you know in those days the pictures were about that size, and you can't see very much on it, but I remember that distinctly, yes.

RL: What kind of support was there for the Nazis in Berlin, in your area?

LC: I wouldn't have known that, not at 12, I wouldn't have known. Obviously this business with the school, what happened was, one of the girls, I think it was the railway worker's daughter, told her father about it you see, and he informed, now he must have been a member of the party, and he informed somebody in the party and that is how it came to the school and why they threw me out. It seemed a terrible tragedy at the time, but a year later everybody left so it wasn't that bad.

Tape 2: 14 minutes 44 seconds

RL: Do you remember the Olympic Games?

LC: Yes.

RL: Can you tell me a little bit about that?

LC: Yes, we, this girl I mentioned, Hilla, who was my best friend at the time, we decided we wanted to go to the Olympic Games so we managed to get a ticket for something, God knows what, and we pretended to be French while we were there and we had a great time. So, that was my visit to it, so I have been to the Olympic Games if you like. I have no idea what we saw, it was something quite obscure, because we wouldn't have got tickets otherwise.

I also remember the, that the, I think it was the Habonim, there was some connection between us, probably with that Synagogue that I mentioned, they asked us to have visitors to put up visitors from abroad. I was very keen on that, it was a great thing, I mean I was 15, so my mother said, "Oh, all right." Well, we all had our racial prejudices, you know, when I came she said it was a Rumanian who was coming, and she said, "Oh my God, put away the silver spoons!" That was the reaction, they were not popular. We were in our way a little bit anti-Semitic as well, you know, I mean, the Polish Jews were considered to be a lesser breed, which was very wrong, but it was the experience we had because the ones who did come were very often schnorrers, you know, and it coloured your, and they were in their garb which was very foreign to us, you see we were so assimilated in Germany. I mean I had hardly ever seen orthodox Jews. There was an orthodox quarter but it was beyond my sort of remit if you like, you didn't go there, we had no reason to go there, it is not that you avoided it but we didn't have any acquaintances or friends among them you see. Anyhow he was quite a nice fellow, he would have liked to stay longer, but my mother said, "I am sorry, but someone else is coming." Which happened to be the truth, a cousin of mine from Vienna came. So that is the Olympics.

RL: And rallies, did you witness any rallies?

LC: No. Oh I wouldn't have gone near them. You couldn't have gone near them. Don't forget I was young, I was quite young.

RL: How was the decision made to actually leave Germany when you did? How did that come about?

LC: Well, the first thing, that I haven't even mentioned, is the fact that although my father was not apparently in any physical danger, we were then deprived of our German citizenship, and that was I am quite certain because of what happened at school, and we were then stateless, and it is a terrible thing to be stateless. And I have had that a little

Tape 2: 18 minutes 4 seconds

bit on my conscience most of the time but it might have happened again, I don't know. So my father tried very hard to get his Czech nationality back because he was born and brought up there, and he had, until he was naturalised, a Czech passport, it took quite a bit of bribery to get it. And I am not quite sure whether we got it before we left Germany or after we arrived in Prague, I am not quite sure, but in the meantime my father lost his job. They simply said, "We don't want you any more." And that was that. And I remember my father being very, very upset about it. Now we had a fair amount of money, as you can see from the flat if you like, and he was told by the bank that they would allow him to take most of it with him, in the event they didn't. They only allowed a certain amount, and I remember my father breaking down crying, it was the only time I ever saw him do that, so we decided we would go, we had to leave the flat anyhow, I think I mentioned that before, we sold most of the stuff in there, as I say for that beautiful, beautiful salon we only got something like 300 Marks, which even in those days wasn't much. And my mother packed up some lift vans which she was able to send to Antwerp in storage, and, no wait a minute, that came later, that wasn't at that time, I am sorry, I am jumping, but we stayed for a few months, three months or four months in rented accommodation, which I remember just vaguely, funnily enough my Berlin friend Nina who had been to school with me remembers this much better than I do, and we then decided to go on a winter holiday to Czechoslovakia, I took with me my little budgie in a cage, so much for a skiing holiday, but we were not stopped from going, and went to Prague, and there we stayed first, we had a sort of little suite in a hotel, in the suburbs of Prague where we stayed for a year or longer and my father got a little bit of his money out, enough to live on, but of course at his age impossible to find another job, you know he really couldn't, and of course in banking it is not easy to do that, he wasn't really able to do anything else, so he tried to do something in business but he wasn't a business man and he was really conned, it was a total disaster, it didn't help.

Meanwhile we got quite a nice flat, and lived there. And then of course there was Munich and it became fairly clear that things would go wrong then, Sudetenland. And when the Sudetenland was occupied I got panicky and my parents stood there, and to my eternal thankfulness agreed that I should emigrate. Now, you know if you think about that, I didn't appreciate the full impact of that until I had children of my own, I was born

ten years into the marriage, I was an only child, to say, “You go”, must have taken quite something.

So, then I looked into coming to England. In the meantime my English was reasonable, the main reason for that was that, first of all my father spoke perfect English, and the school, the Lessler Schule where my English teacher was a very odd breed, he was a Jewish Nazi. You can't call it anything else, he was very fascist, and he hated my guts and I hated his, and as I say I never kept my mouth shut, that didn't help, and he was very nasty to me, and my father said, “There is only one way to be with a man like that, if you are perfect in English, if you are top of your class in English, there is nothing he can do about it.” So he drilled me every Sunday, I had tears every Sunday, but I did learn English. So it came in very handy. That is only by the way.

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So I found out that the only way I could come to England was either doing domestic jobs or to train for nursing, and I am not a nurse, it is not my vocation in any way, and I thought to myself I will try and look after babies, it will come in useful hopefully one day, which it did. At that time of course we were in Prague, don't forget, and the Nazis occupied Czechoslovakia before I was able to get a work permit. We wrote in order to get a job, we wrote to friends, again banking friends, in London, to tell them what I wanted and they said they would put an advert in the daily telegraph or whatever and I got a reply from some people in Southampton, he was a pharmacist and they were expecting their first baby, so they were willing to apply for a visa for me, which they did, so of course it takes a while, it took quite a while before I got the permission.

By that time the Nazis were in Prague and you had to have an exit permit, and that was an endless trouble to get that, apart from anything else I had to go to the Gestapo headquarters to get my exit permit. To get your exit permit, apart from anything else you had to show you paid your dog license, your taxes, your this and your that, you know I had it in my diary somewhere, it was impossible, it was a lot of work, and meanwhile I queued up every Wednesday afternoon at the Gestapo headquarters and it took ten weeks before I got in, at one point they threw me down the stairs, they didn't want me, and, so that was quite traumatic but I still had to go back, they pushed me, you know, I wouldn't say they just threw me, but ... anyhow on visit ten I got in, and you were asked for your name, and you know you had to sign in and so on and the young SS man, or SR man, he was a brown shirt, who were sort of, was to take me up to where I needed to go said to me in the lift, “Neustadt, Neustadt.” I remember to this day, “Wasn't there a dentist in ...” he named a town in Germany, in Austria, and I said, “Yes, yes, that's my uncle.” That was a total lie. He said, “He was very good ...” He was quite friendly to me. He took me up, and there was somewhere, I don't know for some reason, they took my name, they said, “You go in there.” And they put me in a room which was dark, there was no windows, nothing, and I was sitting there, absolutely petrified, for I don't know how long, it could have been half an hour, it could have been three hours, and eventually when I came out they gave me the permit and said I had to leave the country within a fortnight. Well, if I could have done I would have gone the next day.

In the meantime the Nazis had made a new law, that not only did you need your exit pass but if you travelled through Germany you had to have permission to do that, which was another piece of paper. I don't know why my father didn't send me by plane, of course it wasn't as usual to go by plane, I don't know why, I often puzzled about it, but the idea was that I went by train, and, so that was that. So in the meantime my father was waiting for me while I was in this room waiting for it, he didn't know what had happened to me, and he had a very, he had an acquaintance, I don't know how he came to her, who was a bit of a fixer. She was German, and she took money for it, and she had connections, and I hated her guts. Because I met her, and she was, the power she had over my father was what I resented so much, my father was quite servile to her, which I resented. I mean, I was immature, I was an 18 year old, not even, yes 18, I realised later, that it was the only

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thing he could do, that he was right to do it, but it is not very nice to see your father humiliated like that, he was such a proud man.

Anyhow, my father got in touch with her and she made enquires and she said, "I am not aware that she has been arrested." So then of course at long last I appeared, there was great rejoicing, with a piece of paper in my hand, and we now had to get this transit permission and she said she would fix that. And time went by, a fortnight or whatever and my father met her again and he phoned and he said, she didn't get it, and I fainted, and he phoned back and said that he has got it. And what had happened was that she had made him do that, to sort of give me a bit of a shock, she knew I didn't like her, and she, and you know, I mean, to my shame, I was probably in my 40s or 50s before I forgave him, which was wrong, but, and he apologised to me after it, and he said, "There was nothing else I could do, I had to go along with it." I was very resentful of that, poor man, I mean I was the apple of his eye, but you're not logical always, when you are that age, 18 is not very old.

RL: What had you been doing in Prague during this time?

LC: Getting myself into trouble again! It was decided, well first of all I was 16 when I came and my father said, "You haven't had sufficient education, and we have to arrange for that and you have to learn Czech." This was before the Nazis moved in, and there was a young officer, a Jewish fellow, in the Czech army, who had more leisure time than military time and for some reason it was arranged that he should teach me, he was a very nice man, at one point he made a pass at me and I didn't know what he wanted! But he was quite a good teacher and I got quite a lot of ancient history, you know Greeks and Romans and so on and art, I enjoyed that tremendously and it stayed with me forever, I still do. And, so that is what I did part of the time.

And then I went to a commercial school, because my father said, "Well, you have to earn your living one way or another." The original idea was that I should learn fencing and fancy stuff, you know that didn't come off. The original idea was that I should become a PR in the bank, because he had the connections and you know, and I was supposed to go

for a year to England and a year to France and all of these things of course fell by the wayside, so he said, "If you know shorthand and typing you can always get a job." So I went to this school, which was German, because of course there was quite a large, not German population, particularly the Jewish people all spoke German, educated people spoke German certainly, because it was Austria before the war you see. So I went to that school and of course there were a lot of Sudeten Germans there as well, and he made some remarks I didn't like and I had my say about it, and so he called my parents and he said he would rather that I left the school because it was very difficult for him, you know, with being so many Sudeten Germans there and so on, so it was the second school I was thrown out of, but it was right to do it, you know I don't regret having done it, because he made sort of anti, well pro Nazi remarks, which were obviously aimed at the Sudeten Germans and he shouldn't have done, so that was that.

Tape 2: 33 minutes 0 seconds

And then of course learning Czech was not so easy, it is a very difficult language, it is a bit like Russian, probably even worse, I learnt enough Czech to get by. And to my great surprise, I mean I was only in Prague for two and a half years before I came to England, when I went to Prague with my husband and my son and his wife and my granddaughter, some of it came back, you know, I could understand more than I thought I would have retained, but I wouldn't say that I could speak Czech by any means. But if I watch a film, even a Polish film I can pick out a lot of words, so you know, that was that. So that is how I occupied myself in Prague.

RL: What did you think of Prague and Czechoslovakia? What did you think?

LC: I loved it, I loved Prague, the Czechs, was quite a bit of bribery going on and they were not always welcoming, but by and large I liked it, also I fell in love, it made a difference, a Jewish boy from Germany, who perished. So that, I had an emotionally wonderful time, you know, let's put it that way.

RL: Where you disappointed to leave or were you pleased that you were going?

LC: I was, when the Germans marched in I panicked, and I said to my mother, "I must go and buy some walking shoes".

And she said, "You are mad".

But I said, "I am going to buy some walking shoes." Quite irrational, which I did, and I saw them walk in and I went home. As I say my parents encouraged me to go.

RL: What were you able to take with you?

LC: I am sorry?

RL: What were you able to take with you?

LC: Three suitcases, and a bike which was stolen on the way, and a gas mask, which was taken out, a Czech gas mask. So I had trunks, two or three, three trunks as far as I remember which were sent separately, my mother sent them separately, we couldn't do it any other way.

RL: Were you able to pack whatever you wanted?

LC: Well, I packed some books which I still have, mostly art and literature, and clothing, and you know I had a lot of clothes, and my mother gave me a fur coat to take with me, which I didn't wear until I knew she was dead, I couldn't bring myself to do it. But I had a lot of clothes, which was very useful, because I could have never afforded to buy anything here.

RL: Did anyone have to supervise the packing?

Tape 2: 36 minutes 0 seconds

LC: No, no.

RL: Nothing like that ...

Were you able to bring any money with you?

LC: Ten shillings I think, yes.

Now in the meantime there was something called the Stopford Fund set up here, which was, you were allowed to put some money into that, which was meant to assist you when you wanted to re-emigrate, and I had applied, I wanted to go to America, and I had applied for that, and, but my parents wanted to go, let's put it that way, the quota was impossible, the quota was according to which country you were born in, and my mother having been born in Turkey, there was no chance at all, my father either, so I don't know how it worked, the money, eventually there was £300 which was a nice little sum in those days, that was again a little bit of machination because for a single person you really shouldn't have £300. So, somehow they wrangled it and the £300 was deposited here with the government, I had no access to them, so that is how it was.

RL: What was the date that you left Prague?

LC: The 31st August '39. July '39, 31st July '39.

RL: And you remember that parting?

LC: Yes ... I remember getting onto the train in Prague and my mother crying and my father very stern faced trying very hard not to cry, and to be honest, whenever I see a film or a programme where there are parents and a child parting I still cry, I still do.

RL: Were you on your own?

LC: Yes ...

RL: There was no one else doing the same journey?

LC: No ... no ...

On the train through Germany there was another girl who came from, Leipzig I think, I don't know, who was a furrier's daughter, she was older than I was, and she had a fur coat with her, and when we got to Germany they took a knife and they cut through it, and she was quite stern faced about it, and when we were on our own again I said, "Are you not upset about this".

And she said, "It can be mended quite easily." That was her capital if you see what I mean, she could sell that.

Tape 2: 38 minutes 53 seconds

When I left Prague there was a young soldier in the same compartment, a German soldier, and he said, "Why are you crying?" In a nice way, he was quite sympathetic, I am sure he had no idea I was Jewish and I said because, "I don't think I will ever see my parents again."

He said, "Oh, nonsense, they'll come and visit you."

But my father knew, he said, "There is going to be war." Because as I say it was 31st July, he realised ...

RL: Did you realise at that stage?

LC: Yes ... I think I felt it was likely.

RL: We will have to stop here because this film is about to finish.

LC: Yes I noticed ...

END OF TAPE 2.

TAPE 3:

Tape 3: 33 seconds

RL: What had happened with your boyfriend when you left? Did he come to say goodbye?

LC: Well, yes, obviously, yes. Well he, we did keep in touch until a little while into the war, but he eventually went to a concentration camp and died there. I had a lucky escape,

I know now that I wouldn't have been happy, I didn't know it then, my father knew it ... but that is by the way ...

RL: Can you describe your journey?

LC: Yes, now, as I say we went through Germany and I told you about the young woman with the fur coat and eventually we arrived in Holland and I cannot start to tell you the relief, absolutely wonderful, and they came to the train. There were people who obviously knew, and brought us cups of tea or whatever it was I can't remember. And then I got as far as Vlissingen. And I took the boat, and it was the first time I had ever been on a boat, and my mother told me, if it's rough, stay on deck, it is easier to be sick in the fresh air than down below, which I duly did. I wasn't sick but it was bad weather, very, very windy, and I remember when I did arrive in England my hair was like a Medusa, you know all full of salt spray, I must have looked a sight. And there I had, they gave you a cursory examination, I had my VISA and all that and I remember what every doctor does when, who sees me for the first time, they do that because this is a little bit thick, and they all wonder if I have thyroid trouble, but I haven't, it's just fat. So with my heart beating very loudly I was let in and I took a train to London, from Harwich.

And I have to go back to my friend Nina who had joined me at school, she had spent some months in England, I think she was in Harrow as a paying guest to learn English,

Tape 3: 3 minutes 5 seconds

and she said she would wait for me so we could meet again, she of course was in Berlin and we were in Prague, so we kept in touch, but enough ... and so she said she would take a room somewhere in Kensington I think before I went onto this job in Southampton that I talked about.

In the meantime of course in Southampton the baby had been born, the baby was four months old before I got to them, but that wasn't my fault.

So I was on the train, and there was a peculiar man opposite me who kept grinning at me and it turned out that he was deranged poor man, he was with somebody, but it was a funny introduction to England, if you see what I mean.

And then I got to London and one of the things that I wanted to do in London, why I didn't go straight to Southampton, I wanted to see if I could get some sort of a VISA for my parents, now at the time there was something called a Capitalist Visa, and if I am not mistaken it was £1,000 per person, and my father had banking friends here in London, and the idea was that I should go and try and persuade them, because you couldn't really do it any other way, whether they would deposit it, and my father said he would see to it that it could be paid. So I went to see these people and eventually one of them said, "Yes", he will arrange for it, it was quite a lot of money. And then he applied to the Home Office, but they were a bit on the slow side with immigrants, no way of just going

by boat and coming in, so of course the war broke out before they could come, so that was that.

I went, where I met Nina, and I remember this place was called, it was in Earl's Court somewhere, the underground station, and I kept looking, and I saw something, Earl something, and I thought that was the one, and I got out, and I found it was Earl's Cement, so I got back into the underground and eventually got to the place and she was there, and we had two or three days together before I went on to Southampton.

And I had a cousin in London, who was no use at all, very well to do, not intelligent, very snobbish, and much older than I was, ten years older, which is a big difference, and I went and I had dinner with him and he was very unhelpful, and he said to me, "Well, you know, you have to realise that you're not a little princess any more", which I never was, and you will just have to do what people want you to do. So I said, "Thank you very much", and you know ... and I ate my last bite and I said, "Goodbye Fritz", which he didn't like, he liked to call himself Fred and that was that, and apart from that I went to see these friends of ours called Schlessinger who also were in the banking to get these VISAs started up.

RL: What did you think of London?

Tape 3: 6 minutes 45 seconds

LC: Oh ... brilliant. But don't forget I had 10 shillings or whatever it was, not much more, we sat in Hyde Park and had a packet of crisps and sat under an umbrella, it was raining, and spent the afternoon there. But then, it was alright, the hotel had been paid for, and it was ok.

And then I went to Southampton, by train, and Mr Charlton was supposed to meet me. And what I didn't realise was that there were two exits from the station, obviously I went to one exit and he went to the other, but eventually he found me. He was of Scottish origin, very tall, very thin, nice enough, a bit daunting at the time, he was a very nice man actually.

And we went to the house, and the house was in the harbour area, as I say he had a pharmacy, and they had converted what were originally store rooms I suppose for living quarters above the shop, and he took me up to my room, and you went up on a circular staircase which was lit with one naked bulb, you know, and half way up there was a picture of a staring man, you know, awful looking, and it said underneath, "Hate", and I thought, "Oh God, what have I come to." It turned out that he was an amateur artist and he was supposed to be Beethoven, so he put it up, probably for fun. Anyhow I had a room on the top floor, you know, in the attic, and he had painted one wall in sort of orange and greens with woods and trees and he said he hoped it reminded me of the Bohemian Woods, which was very sweet of him, you know ... so that was that ... he had a wife who was nice enough and there was the baby who was lovely and I liked that, and I was installed in there ...

RL: Can you remember your first few days with them?

LC: Yes ... they were very nice, I was quite obviously one of the family. I mean it is really funny when I think back now, because my mother had insisted on giving me our maid's black dress and little apron and things, in case I needed it there, but they weren't that sort of family at all, as they would have been in a stately home. And I had friends who had friends in stately homes, and it was like that. Anyhow, she laughed her head off when I unpacked it as you can imagine. We ate in the kitchen, you know, I was one of the family.

It wasn't the crunch, but a bit of a hiccup came on the first payday. Now, the rule was that you had to be paid 15 shillings a week, and if you lived in the type of family that I was, you didn't talk about money you see, so when I got my first wages there were three coins and they said crowns as far as I could see, so I said thought, yes, three crowns is 15 shillings, but they were of course half crowns, there was no such thing as a crown, there never was. Anyway I didn't catch, I suppose really it was my own fault, I didn't look at it, carefully enough, I put them away, and then it was apparently it was his birthday the next week, and in Germany you do celebrate birthdays, far more than you do here, and I decided I must buy him a present you see, so I went and bought him a tie, and

TAPE 3: 10 minutes 55 seconds

when I counted what was left, there was only about 5 shillings left, you see, two half crowns, whatever it was I paid, and I couldn't make it out. So eventually I tackled him, and I said could he tell me how much he gave me, and he said. "Well I gave you seven and six."

And I said, "Oh!"

And he said, "Well, you see, my wife doesn't get any more for pocket money, I can't give you more than I give her, and in any case we have a woman who does the rough work, and we pay her." Now I was never supposed to do any rough work, I was a mother's help, not even an au pair, and the idea was that I took the baby out and looked after it and perhaps fed it and helped with the washing up and this sort of thing. Anyhow, I didn't know what to do, I was on my own, I didn't have anybody there, and when I wrote to my father, in those days it was still peacetime and the post was a great deal better than it is now, you know, in spite of the fact that there wasn't much airmail, and I wrote it to him and he wrote back and said to me, "Ignore it, so long as they are kind to you that is the only thing that is important." And he was right I suppose. And as I say I was part of the family, they were quite nice to me. But then as I say I arrived at the beginning of August, and come September and war broke out, and he decided that the wife and child should be evacuated to somewhere less dangerous than Southampton harbour, so they went to Whitechurch, Whitchurch, something like that, further along, I don't think it was on the coast exactly, I don't remember. In the meantime we went to the New Forest, and you know, it was nice enough, and the work was ok.

And she was evacuated, and so we stayed back, of course he had his pharmacy there, and then after a few days we decided it wasn't seemly for him and a young girl to be there. To me, it puzzled me, he was an old man, he was at least 35, you know, it didn't occur to me at all, but I understand it now, perhaps the wife wanted it, I don't know. So we stayed with his mother, who was a lovely lady, she had more understanding for me than anybody else. And actually Mrs Charlton's parents were also very nice to me, she was in the, there was a sort of, League of Nations Club or some sort and she was interested in international things, so she was very pleased to see me and so on, and, which was important to me, because I had only been there for a little while, and I had sort of damaged the house.

What had happened was this, the bathroom was on the top floor where my, in the attack, because of course it wasn't originally meant for living accommodation and it had to do with the plumbing which I wouldn't understand, and because of the danger of incendiary bombs you had to keep your bath filled if you didn't live there for some reason, I don't know how these regulations went. But of course he said quite rightly that you have to change the water every so often, you can't leave it forever there. Now, the plumbing was such that it took about quarter of an hour for the bath to fill. So, I slept at his mother's house but in the daytime I came to the house, partly because I was cooking lunch for him, sometimes his mother came to help, so I cooked lunch for the two of them. Now that is a funny story in itself because he gave me a certain amount of money and I managed with that, and the other thing I got was Maggi Soup cubes, so I could make a soup every

TAPE 3: 15 minutes 22 seconds

day you see, and the rest I had to do the best I could you see. And in the beginning that was alright, but as time went on prices went up. And I said to him, "I don't think I can make a meal every day for the money you give me."

"Well, you know, I have to pay for my wife," and so on ...

So I said, "Alright". And he had a very sweet tooth, so I cooked the soup, and I cooked the main meal, and that was it. "What Lilly! No pudding!"

I said, "No Mr Charlton, no pudding." You see, this went on for a few days and I got some more money to cook a pudding.

Now, I have to explain here that sort of, as the daughter of the house in the circles we moved in, you didn't do the cooking, the cook did the cooking, but the daughters were taught to bake, and my mother taught me how to bake, so I could make cakes and things. She also sent me letters containing either simple recipes or something like this, "If you spoil a cake, don't throw it away, you can make cabinet pudding with custard powder and it will be alright." I am laughing about it now, but the fact is I quite enjoyed baking, or cooking sweets for him, and he liked that. In fact he gave me a book for Christmas written in very bad German to say that he hoped when I looked at all these pictures it would encourage me to bake more cakes, you know he had quite a nice way.

So the fire prevention things, you see, with the bath, and one day I had to let out the bath and fill it up again. I don't know if this should go on the video or not, but I used to get

very bad period pains, and this was one of those days, and the water took forever to fill the bath, and so I went up onto my bed and lay down for a few minutes, and I fell asleep ... and of course the water ran over the bath and it got through the wall somewhere to the next floor before I woke up and realised what was happening. Of course I pulled out the plug immediately and my first thing, apart from pulling out the plug was to stop this hole in the wall you see, and on the little landing and Mrs Charlton had all her beautiful towels and things that she got for her wedding and I just pulled them out and stuck them in the hole you see, and the thing she couldn't forgive me for was that I had used her new towels to stick there, so you can imagine how I felt, I was devastated, absolutely. I mean it went through two floors, it damaged the ceiling and it dripped on the carpet, it didn't do more than that, but even so, and I was horrified. And I said to him, "I don't know if I can earn very much but you can keep my wages to pay for all that." What 7/6 a week. I didn't realise he would be insured for it anyhow, I mean you are for a house. So he was annoyed but that was all, his wife wouldn't forgive me, she came back from where she was to see the damage and so on, and that was the main thing she was concerned about was that I had used all the new towels. Anyhow, I was very distraught, and she said, "Well you can come with me, I am going to my mother's house." And her mother was lovely, they were so nice, and she had a younger brother and he said, "Right, come on, I will take you to the football match." So I went to Southampton football match to distract me. Eventually she came back, because that was the phoney war, if that means anything to you ...

RL: Uhu ...

TAPE 3: 19 minutes 31 seconds

LC: And she came back with the baby. And it worked out reasonably well after we got over this terrible business and I still only got 7/6 and in the meantime the phoney war came more or less to an end and she was pregnant again and I felt I am not going to work for 7/6 for ever.

What is more an aunt of mine had come to England, her husband, who was a research chemist got himself a job in Lancaster with Storeys, and she came to see me and offered to relieve me of some clothes for her daughter but I had plenty and I understood that. I hardly knew her because she lived in Constance in Germany, and we lived in Berlin, and then in Prague she was my mother's sister, so she kept saying, why don't you come up, it is dangerous in Southampton, why don't you come up to Lancaster it is much safer there and so on. So I decided at that time the time had come to make a move, because that was a bit too much, and Southampton in any case, you see as an alien, although I was eventually a friendly alien because I had a Czech passport you weren't supposed to be near the coast. In fact I remember when I was in Southampton there was a Czech refugee club. There were other refugee clubs, there were Germans and Austrians as well and at one point we had planned a trip to the Isle of Wight, and I got the day off, it was Sunday, and I got to the place where I was meeting and there were only girls there, eventually one of the married women came out and said that all the men had been interned and sent to the Isle of Man. So of course we didn't go to the Isle of Wight, and that was that.

RL: Did you have to register with the police?

LC: Yes ... yes ... we registered.

RL: And did you have to report?

LC: If you went anywhere else you had to report, yes. That came in later. The whole story comes in later.

Anyhow, my aunt tried to persuade me to come to Lancaster and I decided, yes, I was agonising over it, because I was very conscious of, I really had to thank them for getting me out of Germany you see. They were reasonably understanding I must say, I was in touch with Mrs Charlton until she died in her 80s, he died much sooner. But, you know, it was a good relationship really, they were nice people. So I say, they didn't pay me properly, but apart from that they were nice.

So then I decided to go to Lancaster, I could still only work as a domestic as one sort or other. So, I had my aunt up there, who as I say I didn't know. My aunt was severely diabetic and people with high diabetes are very volatile, and I wasn't used to that, my mother was very placid. My father lost his temper occasionally but not in the way that she did. Anyway, that was that, and I got there and her husband had also been, yes, I think he was there at first, it was later on he was interned, for a very short time. So I had to find my way about and so on, and I was looking for a job and it wasn't as easy as she

TAPE 3: 23 minutes 23 seconds

thought it would be, and one day she lost her temper about something, it was nothing to do with me, and she turned round and said, "Oh you will be on my pocket forever." And I took great offence, she probably didn't mean it, but I was a bit sensitive I must admit, only children often are, we didn't have the rough and tumble of brothers and sisters, so I decided, whatever comes up, I will take it. So, there was eventually, and I had only been with her for a fortnight, somebody who wanted a scullery maid, there was a doctors surgery, and I went down there, and I would have had to share the room with the Irish cook, and I was there as a scrubber, but I thought I will do anything, I am not going to stay anywhere that I am not wanted, so I thought alright I will take the job, it was probably 15 shillings or whatever.

Anyway I walked back and when I got back to my aunt's house she was out and there was a little letter, well sort of note on the mantelpiece to say, "There is a lady, a doctor's wife who wants somebody to look after a baby." So I went there, and she said, "Yes", she would take me and I cancelled the scrubbing job, so, I was very lucky, you know. And they were, he was a highlander, he had a very strong Scottish accent which is very difficult if you are a foreigner, you know, I mean to this day I can't understand anybody from Belfast or from Glasgow, but in those days you can imagine. She was a nurse originally, a sister, and married the doctor, he was an orthopaedic surgeon. And I had my

own room, and having been a sister, she was organised, you know, the work was alright anyhow but I had every second evening off, and I had every second Sunday off and you know it was all very nicely organised which I liked. Otherwise she was rather cold, he was very nice, a very nice man. And there was a baby and a little girl of four, and I quite liked that. What was not so nice was that I was not one of the family there at all. I had my own room, at that time I started to read English books, and I started to dream in English, which is quite interesting then I knew I was ok in English. It was probably bad English I dreamt in, I don't know.

Anyhow, at that time, that was the time of the assassination of Heidrich in Prague, so there was a lot on the radio about that, and of course we didn't have a radio in the kitchen, you didn't in those days, so when the news was on I sat on the stairs to listen, and it wouldn't have occurred to her to say come in and listen to it you see. Now if she was out he would say, "Come on and listen in here." And also he took me and said, "You don't know anything about the area, I will take you round a bit." You know, he was a really nice man. And I said, "You know I am not allowed to go within ten miles of the coast."

He said, "If you are with me you can go where you like" and he took me.

He also said to me that he knew of a doctor who also had a mother's help who came from Germany and he would introduce us, so I met Katy, and Katy and I became close friends. And it was very interesting to see, she also worked for a doctor as I said, but that was a middle class family, they had been doctors for three generations, and the way they had treated her was totally different to the way I was treated. She was part of the family, she worked as much and as little as I did, but she was one of them. And to go there to me,

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oh, it was lovely, you really felt you were a mensch again, but as I said they were alright with me.

It is quite interesting, we had one air raid there and he immediately set to, got some yarn, and made hammocks for everybody, so that if the sirens would go again we would all go down into the cellar and have hammocks there, I saw him do those, it was quite interesting. He came from a very poor family apparently and made good. So that was that. Well, I had only been there for about seven or eight month ...

RL: When had you gone there? What date had you moved up to there?

LC: Well, let me see - it was as I say August, and I was 18 months there, August 39, so it was 40/41, yes it must have been 41 or late 40s, I can't quite remember that ...

RL: Did you have to appear before any tribunals?

LC: No ...

RL: You know when the internment process was underway ... Did you have to appear before ...

LC: No ... no ... I was a friendly alien ...

RL: Uhu

LC: You see, unlike the Germans and the Austrians, silly ...

RL: What was the condition of entry into the country? I mean you were a domestic ...

LC: You had to have a work permit.

RL: Right, was that for any given period of time?

LC: Well ... I mean, it depended, for my husband who came in on a, what did they call it, he went into a clothing factory, as an apprentice so to speak, and that was for the two years of apprenticeship, but of course there was a war on so they waived that. It had also other implications.

Anyhow, by this time I was in Lancaster, and by that time so many men had been called up that they allowed refugees to do other jobs. Now, while I was in Prague, you asked me that before, my two cousins in Prague had a wool shop, and in those days you didn't have those leaflets that you have here. So if you bought wool somewhere, they made you a chart exactly on how to do this, so I learnt that from them, it was just a little extra skill, I did a lot of knitting anyhow, as one did, new patterns and whatever.

TAPE 3: 30 minutes 10 seconds

So when it became possible to do other things I thought to myself I will get out of this dump and try and get something perhaps in Manchester, because you know there was only Katy and she also wanted to do other things, she became a nurse actually, very much encouraged by her employer which was nice. She also moved, she moved to Oldham actually.

So I applied to a knitting firm here, Copley-Smith, and I told them what I could do and so on and they said come for an interview and she took me on. Now the husband who usually ran the firm, he was a fairly high ranking officer and was in the army. And she was running the outfit, and she took me on. What she didn't do was to tell the woman who was in charge of the pattern room, to say that she had taken me on, so this woman obviously resented me coming. I can't blame her, I would have been the same, you know. Now the one thing that hadn't really occurred to me very much, I don't know if you know, but continentals knit differently to the British, we don't move the thread, we move the needle, so it is a different way, I mean it comes to the same, but it is a different way of knitting, so I was there, and she, I gave her some drawings and some little patterns that I had made and so on, but she didn't want to know. I mean it was her outfit, she

didn't want a girl of 18 or 19 to come and tell her what to do you know, I can't blame her, but it was awkward for me. So, when she saw me knitting the continental way, she said, "That won't do, because our customers don't knit your way, they knit our way, so you will have to knit it our way. Well, it is like asking you to write with your left hand if you are right handed, so I really wasn't much use to them. And then the other girls there were all ordinary girls and they asked me what I earned, now in Germany you didn't make a big secret of that, certainly not with ordinary working girls, you might have done if you were the director of something, but you didn't, and I told her. She said, "I have been here five years and I get £1 less ..." or shillings less or whatever, well again I opened my mouth too wide, my usual failure, so I was called before this woman. Oh yes, that's right, I arrived there in Manchester just before Christmas.

RL: What year was this?

LC: '41, no '40, 1940 ...

RL: How long were you with the family in Lancaster?

LC: Only about six months.

RL: And how did they feel when you told them you were leaving?

LC: I think they understood it. I mean who would want to do this if you could do something different, and they were not hostile, you know, as I say she was a cold person, but not hostile. It was quite amusing, if she had visitors she would ask me if I knew which glasses to put in for white wine or red wine - that was all right.

Tape 3: 33 minutes 45 seconds

RL: So you were with them for six months ...

LC: Yes ...

RL: And the previous family in Southampton ...

LC: About 18 months, something like that ...

RL: About 18 months ...

LC: Roughly, it could have been a little less, 15 months perhaps ...

RL: So that would have been to the beginning of 41 ...

LC: When I came to Manchester it was just before 42, when the big blitz arrived, that's right ...

RL: Right ...

LC: Yes, yes ...

When I came to Manchester, when she had taken me on, I got in touch with the Czech club, through London, they told me, yes, there is a Czech club here and they would send one of the girls, inform her to come and see me, which she did and so on. And I stayed at first in a hostel, in a Jewish hostel, where again I disgraced myself, because I ate some milchige food with a meat knife or whatever. I just didn't know any better. And I didn't like it there at all. It was, there were about six of us sleeping in one room, all the girls, and the boys kept coming in, in the night and I didn't appreciate that at all ...

RL: Where was this hostel?

LC: On Alexandra Road, ya, I will probably remember the name of it, Kershaw House, that's right, yes.

RL: How many refugees were housed there?

LC: I don't remember how many. There would have been about 12 or something, I don't know, anybody of my age of the Jewish community will know about it, they will know about it, I mean I was like a fish out of water there, you know.

Anyhow there was one man whom I knew from Southampton who was a professor, and I knew he had got a job in Manchester and I got his address and I phoned him up. And he said, "Come and have dinner with us." So I came and had dinner with them, and I told them the story and they were quite amused about it, they were Viennese actually, he had

Tape 3: 35 minutes 52 seconds

a non Jewish wife. And next morning I had a phone call from them, "Pack your things and come and stay with us." Which was very nice, I stayed with them for not quite three weeks and then I got myself some digs. So in the meantime I was in this place, and as I say, I told this girl how much I earned and the woman who was running the firm called me in and she said, "You have been very indiscreet."

And I said, "What do you mean?"

She said, "Well, you told this girl how much you are earning."

And I said, "Yes, and she is earning £1 ..." or whatever it was, not one pound, it must have been a few shillings, because all I got was about 25 or 27 pounds, you know, shillings, and she said well it is very indiscreet. And I got very annoyed and I said, "Well if you paid her decently after she has been here five years there wouldn't have been a problem." I don't know what impression you are getting of me! So, then, as I say, I wasn't much use to them, it's not my fault but I really wasn't, and then wool was rationed, so they closed the pattern room, because it is no use having new designs, so I was out.

In the meantime I found myself some digs in Moss Side. The landlady was a Plymouth Brethren, she was very good, she was very nice, very understanding, and so while I was looking for another job she wouldn't charge me rent. I was only for one week out of a job, she wouldn't charge me rent, which I thought was very nice. So, I then decided maybe I could do something with typing and I applied for a job, and I found that the German shorthand is no use for English, because the English one is a phonetic one, so I got myself some books and practiced. And the, the job I got was in Charles Street, there was a small ice cream factory there, and the woman who ran it was a Canadian, nice woman, and she could see that I wasn't stupid, you know, and I found, having to write letters, I discovered that there were two types of dictators, they either dictate fast and make long pauses, or slowly and continuously, so with the shorthand that I knew and a bit of speed writing I managed. And after a little while she said to me, "You can write that letter yourself." And my English was good enough to do that, and if there was a mistake, she would say, "Look this is wrong." And I would write it again, that is all. But you know, they were nice, so I was there, I got married during that time.

Tape 3: 39 minutes 20 seconds

RL: I will just stop here because the film is about to end.

LC: Right.

END OF TAPE 3.

TAPE 4

Tape 4: 20 seconds

RL: When you came to England it was the end of July, beginning of August, how aware were you once you were here of impending war? Was there any sense of war coming?

LC: Yes, yes, very much so. You see my father was very realistic. He knew, he knew there would be war, he knew the British, he knew the Germans, he knew there would be, so I was very much aware of it, and I said it to people I worked with, who were not at all

Tape 4: 1 minute 1 seconds

convinced that there would be a war, and then they said, "If there is it will be over by Christmas."

I said, "No", because I had seen the preparations, I also knew a little bit, when I met Nina in London, she said to me her school had been evacuated, that was before the war, that was the 1st August more or less, it had been evacuated because it was going to be changed into a hospital or something like that, so she knew, and she felt in fact, she said her mother said, "Stay in England, don't come back." But her mother was widowed, she was an only child, and she felt she had to go back, so she did. So we were aware.

RL: What contact did you maintain with your family after war had broken out?

LC: Yes. Well, we decided, at first of course I wrote in the ordinary way until war broke out, and then we decided we would write to each other through Sweden, where we knew somebody, Switzerland, where we had somebody, America, mainly those three. And we also decided that we would number our letters, which was a good idea, because the date itself doesn't tell you there wasn't another letter on the way, does it. So we numbered them.

They had a little story, it will amuse you no end. My father was able to send small sums of money out, through his banking people, and he wanted me to tell him whenever I received it, of course I couldn't write that, so we were looking for a word where each letter was different, and the word we chose was "blumentopf", which is a flowerpot, so that if I got say £25 I said Auntie Leslie, you know, second letter and fifth letter, sends her regards. No I think CID would have had a terrible job to find out what that meant, you know, but it worked, I mean in the end I only got three payments of £10 or £15 or something, I mean that was a lot more money than it is now. So that is what we did.

RL: How long were you able to continue passing letters?

LC: Well, first of all, I also got letters from my boyfriend, from Prague, and I was, it was only about a month or so, the letters were sent direct at first, and then via various other countries, I was at the Charlton's at Southampton when there was a visit from the CID man, from the police, and he was talking to them first you see, I didn't know what was going on. And then they called me in and he said, "It has come to our notice that you are sending letters or receiving letters from abroad, and he had some there, one from my boyfriend and one from my parents, and Mr Charlton was still there and he said, "Would you please read them to us." I mean they knew exactly what was in them. Well, I wasn't prepared to read a love letter to them, so I sent him out, and I said that this is private, and I started to translate them, and they said that it was all right, and he said, "You are not supposed to do that, please don't do it again." But I did. They knew. They knew it was harmless. So, I mean I have the greatest admiration for the authorities here, they have been very good to us.

TAPE 4: 5 minutes 17 seconds

RL: Having come from Berlin and the sort of home that you had come from, how did you find it when you came to Southampton and then Lancaster? What sort of impression did you have of this country?

LC: I was a bit disappointed, to be honest, I mean we had such tremendous admiration for England, and I found the country dirty, I really did, I couldn't understand it, and, apart from that the people were nice enough, I had no complaint about that, but also I found, we, well, believe me it wasn't just because of the way we lived, I mean the housing was much less good than a similar person would have had in Germany. For instance when I stayed in Moss Side, you know, my digs, I mean they were awful, I was glad to have

them, you know, I wasn't complaining about it, but the same family in Germany would have had far better housing than they had here, so those are the things that I do remember.

RL: Did you find anything besides that, anything that was different or strange to what you were used to?

LC: Well, yes, I mean everything was strange. For a start it was a bit of a culture shock, you know. I mean, I was emphatically not the little Jewish princess, my father was quite sure not to do that, but even so the life I had led was very different to what I was doing here, so that was one thing. The food was different of course, and also you get upset about things that, you know, in hindsight you needn't have got upset about them. For instance, you know, the Germans eat more than the British, there is no doubt about it, even if you go to Germany now you will find the portions bigger, or in Holland, much bigger than in England, so when I was there, and of course I did work that I wasn't used to as well I used to have three slices of toast, you know, when they would have had one, two perhaps, and he said to me, sort of in a joke, the baker will get rich with you about, and I was very offended, I shouldn't have been, it was a joke, but it offended me a lot.

Then there were certain language difficulties, because you used colloquial things, or rather they are used to you, and you don't really understand them, so for instance when Mrs Charlton said to me, "Oh you are silly", I was very, not offended, but taken aback, because if you look in the dictionary, silly means stupid, so I was slightly, you know, there were certain, she then explained to me and it was alright, but you know when I said, "I am not silly."

She said, "Oh yes you are." Certain linguistic difficulties if you see what I mean. That is all I can remember of being very different. I lived a different standard of life obviously, that didn't actually worry me, it really didn't, you know, I mean I can live on anything if I have to, I was glad to be here, I was very thankful to be here, I will be eternally.

RL: Were you in touch with any refugee organisation or committee?

LC: Yes, well in Southampton there was the refugee club, and when I came to Manchester I got in touch with the Czech authorities or refugee authorities and they said,

TAPE 4: 9 minutes 33 seconds

"Yes, there is a Czech club here and there is also an Austrian Centre." So, you know, you tend to cling to your own, because I'll tell you something, you are not really accepted, you are not really accepted. I mean even now I have a number of non Jewish friends, and there is always that little bit of, I don't know how to put it, I mean I wouldn't call it necessarily anti-Semitism but there is a tiny, tiny, tiny, tiny little bit at the bottom, begging your pardon, and one is aware of it. But I have good friends, non Jewish friends.

RL: Has that been the same throughout or has it got better over the years, or, how was it at the beginning, still back to when you were first here?

LC: I didn't feel it in the beginning, except, I did when I changed my job, you see after the knitting place was shut down I tried to get another job and one of the people I applied to was the brewery, you know at the end of Deansgate, there is a brewery that has changed hands a few times, and I applied there, and she said to me, "Are you Jewish?"

I said "Yes".

And she said, "I am sorry we don't take Jews".

And I said, "Why?" You see again can't keep my mouth shut.

She said, "Well, they won't work on Saturdays."

I said, "I will work on Saturdays and all the Jewish holidays, I don't keep any of them."

She said, "Well I am sorry, it is the policy of the firm not to take Jews."

So that was that. And there were firms that didn't.

RL: Was there any other hostility that you came across?

LC: I wouldn't call it exactly hostility, and I can see the reasons for it now, even if I couldn't see it then, I was married, and we had a child, and my husband was a very good tennis player. And, during his, when he was in the office somewhere, I don't know how he got to know somebody, I think he was a customer, who, they came to talk about sport and that sort of thing, and he said, "Why don't you join my tennis club?" Which was the, what was it called, the Charlton Club in Whalley Range. Franz said to him, "Are you sure that it is all right?" And he said, "Come and play with me there." And he played, and he played, oh for about three or four months, and this man said to him, "You know, it's about time you applied to become a member." Now Franz was very good on the tennis court but the sort of bar scene, you know, was not quite to his liking, he felt out of it. I mean, he had his glass of beer and his whiskey or whatever but he wasn't a drinker and a lot of them there, it was the social life you see. So, he didn't quite fit in, but you know, he went and so on, he played tennis, very good tennis, and I can see to this day, he applied, it was Whit Monday and he got the post in those days, he got a letter to say, sorry, but he had been black balled. And we were absolutely devastated. I mean, I understand it now, what we didn't understand then. And he wrote them a letter, a very good letter, I remember, and he said, "I come from a new democracy of Czechoslovakia, it could not have happened there." He never got a reply of course. And we were sitting there, reading the letter, and the phone rang, and the, one of his partners, not the one who proposed him said, "Franz, will you come and make up a foursome?"

TAPE 4: 14 minutes 17 seconds

And Franz said, "I can't".

"Why not? Are you busy?"

"No, I have just had a letter to say that I was black balled".

Silence at the other end, "Well I hope we will still see you some time".

Well, what could they say? I don't blame them for that. It is a very awkward situation to be in, and that was that. When his friend who had proposed him came back from his holidays or wherever he was and it came to light, I don't know whether he phoned Franz

or Franz phoned him, I have no idea, and he was absolutely flabbergasted, and Franz said, "Why? They obviously don't want any Jews."

And he said, "You know, the funny thing is, is that we have one Israeli there."

Anyhow, he told this Israeli who immediately resigned. So that was the story of the tennis club. So yes, I may be totally, I may do them a great injustice, it may be nothing to do with that, I realise that, it could have been that he just, it is a private club and he didn't fit in quite. But it still is surprising, because it was obvious people liked him, you know, they rang him up to say come and play, so whether I am putting the wrong emphasis on it I don't know, but I doubt it.

RL: Now your husband has come on the scene. Yet we know nothing about how you came across him, how you met, where he had appeared from.

LC: No. Well it is difficult to know what to talk about.

RL: If you could just tell me a little bit about it.

LC: Well, when I first came to Manchester and I told you about the Czech club, one of the girls, who was the secretary at the time said, "We are having a meeting next Saturday and I will get somebody to pick you up." And one of the youngish men came and picked me up, he was nice enough, he took me to the club. And on the way, he didn't take me to the club, I will tell you what happened, we didn't have premises at the time, the Czech Club, I will tell you what happened. There was a lady whose name unfortunately I can't remember, who lived in Egerton Road, and she put her flat to the disposal of the people in the Czech club, she left tea and buns and left the place, which I think is marvellous, absolutely marvellous. So there we were, twenty or thirty, I don't know, I mean we made sure that the place was vacuumed and washed up and immaculate before we left, but even so it is quite something.

Anyhow, eventually we got rooms in the Atheneum for the Czech club, so that was the first time I was there. On the way back there was an air raid siren, and we went to the, there was a cinema, I think it was on Barlow Moor Road actually, or Wilbraham Road, and we took, we took shelter there, or rather next to it was an air raid shelter, and we spent the night there, and the cinema was actually bombed, so we were very lucky, and I remember people coming in, you know, after the bombing and so on. So that was the first time, and then this young man said to me, there was a meeting again, this time at the university, they have got a room there to meet, and we are electing a new president.

TAPE 4: 17 minutes 46 seconds

So I said, "It is no good me going to it, I don't know anything about it".

So he said, "Well, the one who is being proposed is a Dr Paul Krug, and you vote for him, he is ok." Oh yes, in between I forgot, on the first meeting, Paul Krug was there, he was a very dark man, and I thought he was half Indian, which he wasn't, he was actually my husband's brother, and he had a reputation that any new young girl that came along he used to take out, and so on, but he didn't with me. So there could be all sorts of

explanations. But apparently what happened was, when he got home, Franz, my husband wasn't there at the time, and he said, "I have got a girl for you". So perhaps he, because of that, he was a very good friend in the end. So the next time I went was this meeting to elect the president and this young man who took me said, "Now there is three brothers there, you see, there is Paul, the one who is being elected, and there is Fritz who is a very good looking man, and the third one, he said he is a small round one, he is the youngest one." The small round one was the one who became my husband. So that was the first time I saw them. And, sure enough, Franz also seemed to, I think it was the next time, the third time, and he said to me, "I am sure I have seen you somewhere before." And I said, "That is an old beginning." And he said, "No, I have seen you before, I am quite sure." And we found out that he had, he had an excellent memory for faces, and he had seen me on a holiday place in Czechoslovakia, and I was only about 16 at the time, and he remembered it. So he took me out, and I insisted, as I had been taught by my mother, you always pay for yourself, and then you are under no obligations. He was very offended, he said, "That is ridiculous." If we want to meet again I am not having it, or something like that. I told him I had a boyfriend in Prague, and he said, "That's alright". He was ten years older and 50 years more mature than I was, quite right.

RL: When had he come?

LC: When did he come? A fortnight before the war broke out. But Paul, his brother, was here already, but this is another long story. I don't think we will have time for that, you know.

So anyhow, we got together, and we immediately liked each other. And it grew. I think he fell in love, but it probably took a little bit longer than that, and had a bit of a conscience, you know, but I mean, and it remained like that, for 54 years. We were smashing friends apart from anything else, you know, so it was a happy marriage.

RL: What did he do for a living? What was he doing then?

LC: At the time he had, I mentioned these permits you could get to work here. And he was an apprentice to some makers up, but of course they were all on uniforms so he was with one of those Jewish firms, I mean, if anybody ever had three thumbs it was him, so if uniforms didn't fit, I know why. You know, he had to have some work, and it was lousy pay, and when he asked, he was one who asked for a rise, he was going up, definitely. And the man said, "Look, I employ my brothers, and they don't get any more than you do, and I can't give you more." So he changed his job, you know, as long as he

TAPE 4: 22 minutes 9 seconds

kept in the tailoring business he could do that. Until, again, eventually you could do other things. Now there was somebody from, an area where he came from, who was working for a textile firm called Turkey Red, they were, they had a factory in Scotland and they knew each other. The Jewish communities in these smaller towns, they knew each other, and anyhow, Franz's father, and he worked with his father, had an agency

business for supplies to textile firms, the place he came from was sometimes called the Manchester of Bohemia, and it wasn't as big, it had about 17,000 inhabitants, but it had about ten textile factories there, and, so he knew, you know, all the people from around there, because he went selling or with his father, or whatever, on his own.

RL: What place was that?

LC: That was called, Dvur Kralove nad Labem or Koniginhof an der Elbe, it was in Bohemia, and I have pictures of it, but it won't interest you, this is not his story.

So, this man said he would offer him a job in the office, and because they were, sort of probably also employed with textiles of perhaps military use as well, they were exempt, and so he was allowed to work there, and he earned, I earned 30 shillings by that time, and he, when he got a rise and got £4, we decided to get married. We could manage on that. We lived, my brother in law lived with us, Paul, he wasn't married, he paid the rent and we paid the food and it worked very well.

RL: When did you get married?

LC: In March '42.

RL: Can you tell me about the wedding?

LC: Well, we got married at the registry office. We didn't belong to any synagogue or anything and it would have been almost strange to us in a way. And, I cooked my own wedding meal, and we had a very small wedding. The wedding itself was at the registry office, which is much nicer than people think, it really is, big flower arrangement, even in those days. And the registrar, who didn't believe me when I said my names were Lilly Edith, they are English names, I said, "Yes, my father was very fond of the English and he gave me names that would be alright in England." Which is true, now he was quite happy with Franzichek, which was a Czech name, so that he believed you see, it is funny, so we were married there, and I had partly precooked the meal before, and I had one friend who didn't come to the actual ceremony, but stayed behind in the flat where we lived and sort of heated up whatever there was.

It was quite interesting getting the stuff for a wedding. You see, if you don't know anybody, you don't know where to get stuff really. And I had decided you could get a trout, so we were going to have trout in aspic, which I could do beforehand, so I did that,

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and then I wanted to have a chicken. Because in those days, chicken was a Sunday dish, not an everyday dish, you see. Where to get a chicken? The chickens were all under the counter. If you were a refugee, you didn't know anybody, you didn't get it. So I decided to go to the market, you know the Covent Garden Market, and so I went there, in my dinner hour, not a chicken to be seen, not one. And so I walked up and I walked down,

and there was one fellow, and I think he was a Jewish fellow, and he could see me, and he said, "What are you looking for?" And I was very near to tears at the time and I said to him, "I am getting married, tomorrow, and I wanted a chicken for a wedding meal." He said, "Well, if you come back at 4 o'clock I think I can find you one." So I came back at 4 o'clock and behind each stand was an enormous, sort of, not exactly a crate, was a sort of wooden structure that you open, it was full to the top with chickens, but of course he probably delivered it to hotels, or whatever, and so I got a nice big chicken. So that was that.

And then my aunt from South Africa and sent me some chocolates and I don't know what else. And we had dried egg, which you may not know about, it was ghastly stuff, but it was egg, and I managed to make a chocolate cake for dessert, so that was the wedding.

RL: How many people were there? Attended?

LC: Just my aunt from Lancaster, and her husband, and this friend of mine who did the cooking and Franz's brother and myself. And the other brother had joined the Czech army and he couldn't come on that day, he came on the next day.

So that was it, and then in the afternoon we had lots of friends who came. And I had been up the night before until about midnight making sandwiches. And I will horrify you again, I am sure, but there was a pork butcher, on Stockport road, and he had stuff for us, a bit of tongue and a bit of roast pork and what have you and we made sandwiches, and it was quite jolly and I don't know how many we were, thirty, forty, something like that.

RL: Were these friends from the Czech Club?

LC: Yes ... yes ...

RL: Mainly ...

LC: Yes, and also, because Dvur Kralove was a textile town, there were quite a few refugees from that town here, and they were of course Franz's friends, you see, my friends as well, and we had the Czech Club, so they came, and that was it.

RL: Where did you live after marriage? Where were you living?

LC: Well, the three brothers lived in a flat, well, it was the upper floor or a house, it wasn't self contained, in Whalley Range, not Whalley Range, in Victoria Park, and one

TAPE 4: 29 minutes 15 seconds

of the brothers, the middle one, joined the Czech army, and when he moved out, I moved in, if you see what I mean, so we lived there, with the older one, with Paul, and as I said, he paid the rent and we provided the food and it worked.

RL: Were you still in touch with your parents by this time?

LC: No, I wrote to my mother that I was going to get married in April, and she still got that letter. In the event my husband decided to join up in the Czech army, and we decided to get married before that, and we got married on the 14th March. In the event they didn't want him, because he was over 30, they wanted younger people, and also he had had a sort of heart murmur, which never bothered him in the least, but you know they wanted younger people so he didn't, he was rejected, and he went into a reserved occupation.

So what was the question again?

RL: Contact with your parents ...

LC: Contact with my parents. Well, my mother heard that I was getting married, and in fact, I don't know who they were from, on the date when she thought we were getting married, she got an enormous bunch of red roses from somebody, I don't know who. But my father died in the December before, no in the October actually, but I only heard in the December. He died of cancer, he wasn't allowed to get to any hospital and to tell you the truth, he was lucky, it saved himself a lot of worse.

RL: So was this in Prague?

LC: That was in Prague. Yes. So I was still in touch, but when suddenly it stopped and we realised, she more or less wrote to say she had to go somewhere else, we didn't know what, but that was to Theresienstadt, and she was there for a little while and then she was sent east, and these are the documents I have shown you. And I, I mean, for many, many years I had no idea where she died, or when she died, until I heard about this kibbutz, and the rest I have told you already.

RL: Do you want to just put it onto film, how you discovered what had happened to her?

LC: Well, this kibbutz had all the card index from Theresienstadt and you have seen these little slips and apparently, on the day she was deported, they knew it was going east, but they didn't know where to, but the documentation said, well they said there was only one transport going east on that day, and it gives the day she went, so they knew where she had gone to, to a place called Maly Trostineckz, which is near Minsk. I had never heard of it at the time, and as you saw there was this letter, which would be worth having in your archives, it is in German, but, you know, and it said there were only four survivors. And he writes in that letter that when they arrived in Maly Trostineckz, the

TAPE 4: 33 minutes 6 seconds

trains, they separated the people who had skills to the ones who hadn't. Now my mother was 54, the only skill she had when we were still in Prague, you could take sort of conversion courses to something useful, if you know what I mean, and she learnt to make

corsets, a fat lot of good that was in a concentration camp, so obviously she was classed as not skilled, and apparently they were killed, they were gassed immediately, and buried in quick lime. And the only thing I can think is that that is the day on which she died, so that is all I know.

RL: Coming back to you, and you have got married now. What were you working at this point?

LC: At the time I was working in the ice cream factory, and that is when we got married, and not all that long afterwards ice cream was not allowed to be manufactured again, because it was war time, and so I lost my job. I then applied to a textile firm, Cocks and Edwards, they were called, in Mosely Street, and I worked there for a while, and then I really wanted to work part time or half day, and anyhow it was a slightly awkward position. The man I worked for knew that Franz was working in a textile business and he was afraid I would take all the addresses and things of customers. I wouldn't have dreamt of doing it, it was a different type of thing anyhow, but what with that and one thing after another, he wasn't willing to let me work part time, and I think he probably didn't mind that I went, although I mean, I got on alright, and I did my job ok, with no difficulty.

And I then got a job with, that was my nicest job, in publishing, there was a magazine called "Silk and Rayon", which was all on textile things and so on, and a very nice editor, and I worked there, and he gave me quite a bit of leeway with doing the layout and choosing the colours and so on, right up my street, I liked it very much and I worked there until I was eight months pregnant, and then I gave up.

RL: Who was the boss? Who were you working with?

LC: I can't remember his name at the moment.

RL: Where was the place?

LC: It was in one of the side streets off Albert Square, I can't say which one though. I can't think of his name though, shame, he died very young. But that was a really nice job and I enjoyed it. But you know, I worked until I was eight months pregnant and then by that time my husband had decided, he wanted, yes, well that was after the war, my eldest child was born in December 1945, so the war had finished.

One of the textile people from his home town had gone to Northern Ireland and started a factory there, because you know the government gave tax incentives and some sort of support to people who started to give employment to people in Wales, Pontypridd and in,

TAPE 4: 37 minutes 8 seconds

where was it, in Northern Ireland, it wasn't Five Mile Town, it was somewhere near there. So, and he had always said to Franz, come over, when the war is over, and we will

see if we can work together. So actually I was eight months pregnant and Franz went over there to see him, and he said, "Yes, what I could do with is somebody in Manchester to buy grey cloth," they were printers and dyers. Grey cloth is what comes just off the loom before it is bleached or anything, you see. So he wanted Franz to do that here in Manchester. Now, in those days, when you came back from, even Northern Ireland, you went through immigration, you see, so apart from the fact that he always said to me, was the only time he really wanted to die was on the way from Northern Ireland to Liverpool because of the rough seas, you know. Anyhow, he came back, and when he went to immigration, they looked at his Czech passport and they said, "Well, Mr Crewe, we presume you have finished your apprenticeship, we will give you four weeks to return to Czechoslovakia." Well, I remember Franz coming back, and I opened the door, he was as white as a sheet, and I said to him, "What is the matter?"

He said, "Let me come in and I will tell you."

So he told us that. Now it was quite interesting, in those days the immigration laws were very different, and if you had a child born here you could stay, so I had visions of trying to have that baby early, which wasn't so easy. Anyhow, we had one Czech friend here who was always full of talk and nothing much else and he said, "Oh, don't worry about it, I will send you to my solicitors." Hargreaves, Hargreaves and Hargreaves, I think they are still going, so we went to Hargreaves etc and they said, "Well, Mr Crewe, if the government says you have to go back, you'll have to go back." That was nice ... So then somebody said to us, "You go and see ..." I forget the name, it will come to me, at The Quakers, they were at The Quakers House, in, you know near Albert Square, and he will see to you. So here went me, with the big tummy, to see him, and I don't know why I can't remember his name, it's old age for you ...

TAPE 4: 39 minutes 52 seconds

RL: We will continue this story in a minute ...

LC: Ok.

TAPE 5

TAPE 5: 19 seconds

RL: So you were saying how you went to Hargreaves, Hargreaves and Hargreaves, and they told you there was nothing.

LC: That's right. So we went to the Quakers. And he said, "Don't worry, I will fix it for you that you will be able to stay here." And I was very relieved, and he did, he took it up and he did. Of course we were over the moon, and then Ivor was born and that was all right, you know, and I, he was only 18 months old when we travelled abroad and I made quite sure he had an English passport, British passport I should say, even if we hadn't at the time.

TAPE 5: 1 minutes 0 seconds

RL: Who was the man in the Quakers at the time who helped you?

LC: Mr Howard.

RL: And how had you been put onto the Quakers?

LC: It must have been one of our friends who told us about him. I mean if you say to any of my friends here, Mr Howard, they know immediately who he is, so you know, he is sort of a saint as far as we are concerned.

RL: Was that the first contact you had had with the Quakers?

LC: Yes ... yes ...

RL: Did you have any contact with the Jewish community in Manchester?

LC: At that time, not very much I don't think, no. Our friends were all the refugees, there were a lot of them here at that time, of course they all dispersed then, there are very few of them here now, you know, because after the war they went to America, Canada, London, whatever. We kept in touch with a few of them.

RL: Did you ever think of going elsewhere?

LC: Well, originally, we had thought, I had thought of going to America, particularly as my, at that time boyfriend, was hoping to go to America. That was before I knew anything about it. But I mean, once you were here, no, provided we could stay here, and we could then apply, after five years you could apply for naturalisation, which was granted to us.

RL: When did you get that?

LC: I would have to look it up. I have got it here somewhere.

RL: Well, we will look at that later.

LC: Yes ... ok.

RL: You said you went abroad when your baby was 18 months. Where did you go?

LC: Well, it will take another reel. My husband had an uncle who was in Theresienstadt, and because, well, towards the end of the war, when there was one train which was supposed to go to Switzerland. He had lost his wife, his daughters and his grandchildren in Theresienstadt, and he decided, what did he have to lose, he was 69, he would either get to Switzerland or he will go east, whatever. So he decided to do that.

TAPE 5: 3 minutes 35 seconds

Now, next to him on the train waiting to go was a woman, and the Nazis, in order that the refugees shouldn't look too bad and so on, distributed lipsticks to the women and tins of food in the carriage, and he got a tin of marmalade and he was told to share it with this woman. Now when they moved out, when the train moved out, he cried, because he had lost all his family there, and she consoled him, and, what do you know, they ended up in Switzerland, and they were put up in one of the resorts there, and he got very friendly with this woman, you see, and they decided to get married. Now he was married to her for eleven years, and much happier than he ever was with his first wife. She was very nice, because he was 70 by the time all this had happened, he was allowed to stay in Switzerland. And as a young man he had read some books, I have forgotten the name of the author, who had written about the Ticino, which is the Italian part of Switzerland and he was very enamoured with that and he thought he would like to go and settle there, it was nice and warm, the other side of The Alps and so they settled in place called Orselina which is above Lugano.

But the next thing, I am sort of jumping a little bit to tell you who they were. Now, he had, no, the first thing was that we were at some mutual friends, and one of them had a father who was in the camp, also in Theresienstadt. And, no, I am sorry, that is wrong, eliminate that, no, that's right. His father or his mother had died in Theresienstadt and these friends, the son rather, received a letter from a woman, from Switzerland, and she wrote to say that she was at the mother's bedside when she died, or the father, no I think it was the mother actually. She was actually a nurse, and that she was there, and she thought they might be interested to hear that she might be shortly going to marry, and the gentleman she was marrying came from a town in Czechoslovakia called Dvur Kralove, so we all looked at each other and said there was only one it could be. Shortly afterwards we got a letter from him, he was by then as I say in Orselina to say, he wants to get married again, and he wrote to Paul, to the older brother, who was sort of the head of the family in a way, did we think it was the right thing to do. So of course we wrote a letter back to say, not only do we approve whole heartedly, we even know who he was marrying, and he couldn't believe that you see, and we never let on, for quite a long time, and then the two of them were settled in Orselina and it was after the war and my older son was 18 months old and we decided to go and have a holiday there, you see, so that is the answer to your question, and we then told him how we knew, and it was very funny. And he was married to her for 11 years, very happy, and after he died she used to come and stay with us, quite often, usually for as much as six weeks, which was sometimes a bit much, but she was a very nice person, we liked her very much, she was really like a grandmother to the children too.

RL: So you had your first baby. Where were you living at this point?

LC: Where?

RL: Where?

TAPE 5: 7 minutes 43 seconds

LC: Here in Didsbury, in Ocre Avenue, well first of all still in the flat, but when he was quite small we were looking for a house, and we found a little semi-detached in Ocre Avenue, which is just down the road from here, and we were there for seven years. Meanwhile I had another child, and then we moved here, and this was actually built for us, it's ... this was all one estate, right up to Palatine, with a derelict house, and the builder who bought it divided it into, one two three four five six houses, and, so we bought that. And I have been here since 1953, it will be 50 years this summer.

RL: Tell me when your children were born and their names.

LC: Sorry ...

RL: When they were born and their names.

LC: Their names?

RL: Yes.

LC: Well, Ivor was born in, on 15th December 45, he was then called Ivo, I V O, because we had expected to go back to Czechoslovakia, which turned out not to be a good idea, so he was then, because everyone called him Evo or something like that, it sounded like Eva, so we called him Ivor and he has remained Ivor every since. And the younger one, Andy, well Andrew, was born in 48, in July 18th 48 and that is it.

RL: Were they named after anyone?

LC: No, if Andy had been a girl he would have been called Ada, after my mother, but since he was a boy, you know, we just gave him a name we liked, you know, that is all. Franz's parents were called Ludwig and Hedwig, and you can't put that on any child, so we didn't. My father was called Franz like my husband and my mother as I say was Ada, so there you are, and there isn't, and the only male name near to Ada is Adolf, and for obvious reasons, that is not a name we favoured.

We made one big mistake; we didn't talk German to them. We thought they might grow up with an accent if they did, and they both said it's a great pity, particularly the older one said it would have been a good thing to speak German to us, but we didn't, we didn't like the idea.

RL: Did you ever speak German?

LC: Less and less. I mean, originally of course, we did speak German to each other, but I know the children say that they remembered, if for instance we went to visit friends in Yorkshire or something, they sat at the back and we sat at the front, we used to talk

TAPE 5: 10 minutes 41 seconds

German to each other, and they said as time went on it was less and less German and more and more English, and of course once the children went to school particularly. And then in the last thirty years or more, we never spoke German to each other, we always spoke English.

RL: Was that a conscious thing? With the children obviously it was, but between yourselves?

LC: Well, it evolved. In fact it is very interesting you know, those of my friends who are still alive who didn't have any children, are apt to speak far more German than those of our friends who had children, you know. I mean now, I can still speak German, but if I go to Germany to visit Nina whom I have talked about before it takes me a day or two before I become fluent, but she says she is amazed at how much I still do remember.

RL: What school did the children go to?

LC: They both went to William Hulme Prep, again we wanted them to be with children where they would speak good English, rather than perhaps Lancashire. The older one went to Manchester Grammar and the younger one went to William Hulme, which was the wrong school for him, but we didn't know it then, it was too military, too structured, he was too much of an individualist and he hated school. The other one loved school, they were both totally different, totally different.

RL: Did they belong to any clubs?

LC: Yes, yes. Well, when they went to prep school, as I told you, we didn't really keep anything Jewish at all, and one day there was a teacher there who called me in and she said to me, she said, "What are your children? Are they Jewish? Are they Christian?" I said, "Oh no, they are Jewish".

She said, "Well they come on the Jewish holidays." And we had a long discussion about it. She was married to an Austrian, a catholic and she said to me, "You know, I know what it was like in Austria and in Germany but you can't do that here. In England they have to belong somewhere and it would be better if they did". So, we were none too happy about it, simply because in a way it was quite alien to us, you know, and we had a good friend, a doctor from Czechoslovakia, and he agreed, and he said "You really have to do that here", because the social life involved so much about the church or the synagogue and they needed to belong somewhere. So he said, "I will tell you what, you join the reform, you will be able to tolerate that", because I really couldn't have fitted in at all into an orthodox, that may be wrong of me, but it is the way I grew up you see. So we, we had some friends, they were Sephardi Jewish, actually we had to share a room when Andy was born with a woman, she was Syrian, the poor girl, she had a breach birth and was in great pain, and I tried to consol her and I had to speak French to her, in the middle of labour, and my French was never up to much, so you can imagine. Anyhow, they were very grateful that I took a little bit of interest in her and so on and they said,

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“Well they belong to The Jackson’s Row and they would introduce us and we would need a second sponsor, and one of the children in Ivor’s class was from a German Jewish family who did belong, he is a dentist, he was a dentist here and they would sponsor us as well.

So off we went to see Goldberg, he was a nice man. And, actually, yes, these people, the Sephardi ones I was talking about, they said, yes, they had spoken to Goldberg, but we must get married there before he would accept us, which was a lie, because he was not like that at all, so we said, “Oh, all right.” You know, so we went to see Goldberg and he said yes, he would marry us in one of the little rooms he has in the synagogue. I said to Franz, “You know we have been married for fourteen years, you will make an honest woman of me on our anniversary”, so we did, and Franz was quite moved, and I am sorry to say it is water off a duck’s back, I mean, it was fine, but it was a ritual to me, really of not very much significance. But, we were Jewish, and the boys both went to cheder and they were both Bar Mitzvah. So, you know, I mean it is not that we were any way anti whatever, it is just that we were not used to it, Franz a little bit more than me, but I am not at all you see. So that is that.

RL: Did the boys have a bris when they were born?

LC: Oh yes, yes.

Even my grandchildren all had a bris, even though the mother wasn’t Jewish, and my son said, “Yes,” he wants it.

RL: How did that come about? How did you organise that with not having really contact at that stage?

LC: Well, you see, we did go to synagogue occasionally. You can’t send your children to Cheder and never do anything.

RL: I mean when they were born? Before that ... your children ...

LC: Oh, you mean the bris ... my children. Well, we wanted it, we were still Jewish, you know, just secular but we still, Franz particularly wanted that and I was quite happy about it. The first one, our doctor did it, Dr Friedlander, I don’t know if you know him, do you? no? He was a very, very popular doctor from Germany, Jewish obviously, and far more observant than any of us, and it was a very funny story, because, well the first one, yes he was done, yes he was also done by our own doctor, who was a Jewish doctor, he was also from the continent, not Friedlander, and he did the circumcision, and that was that. And the second one, Friedlander did it, and there was this girl, the Syrian girl, in the same room with me and her child was born on the same day as me, and of course, they

were far more orthodox, so they had a mohel to do it, and I wanted Friedlander to do it, and he came back to me and said, "It didn't help you at all, they were benching over him

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as well" you know they were praying over him as well. It was quite funny, so both of them were circumcised, yes. And as I say, we sent them to cheder, and they had a Bar Mitzvah, so that, we felt they could choose what they wanted to do when they were grown up.

Now, the older one at Manchester Grammar, he went to Jacksons Row Youth Club, and there he met a very nice girl, when they were 15, and I remember he came home and said, "She ... one or two who are prettier, but you know I have always got something to say to talk to her about." And they still have, after 33 years or whatever. That is the other picture; she is like a daughter to me, a lovely girl.

RL: What is her background?

LC: Her father was a GP in North Manchester, he was called Dr Gadian, and the mother was born Alexander, they were quite a well known family in the north. And as a funny little by line, when the wedding had been arranged and seating had to be done and all that, they invited us, "Will you come on Sunday morning and we will sort it all out?" So we went there on the Sunday morning and Golda the mother came, with a plate of some very nice circular rolls with smoked salmon and cream cheese. I said, "Oh. these are nice."

She said, "Don't tell me you don't know what they are!"

So I said, "I have never seen them before."

And he said, "Good God, what is our daughter marrying into!" So, that was about the bagels. We got very friendly with them, we went on innumerable holidays with them, it was a lovely relationship, I am still very much in touch with the mother, the father has died.

RL: Where did they marry?

LC: They married at Jacksons Row, yes.

RL: And then your younger son?

LC: The younger one, he tried the Jacksons Row Youth Club, but because he went to William Hulme, and there was only one other Jewish child there, which of course we didn't know these things, he didn't get into Manchester Grammar, he was not academic, the older one, well he is Vice Chancellor of Essex University, so he got very far, but the younger one was not academic, he was always the business man, from a very, very early age and he didn't know anybody and you know they are very cliquish, you know they are, they have their own friends, all the ones from the high school and from Manchester Grammar and he didn't really find any company there and he really wasn't very happy at

that, and he moved then in more non Jewish than Jewish circles. It just happened that way, it was not deliberate in any way, and he married an Irish girl eventually, we didn't

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think it would last, and it didn't, but they had three children, and she is a very good mother, and we couldn't say anything, but it didn't work out, she was a difficult woman.

RL: Has he remarried since?

LC: Yes and no. He has a partner, again non Jewish. And he has been with her for nine years, or nearly ten years, so it is as good as. She is nice enough.

RL: What occupations did they go into after school? What did they do after school?

LC: Ivor went to Oxford, he got a first, and in PPE, he was very interested in politics, and he became a professor of politics, and he also was at Nuffield College for a year, he was at LSE for some time, and then became professor at Essex University, or senior reader and then became professor there as I say, and eventually became pro Vice Chancellor and after three years became Vice Chancellor. And he has just been elected as, I think they call it President, of Universities UK, which is the former Vice Chancellors and head of college sort of circle, I don't know what you would call it, society or whatever, so he is going to be President as from September. And ...

RL: What children does he have?

LC: He had one girl, and two boys. The other one had three boys, there is only one girl in the whole lot, so we are hoping that this coming baby, I would like it if it was a girl, because it would be nice to have another girl in the family, but they don't mind what they have.

RL: Is your granddaughter the only one that is married?

LC: Yes ... yes ...

RL: And who did she marry?

LC: It is very interesting. We took them, we took her and her parents to Czechoslovakia, to Prague, I think I told you about it, and we also went to one or two other places, and there was a long conversation about Jewish and not Jewish and so on and there was sort of, with all the troubles in Israel and so on, and in a way I was sorry that Andy hadn't married a Jewish girl, but it just happened, and I said to her, more or less as a throw away thing, "Maybe it is as well that they are not Jewish, it might save them a lot of trouble in the future."

And she said, "Grandma, how can you say that, with all the Jews have gone through, we have got to keep it up." She said, "I could never marry a non Jew."

I said to her, "Deborah never is a very long time." And she married a non Jew who is very pro Jewish anyhow; he is a very nice man. If she has a boy she will have him circumcised, and she has joined a synagogue in London, so, and he is quite happy about

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that. I don't know if she goes very often, but she wants a Jewish education for her child, which is quite interesting, you know.

And the others aren't married. None of their girlfriends or Andy's children have had Jewish girlfriends, so I think as the orthodox Jews feel, that the haemorrhage of Jews is greater than what Hitler did, I don't know, but, there it is.

You never know how these things will turn out. I mean I found this, for instance, with cousins of mine who were half Jewish, whose children are very interested in Judaism, and one or two of them want to remain, want to become Jewish, so you never know how these things will work out, you know.

RL: What did your younger son do after school?

LC: My younger son?

RL: Yes ...

LC: Well, my younger son didn't get very good degrees, he is a very intelligent young man, not so young now, he is middle aged. But he was never interested in studying, he has always been commercial. I will tell you a very funny story, he hated school and if he could skive off he would do, and if he could not do his homework he would get away with it if he could. And I got very upset about it, and in the end I said, you have got to go and do this and that and I knew he hadn't done his homework and so on, and I said there is no pocket money, there is no sweets this week. If you don't work, you don't earn. But he was amazingly unconcerned about it, because he had a very sweet tooth. Years and years later he told me, what he did with the pocket money he got, he bought a pound or two pounds of sweets and divided them into little bags, calling them Crewe bags and sold them at school at a profit. I was very embarrassed when I heard, but there you are, so there was a budding business man, I don't think he made much money with it, but it kept him in sweets if nothing else, you know, and when he finished at William Hulme, he got two A levels, not terribly good ones, and universities wouldn't be very interested. He applied to several and didn't get it, the only one who accepted him was in Ireland, the name just escapes me. It will come to me in a minute, in Northern Ireland. We had friends in Ireland, they said for God's sake don't send him there, he will take to drink, it is a dreadful place, don't let him go there. So, we said look, that has not got a good reputation, although it was part of Dublin University, it was a border town, there is always trouble there, it will come to me later. So we said, "Well, what about trying for one of the other universities now that they were polytechnics." So he applied to Leeds Polytechnic to do, what did he do? I don't think it was called business studies, it was

something similar, and they took him. Yes, the only university in Ireland, who on the application form they say you may state if you are Catholic or Protestant, so we said to ourselves, if he puts in Jewish, the Catholics will prefer him to the Protestants and the Protestants will prefer him to the Catholics, and sure enough they wanted him to come. It

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annoys me that I can't think of the name of it. Anyhow he decided not to go there, and he went to the Polytechnic where he got an HND, and he quite enjoyed it there. The amusing thing is that his youngest son also went to it, but now it's called a University and he got a BA. You know, it is quite funny, and he did that, and he came home, and he went to America to teach football in some youth, Jewish holiday camps, which was being paid for what he liked to do best. Because he was always football mad. And he really wasn't all that interested in what job he would get, anyway he had an offer as a trainee, a management trainee, in a firm called Cohen's Smoked Salmon, in London.

So off he went. He didn't really bother about much else, when he came back he went to Cohen's Smoked Salmon. He had been there for two days and he rang us up and he said, "This is not the thing for me". He was worried about what his father would say, but he said, "They are not going to train me, I can tell you now, it's not that sort of firm." So Franz, instead of being very annoyed said, "Right, come home, we will see what we can do." So he came home, and, you know, he didn't quite know where to apply or what, anyhow, a friend of my neighbours, worked as a store manager at Marks and Spencer, and he said, "Why don't you apply there?"

And Andy said, "I will never get a job there, I have only got an HND and they want much better people than me."

So both Franz and said me said, "It cost you half an hour's time to write a letter and a tuppenny stamp." So he wrote. And yes, they said to him, you have first to go to the local store, so he went to the store in Manchester and the manager was very nice to him but he said, "Do apply by all means, but I must warn you, there is about 1,000 who want to come and they take three." So he didn't want to write, and we said, "You must." And we pushed him. And he wrote, and he got an interview, and he got a second interview, and I always remember he came back and he said, "They asked me such peculiar questions." They said, for instance, "How would you solve the Irish question?" So he said to them, "Look, I am only a young man, I know nothing about politics, the best brains haven't been able to sort it out, how can you expect me to do it?" And I think they liked that, and they took him. And so he was with Marks and Spencer's and he made good progress there, and eventually, he always said he wanted to be in the buying department, he was first in, the first job he had was in Huddersfield, where the manager had never had a trainee before, and he was very unhappy there. And we said to him, "You have got to stick it, if you were a few years younger you would have had to go in the army for two years, so consider it your army service. You have got to stick it." So he stuck it for six months and then he was transferred to Harrogate, where the manager was a totally different type, and he loved it there, he really liked it, and after that he went to London to one of the big stores, I think the tenth biggest store, he was there for a while, doing quite well and then he said he would like to go to head office, which he did, into

the buying department, and he was there for two years or so, and he came home one day, and he said, "Look" by that time my husband and I had formed our own firm and we both worked in it. And he said, "If anything happened to dad you would want me to take over the firm, why not let me come now?" So we said, "We can't pay you what Marks and Spencer's pay you." We were only a small firm at the time. I said, "I don't mind, I

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can live at home for the time being ... and so on". He said, "There, in the buying office, I would have to wait for dead man's shoes, it takes too long." So up he came and fitted in beautifully. Father and son got on splendidly with no problems at all, it was really amazing. And he has now expanded the firm, very much so, and in three weeks time we are having a celebration for fifty years of the firm.

RL: What was the firm that you started? What was that?

LC: I am sorry ... ?

RL: What was this firm that you ...

LC: What were we doing?

RL: Yes, what were you doing?

LC: It's a long story. We'd ... Franz worked for this firm in Belfast, that I, near Belfast, that I mentioned to you, and this man, this Czech owner, employed another man as well, also from the area my husband came from, and he said he wanted him to come to Manchester and settle in Manchester and do the same that Franz was doing but for furnishing fabrics, Franz was more for dresses and so on, you know it is quite a different department in a way, so they were there worked there for a while, and that was just after Ivor was born, Franz in fact, when he started working for this man that he wanted me to come in and work with him. And I said, "No, I am not going to, I am waiting until whatever children we have go to school, because I know when I grew up I was nearer and closer to my nanny than I was to my mother and I don't want that to happen to me." And he accepted it, so then this other fellow was more or less foisted onto him and they worked along side for a while and then they decided they would make, start a firm of their own. Which was called Goldsmith Crewe, by that time we were still Krug and this fellow Goldschmidt said that there is a little bit of prejudice against foreign sounding firms, it would be better if we had English sounding names, for me it would be easy, instead of Goldschmidt I will be Goldsmith, it is neither here nor there you see. But for us it was Krug, spelt K-R-U-G, it wasn't a good idea, we were crutch and Cruge and God knows what. So Franz and I sat down to discuss what we would call ourselves. I wasn't keen on it, but I could see the point, and I thought that perhaps for the children it might be better. And he said, "What about Crook?"

And I said, "I am not going to be Mrs Crook by any means."

"What about Carter?"

“I can only think of Carter’s little liver pills” , which you won’t know I don’t think. So eventually I said to him, “What about Crewe? It sounds so much like Krug.” He said, “There is a good idea.” So Crewe we became and for the children I think it is better. You know. And Ivor Crewe and Andy Crewe sound a lot better than Krug.

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So, we then, as I say, they started on their own and originally we were a scarf firm, now in those days all the women wore scarves, particularly the working class women, all wore headscarves you see, and long scarves and what have you. Now, how we got onto these scarves is quite interesting, when he had his contacts with the grey cloth people, they were approached by a firm, a brewery who were selling a lot of beer in Africa, and they wanted a scarf with their logo on it to sell to Africa. So we did that, the people in Ireland did the hemming which is one of the things you do in Ireland, and, so that is how that started, and from then on we did other scarves, and then I got very involved because I am good at design and at colours and I was very much involved in that, and you know I joined the firm. And the partnership eventually broke up for a number of reasons, and both parts were much happier, a bit like a divorced couple. And so we carried on, now, scarves and this sort of thing became less popular, you know, people had anoraks, and didn’t need that sort of thing, they still had long scarves, but we needed to find other things. So, one of the things we were doing were some little knitted scarves which again, particularly working class women, used to wear inside their coats to keep their necks warm. And that was manufactured by a firm, another refugee firm in Pontypridd, well when we parted, he did one thing and we did another thing, and Franz got in touch with this firm again, and he said have you got any leftovers of this particular yarn that you could make me these little scarves, I remember the number they had to this day, so does my son. They said, “Yes we can.” And he said, “Well I will buy some black and some white and you can use up all the colours you’ve got and I will buy them cheap off you.” Which was a very good business for them, and in fact you know how these things are, in fact they discovered they had far more than they ever thought. So we did all those, and they sold very well, and we sold to all the big firms, particularly the co-op who bought them, Woolworth and so on. And it took off from there you see, and when my son came in eventually we did other things. Scarves were not always the right thing, and we did, you name it. So now we do very few scarves because they are not really the thing, and he has expanded into a certain amount of knitwear, he has got a department of that, and swimwear, which he is very good at, and his partner is very good at designing things as well. He then bought a firm who were just about to go bankrupt and he bought it comparatively reasonably, who made socks, and although it is not doing so well now because of the imports, you know it is still going. And he built it up from that, and thank goodness he is doing well.

RL: Well we will just stop here at the end of the tape ...

TAPE 5: 39 minutes 36 seconds

END OF TAPE 5.

TAPE 6.

When your husband split up from Goldsmith, did the name change of the firm?

LC: Yes. It was not a very amicable divorce ... if you like. He wanted to keep Goldsmith Crewe as his name, we had in the meantime started another firm within our firm, you see Goldsmith Crewe always sold to the wholesale, now wholesale was getting smaller and smaller, so we started another company called Continental Textiles, because

TAPE 6: 1 minute 4 seconds

you couldn't deal with both of them at the same time, so Continental Textiles dealt with the retail, so when they parted, we kept Continental Textiles and they kept Goldsmith Crewe. So we have been going as Continental Textiles for the last fifty years now.

RL: And did you actually have a factory that made up the ...

LC: No, it was all imported. No, well I mean, we had a little bit but you couldn't print even then in England, it wasn't viable, I mean you had a few scarf firms but they were very exclusive. You know a scarf costing I don't know how many pounds, but that wasn't our business. You can't live on that, and we were more middle ground and lower. So, it was in fact why there was a dispute in the firm, my husband was much more enterprising, and we imported from Italy to start with, but Italy was all hand printed, screen printing, which is expensive to make. At the same time you could have roller prints made in Japan which were much, much cheaper, and he, his partner was afraid of ordering goods which you have to pay as they are being shipped, before you see them, there was no reason for it, everybody did it. So that was one of the reasons, so anyhow, we imported, we did do some Italian ones but they were very expensive compared to Japan. So I used to go with him and we bought a little bit then, and we used to buy things that had already been in Italy for two or three years, you weren't doing any damage to anybody else, and we altered them a little, and I was quite good at doing it, and we got a colourist who did the different colour ways and so on, and that is what we did. And also of course the stuff that was made in England. The sock factory didn't come into it at the time, because that was when my son, my son bought it - not ourselves.

RL: What were you buying from England?

LC: I don't think very much. Yes, we did these little knitted scarves, and stoles and ponchos, all knitted stuff because there was the factory in Wales, and we, yes, that is what we bought here. But the printed stuff, it really wasn't possible, it wasn't commercial. So that was Japan, and then Hong Kong, and now it is China, it is quite interesting. And I went with him to Japan, it was great, he was 65 then and I was 55. And we went and we talked to them, and I was fascinated, because you sit in front of a whole panel of people. In Japan it's different you see, you have one man who is for

transport, one is for dying, one is for weaving, one is for packing, and you have this whole array and they are chattering away in Japanese and we sit there like two dummies. Besides they were very surprised to see a woman you know, they had difficulty if I wanted to go to the toilet, you know there weren't any for women, so somebody had to stand outside, you know, it was quite funny. What was also interesting was that when, I dealt with the colourists mainly, and although I spoke no Japanese and she spoke no English, we communicated, and I could, you know there were all sorts of ways you could make yourself understood without words. So that was quite interesting.

RL: Did your husband belong to any clubs or organisations?

TAPE 6: 5 minutes 3 seconds

LC: He was persuaded to join the Bnei Brith, but he didn't particularly like it and he left it, otherwise, no, not really. The tennis club I told you about.

RL: What about the AJR?

LC: I'm sorry?

RL: The AJR.

LC: Oh the AJR we joined, yes.

RL: When did you join that?

LC: Oh, as soon as it came out, we were quite interested in it. And I am still taking an interest in it, obviously.

RL: Did you use to attend meetings?

LC: Yes, yes. There weren't very many in Manchester, you know and we did go to London for them. But I mean, I went to one where I signed up for this. So yes, yes I do support that. They tried to have a sort of club for, I don't know if it was just for Berliners or whatever, yes, something like that, but it didn't come off. It is so long since I lived there, I mean I was 16 when I left, so what is my interest really. And I find after all these years, if you haven't found your friends by now you never will. So, I didn't, I told him, the organiser that I wouldn't be coming, I said I don't think there is much sense in it for me. I have a feeling it has gone to sleep anyhow. It is too late for that.

RL: Have your friends changed over the years? What kind of social circle have you mixed in over the years and has it changed?

LC: Yes. Because we are dying off, or we have emigrated, as I said originally we were mainly the Czech club or the refugee lot, and they dispersed and we kept in touch with the ones who were here, lots of them, but sort of little by little it diminished, and I have

English Jewish friends and some of the refugee friends who are still alive, you know they are all nearing 90, yes, two of them will be 90, one this year and one next year. I have my sister in law here, one of them, the others immigrated to Canada, and that is about it. My circle is not enormous, but to be honest with you I prefer a few good friends to just attending acquaintances, I have acquaintances, you know, so I am happy enough about that.

RL: Do you have any close non Jewish friends?

LC: Not that close, no, but friends, and I go on outings with them and we visit each other, not really, not many. One I had, but she died recently, I was devastated, she really

TAPE 6: 8 minutes 28 seconds

was a close, I had known her two years, that is all, but we were very close, and I have another one who lives opposite with whom I'm close, so it isn't as if I haven't got any English, Jewish friends, but non Jewish friends, not many. It isn't so easy, you know, it sounds easier than it is, because where do you meet them? I go to some classes where I meet them but, it's nice to talk to them but it isn't close, no. We have some very good and interesting conversations when we meet but I mean, you know how it is, I am at the moment I am personally held responsible for what is happening in Israel, and although to be honest I am not a friend of Sharon, I think it is not the right thing to do, but I don't live there so its not for me to say really, it is just my feeling, but nevertheless in non Jewish circles I am responsible for what happens. Poor Palestinians and so on, they have a point, I mean I am not denying them some rights, but obviously my sympathies lie with the other side, I mean if I put it to you that way, I have always, well I am not a Zionist, but I have regarded Israel as a sort of insurance policy. My sons can't understand it, they say, "Do you really think you would ever have to leave here", so I say, "You don't know what happens in this life." Well, that is gone, like all insurance companies, so that is the answer to that.

RL: Yes. Did ... What was your father's opinion of Zionism at that point of time when you were living in Germany and Prague?

LC: Well, when I was living in Germany, there were girls in my class who were Zionists, you could always tell who they were because they wore their hair behind their ears, it was very funny, there were certain things which showed you as being Zionist. And I wasn't exactly Zionist, because with my background I couldn't be, I mean I thought it was a good idea but I had no great desire to live there or whatever. As I mentioned to you we went to this Oneg Shabbat and we used to sing songs, sort of Israeli songs or pro Israel songs, or Palestine as it was in those days. And I was happy enough with that, but at 15 I was not an ardent Zionist, there was nothing in my background to do that, you know. We were so assimilated. But I had a very close friend who went to Israel and I kept in touch with her until she died.

RL: How did you feel with the founding of the state?

LC: Sorry?

RL: How did you feel with the founding of the state?

LC: Oh, we were delighted, I mean we were sitting here on tenterhooks. I mean, we were very supportive, very supportive, and I am to this day, but at the moment I won't contribute to the government. I pay quite substantial to the hospital, to the university, to certain things, rather, because I don't agree with certain things that are going on there. I mean it has now got to such a state where you can't get out of it any more, but ...

RL: Have you been to Israel?

TAPE 6: 12 minutes 4 seconds

LC: Yes, but only once.

RL: When did you go?

LC: I am trying to think what year it was. There was a Japanese, there was some Japanese who set off some bombs at the airport when we were there, but I can't tell you the year, I am terrible at that, I really can't, it was a long time ago.

RL: How did you feel when you arrived there? How did you find it?

LC: Oh, I was fascinated. I was fascinated, yes. Oh, very pro, yes. No doubt, very proud in a way of what they have achieved. So you see, I am more Jewish than I appear, just not religious.

RL: How would you class yourself in the terms of nationality?

LC: Well, when people ask me I say, "I am a central European cocktail", which is about the best answer I can give because my grandparents came from diverse places and central Europe is really, in a way it is the old Austria, but I mean I certainly never considered myself Austrian, by no means. And otherwise I find it hard to answer. If I am abroad I am very British. When I am at home I am often critical. But I mean, I feel, I don't know how to put it, I feel quite British, but I don't think that I am ever fully accepted, if you can put it that way. The feeling is more on my side than on the other side, people are very nice, I mean, I have excellent relations with my neighbours who have now moved south and I go and stay with them and they stay with me, you know, so they were good friends. This is one of the ones I hadn't thought of, and my Indian neighbours now are very nice, no reason other than to like them. They are very different; we don't have any social contact very much, although I was invited to the wedding of his sister which was nice. I have a fairly new neighbour next door who has just invited me for his 39th birthday party tonight, so you know, that is fine. It is a happy enough relationship, but, you know, with lots of them I say, I get on very well with them, but they always consider

me, of course I have an accent, that doesn't help either, although they all say they like it, but I don't. I am still the immigrant, you know, and always will be, that is obvious. You need to have gone to school here, I think, in fact I will tell you, everybody laughs at me, but my one hang up about the whole thing, I feel I have been very lucky in every way, but my one hang up is the fact that I was too old to go to school here and too young to have had any vocational education. That is what I feel, I feel that more. I say I have never been to university, and they say, "So what!" You know, I feel that a bit, what I would have liked to have been I couldn't be, I have always been able to write quite well, and I would have liked to have gone to school of journalism, either, well there was one in Vienna, but of course that was barred to me, and the one in London, my English wasn't good enough, and in any case I had to earn a living, I couldn't suddenly take time off, but that is what I would have liked to do. And I have one grandson who works for The Times, perhaps he has got my genes.

TAPE 6: 16 minutes 17 seconds

RL: It is coming out in the next generation.

LC: I'm sorry?

RL: It is coming out in the next generation.

LC: Yes, it often does, it often does.

RL: How do you feel towards Germany and the Germans?

LC: Well, that is quite interesting, I have a sort of dateline, if you like, now I am 82, anybody who is younger than 75 I have no objections to, it wasn't them. Anybody above that I don't want to know, they have been very nice, but I don't want to know. But, this is quite interesting, you see, nearly, nearly not all, but nearly all the continental or German Jews here are not anti German with the present generation, whereas my English Jewish friends wouldn't dream of going to Germany, right. I have been a number of times. Apart from anything else I have been invited by the German town council on a visit, bringing my husband with me, and we were, I mean they are really bending over backwards. I get a pension from Germany, which is actually my husband's pension because I never worked in Germany, but he, although he worked in Czechoslovakia, the Germans took over the, you know you paid into social, you know, like social payments, and the Germans took over the responsibility for that, so he got a pension and I get it as his widow. I also get a very, very small pension for, instead of child support, if you like, you know how you used to get £5 or whatever it was, I have forgotten, so I get a little, it is very little it is about £28 a month, but my pension comes to about £300 a month, tax free. So I have no objection, and I mean whenever I have been to Germany to visit my friend, I also have got a cousin there, people of the next generation cannot understand how it all happened. And it is hard to understand, because they were quite a sophisticated country, mass hysteria, all sorts of reasons for it, and I can only say that I have had more than a friendly welcome there, and they are very conscious of it. If you ever went to

Berlin, you will see, near to the great, the big department store, the underground, there is a huge tablet, and it says, "Lest We Forget", and it names all the concentration camps. And the children are taught at school and so on. I think the third generation is beginning to get a bit fed up with being held responsible, who can blame them, I mean who can blame them, I mean, I often say that to my friends who can't understand how I can go to Germany, I say, "Would you like your grandchildren to be punished for what you did?"

RL: What was your first trip back there for?

LC: My first trip was to see my friend Nina, who meanwhile had been to England. Half skeleton, and we fattened her up a bit, and I went to see her. My husband went to Italy and while he was there I made a detour to Germany.

RL: How did you feel being back there the first time?

TAPE 6: 20 minutes 19 seconds

LC: It is a funny feeling. I mean she, she and her at that time husband, took me around, I wanted to see the old place where I lived, and the school, it has all shrunk. You remember the school as being a great big thing and you find out it isn't really, because we grew. And her friends were very nice, obviously, I mean. Her husband died and she now has a man friend whose father was an admiral who was pensioned off early because he wasn't a Nazi, so you know it's who you meet. You know I have met, particularly in Austria, I don't like the Austrians, I am quite happy about the Germans, but I don't like the Austrians, I don't think they have really come to terms with what they did, and they were worse than the Germans, because Hitler was Austrian as well, and we have met when we were in Switzerland, we met, I don't know if they were Austrians or Germans now, and they were saying, something came up about Hitler and the war, and their husbands died at the front, and Franz said to them, "And you still think that Hitler was a good man?"

Another time when I was in Berlin, I mentioned before, I was invited by the town council, and among other things they took us on a tour, everybody on the bus had to tell them where they had lived before, and they took us on a whole tour of where everybody had lived, and on another tour we went to East Berlin, and we had a West German guide until we came to Check Point Charlie, and he had to leave then, and we were told not to take any newspapers or magazines, it was still under, you know, communist rule, before the wall came down. And we then got an East German guide, she was a real tartar of a woman, and she was going to show us where the poor Russians who died while liberating Berlin, where they died and so on, and my husband couldn't help himself and he said, "And will you also take us to the place where there is a memorial to all the people you killed?" And she went red in the face and nobody else said a word, she took us to this Russian cemetery, and she said oh that is in a different place you see. When we got back into West Germany they all said, "We are glad you said it." And he said, "You were the cowards, why didn't you say anything?" You know. I mean, it was silly; I was quaking in my boots when he said it.

RL: Have you been inside your old home?

LC: I am sorry ...

RL: Have you ever been inside your old home?

LC: Not in Berlin, the house was partially bombed and rebuilt, and instead of having the sumptuous flats it was all made into three bedroom flat and this sort of thing, so I wasn't inside there. But when we went to, when I went to Prague, I went to the place where we lived there, which was very shabby now and same with my husband, no, it was terrible, I wasn't in my old house. It wouldn't have been the same as I say, it looks very much the same as it did before but it is all been divided.

RL: I know you spoke about feeling that you are a central European ...

TAPE 6: 24 minutes 21 seconds

LC: Yes ...

RL: Can you define it a little bit more. How is that different to being British? Or what is the difference?

LC: Well, the difference is this – I grew up in Berlin, and as a little girl I was German. When we were denationalised, as I told you, we became stateless, which is a terrible thing to be, and we went to Prague where my father came from, my mother really came from Vienna and my father really came from Prague, so I mean I was German because I was a little girl in a German school, but I couldn't be patriotic, I mean the Nazis came when I was 11 and there was already lots of trouble, Nazi trouble and so on before that, so I really couldn't say that I felt a proud German you see. I didn't live in Czechoslovakia for long enough, I didn't speak the language, I had to learn it, so, you know, I wasn't really. I don't know if you ever heard Rabbi Gryn talk about his youth, and he was in a very similar position, you know.

And here in England, yes I do feel at home here, and I do feel British in many ways, and I do feel very happy here, but it is not quite the same as having grown up here. Again, if I had been to school here it might have been a bit more like that. It is very interesting, my children, my son, the one who is at Essex, he is totally, feels totally British, completely. The younger one actually doesn't, he said he is always aware of the background in some ways, he said he, I mean he hasn't said it recently, but not all that many years ago, he said, "You know I remember the holocaust practically every day", and yet he was married to two non Jewish, one an Irish and one an English one well a Scottish one, he is not married to her but it is the same as. So, do you know, it is quite interesting.

RL: Did you ever discuss your experiences with your children?

LC: Well, we wrote the book.

RL: Is that quite recently though?

LC: No. That's - I would have to look it up. Well my husband has been dead for eight years, so, I think it will be about 12 years since we wrote it, something like that.

RL: As children growing up were they aware of?

LC: Oh yes, oh yes, they were, you see this is not like we have been in a concentration camp. I know people in the camps, I have got one friend, and my sister in law, they didn't want to talk about it, I knew their stories, they told me, told nobody else, they were close friends, my sister in law is the same, and my cousins from Vienna and so on. But, yes they knew all about it, I mean I told them obviously the school story, which of course is something they can comprehend.

TAPE 6: 27 minutes 43 seconds

I tell you what is quite interesting, they each, we gave them each a book, and of course they were much smaller then, and we said, "Put it away and read it when you are grown up" and so on, and of course they did read it, and one of them said to me, he reread it quite recently, he is the one who works at the Times, and each one of them in turn came and said to me, "My teacher said can we borrow the book." And they read bits out of it, probably relevant to children, I wouldn't be surprised if it was the school story that is of greatest interest to the children, so oh yes, they knew all about it.

RL: Do you think your experiences affected the way you brought up your children?

LC: I don't think so. Because I mean I said to you, I didn't want a nanny, for personal reasons. No, it didn't, except for that, again I told you the story how I was told they should be brought up either Christian or Jewish, so that made a difference obviously. But I mean, I couldn't give them a Jewish education, I mean I wouldn't know how to do a Seder night, although we always have one, but not my doing. And the older one as I say, because his wife comes from a Jewish family, so they keep a little bit more, and the children are more aware, but the other ones have a non Jewish mother and Andy is not interested in religion either, he is quite Jewish, and as I have told you, about the holocaust and this sort of thing. And he has both, Jewish and non Jewish friends, but his children are not really interested, they don't feel Jewish, well how could they.

RL: You say you have a Seder night – when did that start? How did that start?

LC: That started with my daughter in law so to speak. Well even before they were married we were always invited to Seder night and now her sister lives here, she lives in Colchester and they take it in turns and I always go. But Andy has only been once, he said he can't take three days out of work and so on, so he has been once, it is also a little

bit strange for him, I don't know whether he will come, it is in Manchester this year, whether he will come or not, I am not sure, he might do.

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

LC: Have done ... ?

Oh yes, they must have done. I mean the very fact that as I say I would have liked a better education. I know the people here have, I have an acquaintance here, she was at the holocaust day, she was talking, one of them, Gisela, you know her, now she took an Open University degree, I admire her greatly for it, but I didn't, let's put it that way. I mean I have educated myself a bit, but it is on the surface, nothing really profound. In a way I am interested in too many different things to settle on one more.

RL: You say you take part in classes – what do you do?

TAPE 6: 31 minutes 53 seconds

LC: Yes I do go, well I have a look at the university extra mural and if something interests me I go to that, and I have been to all sorts. The last one was on Venice and the early years, which was very good. I have gone to these art appreciation classes for years on end, he is an exceedingly good lecturer who always brings something new. And we are almost a little club there, we have all been going for years and years and years, you know. And I enjoy that, and whatever, I mean, I tried one or two, one of them which I didn't stay, because I just didn't get on with it, but there is always something of interest, this is one of the first terms that I haven't been to one at the university, but there was nothing I really felt that interested in, my sister in law goes, we go together quite often, she went this time to one this time on The Romans in Africa, but I wasn't that interested in it, so, I didn't.

RL: And you say ...

LC: But I mean, for instance, we wanted to go to Egypt, so I took a class, it took a year, about Egyptology and that was very, very useful, we couldn't go at the time, but we went later on, I went with my son after my husband had died. And that was very interesting, and I knew a lot about it which helped. So, you know, I try to keep myself ...

RL: And you say with the AJR – do you go to meetings now? What is your connection with them? Besides being a member?

LC: Not a great deal. I always say I am a non praying member of Jacksons Row, but I pay. No, I don't go to the services. And if I tell you why, I feel an absolute hypocrite there, and I am not a hypocrite. To go and pretend, I mean I envy people who have the faith, but I am not blessed that way, and to go, no I feel it is hypocritical. I mean, after my husband died, Andy and I went one Sunday, you know, for the outside and when we

finished we looked at each other and we said it doesn't mean anything to us, it's a shame, but it doesn't. I mean there are lots of things that I quite admire, you know, the families always meeting on a Friday, although it becomes compulsory and it has its down sides as well.

Seder night is the one I enjoy because I feel that I too came out of Egypt, so it has meaning, you know. But Shavuot and even Chanukah, there is no resonance there, but then I wouldn't go to church either, you know. It's a bit like being musical, you either have the talent for it or you haven't, you know. I always think I can understand how converts become quite orthodox, because if you have a talent for religion you can have it for one of the other in the end; it's just a different instrument.

RL: When did your husband die?

LC: He died eight years ago, in March. And he had a Jewish funeral. I would prefer a humanist funeral which is more to my liking, but then I couldn't be there in the same cemetery, and somehow I would like to be in the same cemetery.

TAPE 6: 36 minutes 0 seconds

RL: Where was he buried?

LC: We have a plot. He was cremated, but the casket was buried on Southern Cemetery and there is plenty of room for me. I think in a way for the children as well.

RL: And the Association of Jewish Refugees. How are you connected with that today?

LC: Well simply that I take the magazine and I read it, and I like to read it. There are one or two people who are perhaps getting a little bit too set in their ways, but that is just my own opinion. And I go to the meetings, they are nearly always of interest.

RL: Where do they meet?

LC: In the Morris Feinman Home, opposite here. So that is very nice, very easy.

RL: And how often do they meet?

LC: I think every two or three months, something like that, yes. And if they have any outings, if it is of interest to me, I go with them, you know, I think I went with them to the one near Nottingham, what is it called? You know where I mean?

RL: Yes The Holocaust Centre, Beth Shalom.

LC: And I planted a rose for my mother, yes Beth Shalom, that is right, and I went there and I planted a rose for my mother because she has no grave. So yes, I do keep in touch with them.

It was quite interesting, my husband and me too, want to have an announcement when we die, in the AJR because it is read by all the refugees, you know, so he had, he had an announcement in the AJR when he died, and they couldn't put it in the next months but they said in the month after I should look out for it, so he died in the March and in the May issue, next to where his little announcement was there was an advert for a meeting of the Lessler Schule, which was my school in Berlin, and they were meeting in June in London. I have a friend who was also in the Lessler Schule, but she is eight years older so I never knew her there, so I rang her up and I said, "How about it?"

And she said, "Yeah, of course we'll go." And so we went. And I came into the room, we were a little bit late, I came into the room and there were about 30 people there, and there was a woman came up to me and she said, "Lilly Neustadt, How are you?" And she had come from New York, and it was a splendid meeting, they had come from Japan, from Argentina, from Switzerland, from England, from France, from Israel, you name it, and so that was quite amazing. And she and I, I have been to visit her in New York, and she has been here or I meet her in London, we keep in touch, she phoned me yesterday. I couldn't remember her, but she remembered me, because she looks so different now. And there I met a few others from my class when I was in New York, she invited them.

TAPE 6: 39 minutes 29 seconds

RL: Is there anything else you would like to say?

LC: No, I don't suppose so, it has been fairly comprehensive I think. Quite a few of the things are probably controversial, I know that.

RL: Thank you very much, thank you.

END OF TAPE 6,

TAPE 7

LC: Thank you. I hope it is of some use. You could have had quite a lot of it from the book actually, but it is not the same.

TAPE 7: 16 seconds

That is my grandfather Simon Milch, and it was taken in the twenties in Berlin.

Cameraman: Can you repeat that again for me please because I had forgotten this is a new tape this.

LC: That is my grandfather Simon Milch, and it was taken in the twenties in Berlin.

This is my grandmother, Berta Milch, that was taken in the late thirties, just before the war, in Berlin.

That is my mother Ada Neustadtl, nee Milch and it was taken in 1910 and I am not sure, it was either taken in Berlin or more likely in Alexandria in Egypt.

That is the last picture I have of my parents, Franz Neustadtl and Ada Neustadtl, it was taken in Prague in 1939 and you know, they sent it from Prague via America or Switzerland to me.

That is me, Lilly Neustadtl as I was then, and it was taken around 1932 in Berlin.

That was my school, the Lessler Schule, the Jewish school in Berlin and it must have been taken in 1935 or thereabouts.

This is the house in which I lived in Berlin, originally it was called Reichskanzlerplatz and later on Adolf Hitler Platz, and I am not quite sure what it is now.

That was the salon which was sort of the best room and was used mainly when we had visitors or parties.

And that is on the Reichskanzlerplatz, number 1, part of the big flat.

That picture was taken from the library, through the salon, into the main lounge, at Number 1 Reichskanzlerplatz, Berlin.

TAPE 7: 2 minutes 59 seconds

That is my birth certificate and it was obviously taken when I was born in November 1920 in Hamburg.

That is our naturalisation certificate in 1947 here in Manchester.

That is a picture of my husband and myself, it was taken about 15 years ago here in Manchester at a party of some friends.

That is a card out of the card index kept by the authorities at Theresin, Theresienstadt, and shows when my mother was deported east.

Top left is Ben who is Ivor's son, next to him is Jeffrey who is Andy's oldest son, bottom left is Peter, who is Andy's second son, then Daniel who is Ivor's youngest son, and then Deborah who is Ivor's oldest child and Jonathan who is Andy's youngest son. Wow, when was it taken, I would have to look it up, about 20 years ago I would think, no not quite, about 15 years ago, somewhere here in Manchester. I would have to look at the back to see, is there a date on there in the corner?

