

IMPORTANT

This transcript is copyright Association of Jewish Refugees

Access to this interview and transcript is for private research only. Please refer to the AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive, prior to any publication or broadcast from this document.

AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive

AJR

Winston House, 2 Dollis Park

London N3 1HF

ajrrefugeevoices@ajr.org.uk

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this transcript, however no transcript is an exact translation of the spoken word, and this document is intended to be a guide to the original recording, not replace it. Should you find any errors please inform ajrrefugeevoices@ajr.org.uk

Interview Transcript Title Page

Collection title:	AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive
Ref. no:	117

Interviewee Surname:	Klein
Forename:	Alexander
Interviewee Sex:	Male
Interviewee DOB:	31 October 1924
Interviewee POB:	Vienna, Austria

Date of Interview:	5 March 2006
Location of Interview:	Hale, Altrincham
Name of Interviewer:	Rosalyn Livshin
Total Duration (HH:MM):	3 hours 8 minutes

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

INTERVIEW: 117

NAME: ALEXANDER KLEIN

DATE: 5 MARCH 2006

LOCATION: HALE, ALTRINCHAM

INTERVIEWER: ROSALYN LIVSHIN

[Note on time codes: there are two different time codes in this interview. Tape 1 runs from 0 minutes to 57 minutes and tape 2,3, and 4 have a continuous time code from 0 minutes to 2 hours 13 minutes]

TAPE 1

Tape 1: 0 minute 18 seconds

RL: I'm interviewing Alexander Klein, and the interview is taking place in Hale, Altrincham. Today's date is Sunday the 5th of March, 2006 and I am Rosalyn Livshin.

RL: What is your name?

AK: My name is Alexander Klein

RL: Do you have any other names?

AK: No.

RL: And were those your names at birth?

AK: They were.

RL: And where were you born?

AK: I was born in Vienna. Romano Gasse 20...

RL: And when were you born?

AK: 31st of October 1924.

RL: How old does that make you now?

AK: 81.

RL: First of all if you can tell me something about your parents and their backgrounds?

AK: My father was born in Paltinosa, Bukovina, in Romania. And...during the time of the Austrian Empire, at that time he went to a school. He was only taught

Tape 1: 1 minute 29 seconds

German. Didn't speak any Romanian at all. His family...he was one of 11. And he met my mother, Aleho Vasholom, who lived... was born in Toporov, Poland, quite a long distance away. I don't know how they got together. But...My mother lost her own mother at a very young age. And so... There was only I think 3 children apart from her. And obviously she, being the oldest more or less had to take the place of a mother. How they met, I don't know. It must have been love at first sight because it's a big distance from Bukovina to Toporov - that's near Lemberg - Lvov. They married in I think 19....can't remember...sorry.

RL: Can I just ask did you know any of your grandparents at all?

AK: No I've never met my grandparents. They all passed away before I was born.

RL: Do you know what they did for a living? Do you know anything about them?

AK: Yes, I think...My mother lived in a little shtetl that was Toporov. I don't really know what my grandfather did; All I know is that just that a few years before the war he immigrated to England and intended bringing over my mother who was then already married. And had one child but as she was pregnant with a second child she didn't want to make the journey and therefore got stuck in Toporov when the First World War broke out. So there's very little I know about her family. I know her mother died when she was quite young and I think her brother also passed away quite young as well. But I've never met any of my mother's family...

RL: So your grandfather was living in England?

AK: He was living in England. He was very Orthodox.

RL: What part?

AK: In Manchester. He and also my mother's sister, auntie Sarah had also managed to join him before the First World War broke out. So there was already one member of the family that was already living in England then. As I mentioned my mother got married to my father... must have been in the few years before the World War broke out. And he actually also went across to England before the First World War broke out. They all meant to emigrate but the war stopped it and my mother didn't want to, at that time, go to England because she was expecting a second child. So that meant that my mother was on her own in that little shtetl. And in that time there were a lot of pogroms...the Cossacks. And that made them flee from Toporov with a baby, a young child of just over 2 years old and her blind auntie. They fled to Czechoslovakia where they stayed until the war was over and then were able to return to Vienna. Obviously what my mother did there to keep them in food and keep I don't know, but obviously she must have worked for somebody there.

RL: Do you know where in Czechoslovakia?

AK: Moravia. Is that a city or is that a county? I was told Moravia, you understand, as far as I know.

Tape 1: 6 minutes 29 seconds

RL: And do you know what happened to your father in England during the First World War?

AK: Well, let me just mention first of all...My grandfather, not having any trade became a presser in a clothing factory. And my father who was actually, although his...both of his brothers were professionals, he somehow became an interior decorator. And...He came to England also stayed in Manchester, and when the war broke out he was interned in the Isle of Man. And that's how he spent the 4 years of the First World War. He had the chance to bring the family over then and decided not to and returned to Vienna after the war.

RL: Why Vienna?

AK: Because, strangely enough...I think his parents...his mother was buried in Vienna. So maybe before the First World War she may have gone from Romania to Vienna and lived there. And maybe with one or two children, because I did meet actually my fathers brother who lived in Vienna with his family. And also a sister, Auntie Lotte – that's her name – who also lived in Vienna. Obviously they must have arrived before the First World War. So Vienna I think people wanted to go to Vienna because was a town which people wanted to live in and work in probably there were more opportunities there than in countries like Romania and Poland.

RL: Did he ever tell you about his experience of internment?

AK: No, just what he did say that it was quite tedious being more or less in one place all the time. Obviously the accommodation was basic. And so obviously the food was as well. But he didn't tell me much about it, no.

RL: And your grandfather, he continued to live in Manchester?

AK: He lived in Manchester, yes, and he passed away in the early 1920s.

LR: What was his name?

AK: His name was Anshel Bendyk. Anshel Susskind Bendyk, beg your pardon.

RL: Susskind Bendyk?

AK: His name was Susskind Bendyk. Forget about the Anshel.

RL: Did he remarry?

AK: No.

RL: So he just came on his own?

AK: He was extremely orthodox, so was my mother. My father was also religiously orthodox but not quite as seriously as my mother.

Tape 1: 9 minutes 54 seconds

RL: What kind of education had your father had growing up?

AK: He had a good education. He spoke perfect German and was able to write and read German. He had a good German education. My mother's education was typical of a shtetl education, you understand, you know, which wasn't really, what they call...well, maybe just basic, you understand. But what she didn't learn she made up in being forthcoming, very energetic, and she had lots of common sense. That got her everywhere. Especially going to a foreign country and not being able to speak the language, and with two young children – a baby on the way - and a blind auntie. I don't know how she did it. There were no cars available in those days that took you there. They must have got a lift, to go from place to place.

RL: Did she ever speak about it at all?

AK: Yes she did. I more or less called her...She was the typical wandering Jew, you understand, because she must have... from Toporov and Czechoslovakia is quite a distance. Maybe she got lifts there, but she made her way and lived in a farmhouse. I don't know the full details of that, no.

RL: You mentioned that your father was one of 11 children.

AK: Yes

RL: What did the other children do? What kind of...?

AK: I don't quite know that. I don't even remember what the brother in Vienna did. I can't quite remember that unfortunately. He may have told me somehow but I haven't... I can't remember.

RL: So when he came to Vienna, what work did he do - this is after the First World War?

AK: Well, my mother came to Vienna first and she managed to rent a small flat, you understand, in the 20th district. And that's where my father, obviously joined her there. He managed to do work as an interior decorator. He was – what they call there - a master decorator. You couldn't start on your own unless you had passed certain exams to be proficient in this particular trade. He did employ one or two people during the peak period. The summer time. But unfortunately it was only an 8 month a year trade. During the wintertime...as soon as it became cold, he couldn't work because nobody wanted any rooms to be decorated during the winter. And so that made it rather difficult in terms of getting funds for the family.

RL: What did he do?

AK: Well it used to snow a great deal in Vienna. He went to shovel snow for a living just to earn a few schillings, you understand. Life wasn't easy. There's no... Not like it is today, when you have benefits. And...you had to really make every penny last and earn everything because you didn't get very much in those days as far as relief is

Tape 1: 14 minutes 15 seconds

concerned.

RL: Did you ever see him at work with his interior decorating?

AK: Oh yes I have seen him at work, course I have. I even helped him when I was 14 years of age. I, at times just to, you know in his work, painting and little things I could do for him. Yes, I was interested to do what he was doing.

RL: What kind of things did he do?

AK: Well he decorated flats. Also the interior of apartment blocks, you understand. So...These were... he had contracts with builders to decorate anything that's been newly built, and so forth. That was his forte, especially during the summer time when he was able to take on a couple of other painters and decorators to help him.

RL: Did he belong to any organisations?

AK: Not as far as I know.

RL: Was he involved in any communal activity?

AK: No, no.

RL: Did he belong to a synagogue?

AK: He belonged to a synagogue. Quite an orthodox synagogue. A little distance away from us. About 10 minutes walk away from us and that's where we used to go for services regularly.

RL: Did it have a name?

AK: No, I can't remember it. I know it was in the Klucky Gasse.

RL: Was it a building, a big building?

AK: No it was small, a shul, a real orthodox shul and the service was rather unique, you know. An old fashioned chazzan who used to sing very nicely. And, and it was quite orthodox.

RL: Do you remember who the Rov was or the chazzan? Do you remember any of the names of the people involved?

AK: No.

RL: What language did you speak at home?

AK: We spoke German and my mother used to speak more Yiddish than German because she wasn't taught in school any German...that's what she learned. She

Tape 1: 16 minutes 58 seconds

learned German afterwards, but it was a mixture of Yiddish and German.

RL: And how did your parents dress? What kind of clothing?

AK: Whatever was in fashion in those days, you understand. It was nothing exceptional, you understand.

RL: What are your memories of your flat? Can you describe the flat and where it was?

AK: It was actually...the building was a very nicely built traditional apartment block. It had 4 stories. We lived on the first floor. And, our flat was accessed through... first there was an outer door, near the staircase and we were able to lock that from the inside. And then there was a long balcony, I would say 12 yards, which gave access to the main flat. It consisted of 3 rooms, and the usual toilet, and... And I mean seven people lived in that. There was a large living room/ bedroom. My younger sister and myself we slept in put-you-up beds. The older sister stayed also in a put-you-up bed in the kitchen. And my two brothers in the back in another bedroom there. So it was quite a tight squeeze, but we managed.

RL: And were there any other Jewish people in that area?

AK: Yes, it was quite. It wasn't a Jewish district, but in our building, there might have been about, I think, 3 families. But it was sparsely inhabited in that area. We had Jewish friends there and also non-Jewish friends. But it was a nice area, only about 5 minutes away from the River Danube, so that was an attraction in summer time to go there and swim in it.

RL: What is your earliest memory as a child?

AK: My mother teaching me the Shema while I was still in the cot. Maybe I was about 3 years old. And then joining the first day nursery which I remember sitting in a little stool and crying nearly all day. That's the first thing I do remember, you understand.

RL: What nursery did you go to?

AK: It was a Jewish nursery, quite near us. I was very happy there afterwards because they obviously had games and they also taught you basic things as a child. And then...In the summer time they also had a...what do you call, like a little camp in one of the main gardens where we stayed and played and also were taught there as well, you understand so that made it more interesting from the point of being in the open

rather than being inside. We enjoyed that because we played outside games and it was very, very nice.

RL: How old were you when you first started?

AK: I must have been 3 years of age, and stayed there until I was ready to go to school, you know at 6 years of age.

Tape 1: 22 minutes 19 seconds

RL: Where did you go to school?

AK: I went to school also about 5 minutes walk from where we lived. It was a very nice, quite spacious school. Education was excellent. That's a primary school I'm talking about. It... We got half yearly certificates in every subject, you understand, from 1 to 4, so that kept parents more or less... knowing what... how the child is progressing or what he's not good at. And there again we played games there and we even had lunch there as well. School was only from 8 till 1.

RL: Was this a Jewish school?

AK: No it was the ordinary school... from the... state school, yes.

RL: Did it have a name?

AK: Can't remember. It probably did.

RL: And what was the proportion of Jewish to non-Jewish pupils at that school?

AK: Not very much. No, not very much. It might have been as little as 10 percent.

RL: And how did you get on with the non-Jewish children?

AK: I got on well with them, yes. Because it was children there which lived near me as well so we obviously became friendly and played together in the streets. That was... quite a nice... I enjoyed my childhood, you understand. Although we didn't have very much. But my childhood was very, very nice.

RL: What were your favourite games?

AK: Well football was one of them. We used to play football with a small ball, not a big ball, you know about twice the size of a tennis ball, in the streets. When we started, after we went to school. And other games like 'catch me' and all sorts. It kept you interested, kept you happy and you made friends.

RL: Did you have school on a Saturday?

AK: No. There was no school on a Saturday, only till Friday. And of course when my mother managed to get me into the Chajes Gymnasium, which was a private school. Took on some children which were qualified to go into that school I had to pass the

examination so I was quite...I was very pleased that I was accepted by that school because at least it gave me a very good education for the first 4 years I was able to go there. Unfortunately when ' the Nazis came in the school had to stop teaching. That was the end of my education, in 1938.

RL: How did you get on at that school while you were there?

AK: Very nice. Very nice indeed, also it was quite a big school as the photograph

Tape 1: 26 minutes 27 seconds

showed I think there were nearly 50 people in it. We had some...The teacher was excellent. We also did sports and what they call PT. And it was first class. And I was happy to belong to a school like that because it gave me the advantage of a good education. And also being together made quite a lot of friends there which I'm still in contact through the - what is it called now? In America, one of the pupils started contacting other children who had attended the school so it... he issues newsletters frequently and I managed to get in touch with one or two who are still living.

RL: Was this a non Jewish school as well?

AK: No. A private Jewish school.

RL: A private Jewish school. And there were 50 pupils in the whole school?

AK: No in the class. I mean the ratio was much higher then because it was probably more costly to have more teachers. But it didn't interfere with the education. I found it...we learned...I was taught Latin. I was taught Modern Hebrew. And in the last two years I was there I was taught English as well. So I had a spattering of English when I managed to come across to England.

RL: What was the Hebrew education like?

AK: Well Modern Hebrew.

RL: Was there any religious education there?

AK: Well...Yes, there were religious classes, you understand. So we did have Jewish religious teaching, you understand apart from the Modern Hebrew, you understand.

RL: So besides the religious education you got in that school, did you get any other kind of religious education?

AK: Well early on when I was a boy you understand obviously I went to cheder and learnt of course Chumash so that was my Jewish education and that went on until I was bar mitzvah. And of course my mother was very religious so she was very keen to... for me to have a good Jewish religious education. And in that respect it coincides with you know going to synagogue or to shul regularly, you understand, and keeps, that was...we practiced Judaism as strictly as my mother felt we should do, you understand.

RL: What are your memories of Shabbos and Yomtov at home?

AK: Shabbos was the main, erev Shabbat was the day of the week you understand because mother used to of course bake challahs and of course fish...we had fish - carps, and there was chicken soup and chicken. Of course the whole family sat on erev Shabbat together. It was *the* night of the week, you understand and a most enjoyable night. It was nice being all together and having one of the best meals of the week.

Tape 1: 31 minutes 11 seconds

RL: What are your memories of Yomtov?

AK: Well when it was Yomtov, we all attended shul and services. Not just Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, all the Yomtovs. Succos, we used to eat in the Sukkah. Not every one but I personally you understand used to... the others used to go at times. But I had a friend who was very orthodox and I used to join him eating in the Sukkah which was in our shul.

RL: The Succah was at the shul?

AK: Yes.

RL: Because I was trying to work out if you were in a flat, how you could...?

AK: Oh, no, no. Nobody had a private Succahs there. They were either in the synagogue or the shul. People used to take the food there to eat. You couldn't really have a Sukkah in an apartment block because...well it wasn't acceptable.

RL: What are your memories of Pesach?

AK: There again Pesach is one of these special Jewish holidays which a lot of work went into it. Especially even preparing for it and ' making everything kosher shel Pesach. My mother did all that. We didn't have any separate utensils so she was able to make a kosher shel Pesach by doing various things and of course I was the youngest one so I'm the one who did the 'Mah Nishtano' regularly then. And there again it was one of the special holidays.

RL: Did the children have to help in the house?

AK: Well my oldest sister, she was 4 years older than me, she was the one who helped a great deal in cleaning, when she was old enough. And...I think she never forgave us. I think she felt she was the one who had to bear all that hard work of helping out. But it wasn't really difficult. She just used to complain about it. We all I think did a little at times, you understand, but not to any extent.

RL: Just take me through what brothers and sisters you had, because we've not gone through them in sequence.

AK: Yes. My oldest brother. His name was Gershon. He was 12 years older than me. More or less, he was my role model, because even as a child he used to take me around, and...and...That carried on even to the later years. He...was... managed to get into working for a textile company and...which was very fortunate and he contributed a great deal to the keeping of the family especially in the winter time and the money was rather low. The next brother, he was 2 years younger than my brother Gershon, he was called Simson. And...He was 10 years older than me. He trained as a tailor and afterwards worked for a tailor when he became qualified. Then there was my sister Erna which was 4 years older than me. She looked after us as well, and played with us. She taught us the ABC. Played games, and taught us to count before

Tape 1: 36 minutes 20 seconds

we went to school. She also trained as a tailoress, when she was 14. And...Being trained as a tailoress doesn't necessarily mean you're earning any money. You don't start earning anything until you have been trained, so you earn something but you earn very little. Then there was my younger sister, which was 2 years younger than me. She obviously was the baby of the family.

RL: What was her name?

AK: Anna. And, being the youngest she was treated as the youngest you understand and spoiled.

RL: Did you belong to any clubs as a child? Any youth groups, or...?

AK: No. I used to play football and I was once asked to play for a children's team for the Hakoah which was the Jewish football team in Vienna. I took part in a practice game once, that's about all. I didn't get any further than that.

RL: Did your siblings belong to any clubs or youth groups?

AK: Not as far as I remember. I don't really think there were any youth groups available in those days. Oh, yes, maybe there were, but I can't remember now. Yes, there were some Zionist groups available which I think we joined as a child, you understand. But I can't remember much about them. I know we used to go there and take part in the lectures and various activities.

RL: Did you ever go away in the summer? Did you ever have holidays?

AK: Yes when...especially when I went to the Chajes Gymnasium. They had holiday camps on the lakes in Carinthia, which consisted of wooden huts with beds inside. And the whole school, or most of the school, went there for holidays. It was rather Spartan living there. You had to wash in a brook or in the sea...I mean the lake, you understand? There were no other facilities apart from that. And the cooking was done locally. It was very well arranged because it was from the age of 10 to 18. And towards the end of the 4 weeks stay there were sports activities for each group, you understand. And I was very good in running and high jumping and also diving into the lake. So I did at least do a little exhibition. I was taught how to dive there and I gave a

little exhibition in that. So that was very enjoyable because you were amongst friends and we had lots of fun there.

RL: So at home, what would you do for entertainment, in your leisure time?

AK: Well there wasn't really very much to do at home, you understand. Apart from doing, you know, at night obviously one had to do homework, you understand. There were not many games we really played there. There was no television in those days and we didn't have a radio either. But we more or less entertained ourselves. As I mentioned my elder sister she became the little teacher, and...and she used to teach us how to count and multiplication, letters and writing, basic writing. And later on of course when I managed to make friends then obviously I used to visit other friends in

Tape 1: 41 minutes 51 seconds

their homes and we had other activities.

RL: What would you do?

AK: I can't remember. I think I learned to play chess as well, in a certain age. And that was quite an interesting game to play. Other children's' games as well.

RL: Did you ever go out for entertainment?

AK: To the cinema sometimes, yes. I was taken also to...My father used to take us to the Prater...That was ' the equivalent of... it's a big amusement park. I don't know whether you've heard about it...in Vienna. It had loads and loads of different activities there. It had one of the first big wheels which exist in London and Manchester now. And that was entertaining, you understand. We used to go there quite frequently on a Sunday. A day out.

RL: You mentioned the cinema. What kind of films did you see?

AK: Charlie Chaplin...that obviously is in my mind mainly. And cartoons as well, you know, the cartoons. Children's' performances.

RL: Did you ever go to the theatre or music?

AK: Yes, as I mentioned to you my blind aunt, the sister of my mother, who became blind because of an operation that went wrong at that time and...Managed to get into an institute, a blind institute in Vienna, which was excellent because she had a very good education. She was looked after. As a child – I think she may have been about 12 or 14 then. And she stayed there nearly all the time she lived in Vienna. So we used to take her backwards and forwards from where she lived to our home once or twice a week to be with us. And through her, she...they used to get tickets for the opera, for the Vienna Opera. And obviously with having...she used to take a companion to go with her. And not only did she get tickets. She used to get boxes. Free. And the first opera, I took her to – I think I may only have been 12 years of age then - was Aida. And I was amazed. It was a fantastic opera to listen to and watch. Because the Vienna Opera house - it was one of the opera houses of Europe...and this

is the kind of, my education in music with my auntie, above the opera, also to plays, which were suitable you understand. But I wasn't the only one of course. My brothers also used to take her. That was something that obviously appealed to us and we couldn't have managed to go there by ourselves. And that was our musical – what do you call it - education.

RL: Did you learn to play any musical instrument?

AK: No, unfortunately not, there was no opportunity really of doing that. I gave the opportunity to my own daughters when they grew up. I bought a piano in the house we lived in and they were taught the piano at a young age. But I appreciate music. I love it, all kinds of music whether it be modern or classic. That's partially maybe because I had a chance to visit places like the Vienna Opera House.

Tape 1: 47 minutes 16 seconds

RL: Was there any Yiddish theatre?

AK: Yes, there were, yes. There may have been one or two Yiddish theatres in Vienna. But...I may have been there once. But I think my parents used to go regularly and they were very good. They were very, very popular.

RL: What about reading? Did you read books at all?

AK: Yes. I did read a lot. Because that was the entertainment and education, it was excellent as well to read. I did read a great deal.

RL: Did you belong to a library?

AK: We had access from the school to pick books, you understand. So it came... I think everybody in that age group in those days used to read a lot because there was not much visual entertainment available like there is now.

RL: What were your favourite books? Were there any in particular?

AK: I think Jules Verne. Yes. I did enjoy reading that. As I became in my teens... and my brother Simson he was a great reader, loved reading. And sometimes some of his books were suitable for me you understand to read as well. And I used to enjoy quite a lot of his books, which he took out.

RL: Did you parents get a newspaper?

AK: Oh yes we used to get a newspaper. We had a newsagent across the road. And...they bought a Jewish newspaper. I think it was the equivalent of the Jewish Chronicle written in German there, which became very useful during the days when the Nazis were there because everybody was looking for where to go to.

RL: Before the Nazis came in did you ever come across Anti-Semitism in Vienna?

AK: Yes, yes. Anti-Semitism existed in Vienna, maybe more so than in Germany. We were accepted where we stayed, and I didn't have much trouble there. I was attacked on one or two occasions by a boy my own age. But I gave what... I defended myself well, you know although I was only small. But sometimes as you used to go into another area you were attacked. I happened to be a very good runner so they never caught me. Otherwise you were in trouble, yes. But it did exist; there was a great deal of anti-Semitism. Or so my brothers told me and " obviously when...when the Germans marched into Austria they were " accepted with cheers and " and...they made them...they made them at home.

RL: You said that when you went into certain areas you could be attacked. Were there some areas that you knew not to venture into?

AK: Yeah well, whether...Maybe because you looked Jewish, you understand, or you were a stranger there. You kept to the main streets, so that was better. If you went into

Tape 1: 51 minutes 31 seconds

the side streets, you know most of Vienna, especially in Vienna the areas where we lived they were all blocks of flats, 3 or 4 stories high. That was the basic accommodation in all these areas in nearly most of Vienna. And so it was quite densely populated. The streets were quite modern, and there was very little traffic about as far as cars were concerned. And obviously...So people played in the streets - children played in the streets mainly, you understand. Very few, certain areas...areas which I knew were my own area where I lived in. The area where my Chajes Gymnasium where I had to walk to that was about a mile away from me and those areas, walking the main street you didn't get any trouble but if you walked in some of the side streets, they looked for you and tried to chase you.

RL: What kind of incidents had your brothers suffered or been involved in?

AK: Well, when... At the Anschluss, things became more serious because a Jew in those days had no rights. You could attack...Anybody could attack a Jew - and in front of a policeman - and he would just look at it and take no notice. So that meant that whoever wants to have a go at you and attack you did so, whenever he felt like it. And obviously there were those that used to chase you then, and attack you. My brothers were chased a number of times which made them realise that you can't live like this in a city where you've got to look back whose following you and who is likely to attack you. When...I remember going shortly after the Anschluss. Walking down one of the main streets, I saw them robbing Jewish shops, and people there jeering and enjoy what was happening. And that happened to be afterwards a regular way of life. All the Jewish shops had to have 'Jew' written on it. And of course non Jewish people didn't go into it afterwards to shop, so they had to close down in the end. It became even more difficult '- excuse me - What was described as Kristallnacht. The Crystal Night. I happened to be working with my father in a little shul then, and we didn't know what was going on. Apparently during the day, my younger sister came home and found that my mother wasn't there. And one of the neighbours said she was taken away, and she told her where she went to. And my sister went there to look for my mother. And luckily as my mother was classified as Polish she was let go - they let her go. And so when we got home, we realised what

had happened. And then found out that particular day there was a great roundup of Jewish people, which were rounded up and taken away. So we locked ourselves into our apartment. We had one safeguard having the outer door. So anybody that didn't know there was a flat behind there had no access to our front door. And so whenever somebody knocked on that particular door, we didn't take any notice and I think that saved us from being taken away somehow.

RL: I'm just aware that this film is about to and so I think before we start on the next bit we'll just stop here.

AK: Yes, ok.

Tape 1: 57 minutes 15 seconds

End of Tape One

TAPE 2

[Tape 2, 3, and 4 have continuous time codes !]

Tape 2: 0 minute 9 seconds

RL: This is the interview with Alexander Klein and it's Tape Two.

RL: I was just going to ask you about the Anschluss and what you witnessed yourself as they came in.

AK: Well as I mentioned before, that...we saw the troops marching in and they were cheered by the people. I also mentioned the ...shops being robbed. It was a regular occasion to see them taking people to scrub the pavements. There again ' to the jeers of the people that surrounded them. My mother was also involved in having to do a similar...job. She was collected from our flat. Taken across – we lived across from a building that used to be called the Toynbey Halle, which was a social centre. And the Germans took it over as a headquarters and three big swastika flags hanging from it. And my mother was taken across and she was also forced to scrub the floors there for a couple of hours. And we were glad to find that she came back afterwards, exhausted. It felt unsafe walking the streets because you never knew who was going to attack you. There was no one there to prevent these people attacking you. And we realised especially after the Kristallnacht that one has to make a point of moving out.

RL: What happened to your father's work during this time?

AK: Well he did occasionally work, but...There was very little work involved. My... going back to as far as the exit is concerned. Simson, which...took his first step to leave because there again he was chased after and didn't want to stay any longer. He went with a friend to Germany. And in those days, apparently if...if you went across the border without being caught by the gendarmes, if you reached Brussels the

Jewish Refugee Committee was able to get you a temporary visa and also supported you in renting a little room to live in and enough for you to feed yourself. This is...at that time every body is aiming 'where can we go? Where can we...? Which country will accept us?' Unfortunately there was no asylum seeker arrangements in any country as exist now. Nobody wanted you, and you only were able to get visas if you had quite a lot of money to buy yourself something going to South America. Our aim was to get to England and my sister, the one who was a tailoress; she managed to get herself a position as a maid in the Jewish...with a Jewish family in London. She was the first one to leave, actually. Simson, the second one. He went with a friend across the border. He managed to reach Brussels and that was the second one to leave the family. Gershon my eldest brother, he was paid off because the textile company had to close down. He also tried to do the same with a friend. Unfortunately the Germans stopped him and because he had more than 10 Marks in his pocket – that's all you are allowed to take out - was imprisoned for a month. And...Luckily – we didn't know what happened to him. We expected a letter any time. A month later a letter arrived that he was released, and was able to cross over into Belgium and was in Brussels then.

After Kristallnacht we felt we can't stay any longer. We had to move out of our flat which was taken away for us. They made us move into a room of another Jewish family in one room only. So the 4 of us had to live in 1 small room. So that made it

Tape 2: 6 minutes 45 seconds

really impossible to stay much further. We felt that we've got to try and also making our way to Belgium. Our parents felt they would make the effort to go to Cologne to see what the position is as far as getting across. If you had money, a guide would be able to take you across, but we didn't have sufficient money for doing that. And...We also knew that my younger sister and myself. 'We...My auntie in England managed to get two people to apply for a visa for us. The position was then: you could get a visa if you had a person that would guarantee that you wouldn't be a burden to the state...you had to I think deposit £100 or something like that. And although we had family - cousins of my mother, one was a butcher one was a manufacturer, my aunt approached them but they weren't prepared to act as guarantors for us. So my auntie managed to find a chemist that lived across the road. He guaranteed for me, and another person, which my auntie knew guaranteed for my sister. So we actually we were waiting for the visas to arrive but obviously we didn't know how long that would take. So my parents left for Cologne and we stayed behind just to find out, you know, what the possibilities were for us to go across to Belgium. Anyway we got a phone call and we were told to come to Cologne. They heard that if children presented themselves at the border, the Belgians would let them go through into Belgium. And the idea was to catch a train from Cologne to Brussels. And, which, when we got to Cologne, my parents arranged the next day, and took us to the station. And we boarded the train to Brussels. The first stop of course was the German border. There was no problem. We had a stateless passport at the time and they let us go through. But when we arrived at the Belgian side they refused to let us enter, although we told them our brothers are waiting for us at Brussels station. So although we cried bitterly they...they, they wouldn't change their mind. And we had to leave the train. And an English woman who was travelling there with her family gave us a pound note so we should have train fare back to Cologne. Obviously when we arrived back our parents

were very, very disappointed that we hadn't made it. And I forgot to mention that my parents actually stayed with a benefactor, a Jewish woman who had quite a large house and she used it as an open house for people who were passing through Cologne on the way to Belgium or France and she put my parents up and we stayed there as well for a few weeks. And unfortunately we couldn't stay there forever and then we had to move into other accommodation, which was very sparse. We were just wondering what's going to happen to us.. It was then already in January and we'd been here just over a month. And I myself, when I was lying in bed I was thinking which is the best way I could... really I dreamed about going across the border. Before I say that, I just wanted to mention that my younger sister, had a chance to...managed to be taken across by a rabbi who had a child on his passport, and he used to come regularly from Brussels to Cologne to take a child across because no picture was needed. And when we found out about that we managed to contact the people who he came to see and he did take her across on a particular day. And she was able to stay with a Jewish family called Grunwald. They were...He had a jewellery shop. And they were prepared to take her in to stay with them. They had two children of their own. So that was one...Another member of the family that managed to get out of Germany.

So I was lying in bed trying to think which ways could I escape? I was thinking of going on a train, underneath the train, on top of the train, in the toilet maybe. But I thought, 'No that would never work.' So I decided in the end that I'm going to try and

Tape 2: 14 minutes 0 second

go across and find my way into Belgium. When I mentioned this to my parents they were aghast, they said, 'No you can't do that. You're too small. You're on your own. You get lost. What made you think of doing this?' Well I explained that I may have been 14 but I looked only like 12. I says, 'The Germans won't do me any harm. I'm only a young boy, they'll probably let me through and then I'll find my way illegally, you know.' Not going through the Belgian border because they wouldn't let me through. And then the idea was to... find my way to Eupen – that was the next town after the border - and then from Eupen, make my way to Verviers. And up to today I don't know how my mother agreed to let me go. Even then on the way on the tram...to the station she didn't want to let me go. I tore myself away. I had enough money for a train ticket. I was well dressed. I had pullovers. Leather coat which the benefactor – I think she was called Frau Schwinger – she bought me that coat. So I was well dressed, I had a rucksack, a thermos flask...had some sandwiches in it and also some matches in case I got lost I should be able to make a fire, because some people frozen when they tried to get across in bad weather and lost their way. As it happens, although it was in February there was no snow cover. And...so I got to the station, bought tickets from Cologne to Aachen and from Aachen I took a bus to the border station. As far as I remember that was called Herbesthal. When I presented myself to the border station, I was rather shocked to find they weren't just ordinary gendarmes; there were actually SS in black uniforms. That shocked me. They asked me, 'What are you doing here?' I said, 'I want to go across to Belgium.' So... says, 'All right. Come with us.' They took me inside; two of them interrogated me all about myself, the family and so on. And... That went on for half an hour. They searched my rucksack, I happened to have even my tefillin with me. They asked me to put them on, and I showed them how it's done. I was beginning to feel rather sickly, so I excused

myself and went to the toilet and had to be violently sick...I was afraid to tell them so because they wouldn't have let me go through then. When I returned I said, 'Can I go now please?' I know they were having fun with me, it wasn't a real interrogation. They were just having a bit of fun. And when they agreed to let me go they took me out they told me 'go up that way in that direction and that will take you across the border. So I started walking and after a little while, I'm looking and walking in a direction. And the sun was really setting then. It was already 4 o'clock then. And I'm going in a direction which is north and the sun was in the west. And I said to myself, 'No that can't be right.' I says, 'Belgium is in the west. It's not north.' So I changed my direction and I was trying to get on the road that leads to Eupen. There was no indication where it was, so I just went blindly through lanes and some farms there, it was forests... I just went by instinct, you understand, which I hoped might lead me to the main road. It was getting dusk, when I all of a sudden notice the main road which I know would lead to Eupen. So I made a point of walking against the traffic. As soon as a car came I went into the ditch because it was a patrol car that could catch me. So this more or less happened very frequently. I didn't make much headway because the traffic was more or less constant. It started getting dark then, so I was able to take a bigger chance that I wouldn't be seen. I managed to reach Eupen. And I said, 'Oh thank G-d. I've reached at least a place which will lead me to Verviers'. And...There were signs of direction which part of the road would lead to Verviers. I had to go through Eupen to make my way out of it to the road to Verviers. All of a sudden I saw two gendarmes walking towards me. For a moment I froze. Then no, I thought no I'll just act like I was out for a walk. As I walked past I just whistled. They didn't take

Tape 2: 20 minutes 57 seconds

any notice of me. they didn't think it was a refugee. And once I went past them I got confidence then that now I can really walk earnestly. I started walking at a good speed. I wanted to get there before...before I got too tired. I was already feeling quite...I didn't want to rest because I felt if I would rest, I wouldn't be able to carry on because once you get out of a rhythm walking, you feel the tiredness coming on. I was able to, while I was walking, have a drink. I had the thermos flask with me, and a sandwich. And... I don't quite know what the distance was, but I started out round about 4 o'clock. I got into Eupen must have been near enough 11 o'clock. So it must have been quite a long way to walk. It wasn't the 45 miles that was written in the article that was produced in the Daily Herald, I think. I arrived in Verviers. It was already going on for 11 o'clock. The first café I went to. I entered it and I told them, 'I'm a refugee. I've just crossed the border and I need somewhere to sleep.' The people that were there...they were surprised to see me. They offered me steak and chips. Especially, because in the First World War, the French part of Belgium hated the Germans. The Germans didn't act very nicely to them during the war. So they did everything possible to help me. So after being fortified with a, with a meal, the youngest man said, 'You can come and sleep in our house...in our flat.' And he took me to his parents' apartment. They were so good to me. They washed my feet which were sore from walking. And they said 'You can stay here as long as you need.' And I told them, 'I will phone my brother for him to send me money for the fare.' The next morning I went to the post office, I phoned up Mrs Schwinger to tell my mother that I have arrived safely. Oh by the way, when I had left the border patrol they said to me 'Send us a card when you get there.' They wanted a card that I arrived in Brussels. I managed to get a card that I wrote them, and addressed it to the Herbesthal border

control and I said 'Thank you very much for the directions.' That was my little bit of fun which I had with them. Anyway the money arrived for the fare. I thanked the parents ...the people that took me in... Their name was Meunier as far as I remember...And they said that if possible they would try and help my parents as well.

RL: Were they a Jewish family?

AK: No. They said they would...they offered themselves to go over to Cologne and help my parents to come across. I thanked them very, very, very...I couldn't believe that strangers would try and do something for people they don't know. Anyhow, I arrived in Brussels. Unfortunately my two brothers, who had to go into a refugee camp two weeks before. They weren't able to receive me. I took a taxi to the house where my younger sister was living. And they were prepared to let me stay there until I got someone else to live with. My brother arrived. He was able to get leave out of the camp. He took me to the refugee committee there. And...Try and find me a place - a family to live with. People wanted to adopt me, but they didn't want to take me in to live with them. So in the end I had to go into a children's' refugee home which used to be at one time a - what do you call that - a...a...home for misbehaved children. It was actually...It was...One lived there like in a big... There were quite a number of children there. Jewish refugee children that lived in a dormitory you understand. You weren't allowed to go out by yourself.. Life was...I was very, very unhappy there. In the meantime, the Belgian people that took me in, the son went across to Cologne to try to get my parents across. They were caught by the Germans, and... They let my mother go after a few days, but my father and the Belgian were put into prison for a

Tape 2: 28 minutes 27 seconds

month for illegally crossing the border. So we were in a quandary what to do. My sister in London who had a little money saved, sent that money to my brother and he was able to arrange for a guide to take my mother across to Belgium. So at least my mother was not in Brussels and my younger sister went to live with her. I was still in that particular refugee hostel. We were waiting for the visas to arrive.

RL: How many children were in the hostel?

AK: It must have been at least...probably about 60 children. It was quite...quite, quite big. And actually...They asked you if you'd like to train for something. Engineering. Basic engineering. So only to be able to get out from there I made a point of volunteering to learn engineering. It was so basic you just had to do a bit of filing, or whatever. I was completely uninterested in it. But it got me out from the hostel and I was able to make my way to the particular college which taught that.

RL: What was the age range of the children there?

AK: Only up to about 14 or 15. That's all.

RL: What was the youngest?

AK: I think it was nothing younger than 10 years of age.

RL: Do you remember who was in charge of it?

AK: It was part of the Jewish Refugee Committee who were in charge. So we were let out once a week and I was able to become reunited with my mother who was very please to see me. So was I. We were concerned about my father of course, who was still in prison then, but he was let out after a month and finished back in Cologne. In the meantime our visas had arrived and we were told that there's a Kindertransport is passing through Brussels which will pick my sister and myself up on our way to England. So when that day came we said goodbye to my mother amongst tears of course. And joined the Kindertransport. The train took us to Ostend, and then in the boat... crossed over to Dover.

RL: How big was the Kindertransport?

AK: That's quite a.. It might have been up to 20 or 30 people I don't remember. It might have been more.

RL: What did you take with you?

AK: Nothing. I had nothing to take! I had the photograph I showed you. Knickerbockers. A coat. A jacket. That's all I had. I couldn't take anything across the border. I couldn't take anything with me. Those were the only clothes I had when I came to England. So I was violently sick on the boat. Anyway my brother Simson, which had, months ago met an English girl in Brussels. She was with him in Brussels. It was love at first sight. And her father being a tailor arranged for my brother to work

Tape 2: 33 minutes 29 seconds

for him. So he managed to get a visa and the romance was so strong that they arranged to get married in June of the same year. So they collected us at the station and we went to live with his fiancée's parents.

RL: What date did you actually cross over to England?

AK: That must have been in May. I haven't got the exact dates.. Strangely enough I couldn't find my passport. My stateless passport. I had... either I had to hand it in to somebody. My sister's still got it, but I haven't. But it was in May. So we stayed with them for a couple of weeks before going to Manchester. And the.. The parents of my brother's fiancée they had a little car, they took us to Brighton and we also...my brother also took me to Hyde Park. I couldn't believe it you could actually walk on the lawns here? Because in Vienna in the gardens there, the only place you could walk on was the path. Any area with lawns or shrubs, you couldn't play on it. So it was wonderful, you know. One thing I forgot to mention even when I arrived in Belgium: the feeling of being free... that was enormous. Seeing a policeman without having to worry that he's going to grab you or something like that. And that made itself felt even more so reaching England you understand. Because in England the policemen didn't wear any revolvers on their body you understand which was the case in Austria and in Belgium. The English bobby somehow looked pleasant and not offensive, which was the case on the continent. One morning, about 10 days afterwards, I woke up feeling sick.. They called the doctor and they found I had scarlet fever. I had to go

into hospital. I stayed there I think about 2 or 3 weeks because it was contagious and you had to be clear of it before you could join... go home again. In the meantime I missed my brother's wedding. And I was very disappointed with that. And shortly after I came out I made my way to Manchester, where I was staying with my auntie.

RL: How did you manage with the language at this early stage?

AK: Well actually my first experience with the language was really in the hospital. I did mention that I did learn English in school. It wasn't yet...I hadn't reached a standard of conversing, but I had learnt English vocabulary. And so I was able to make myself understood. Pigeon English. I was able to make myself understood and to ask for what I needed. It was quite an education being amongst English, mainly children, there. So...Shortly afterwards...my sister had gone to Manchester before and joined her people she was staying with. And I arrived in Manchester; my uncle who met me looked typically English with the bowler hat. Obviously I'd never met him before. We made our way to where they lived by tram. And as I was...The tram took us down Market Street. I looked at the buildings – they were all dark from smoke. I said, 'What kind of city have I come to?' I was very disappointed with the first sight of it. It was only a short journey to my aunt and uncle's home. They lived in Hornby Street, off Bury New Road, and that was a stone's throw from Strangeways Prison. It actually overlooked it. They had a terraced house. Two up, two down. I had already...my blind aunt had already come to England and she was staying with her sister, my auntie. I had to stay in a room with a lodger. A Mr. Rothman. So...because there was only two up and two down; a very small house. My uncle was a machinist by trade working in a factory. He was earning about 5 pounds a week then – that was seasonable. So they just managed to come by a living. I must say that I'm surprised

Tape 2: 40 minutes 54 seconds

that he got no support whatsoever from any Jewish refugee committee for me. Apparently, if you guaranteed you wouldn't be a burden to the state that's your responsibility and none of us ever got a penny as refugees. That's something that always annoyed me because people donated money for people like us like refugees. She never had a penny for it, for us, for me. She had for aunty, but not for me. That made it even more difficult because I felt that I had to do my bit as well to be able to share what...for the upkeep of me. And I thought well, I arrived in June, that's right, and they...they first asked me to join the school for the remainder of the term that was over in July.

There was a Jewish school in Derby Street. And I went there until the end of the term, but I was completely disinterested in the schooling there because I was much further advanced in the school I had been. And I says, 'I've learned this all before'. I wasn't really interested then. Unfortunately my education as it was wasn't good enough, especially in English, to go into a high school and apart from that we didn't have the money to do it anyhow. So I was then looking for a job. And the war had already started then in September. And although I wanted to do something technical, nobody would give me a job. Train me as an auto mechanic, whatever there was then. My uncle said, I'll find you a job training as a machinist in the factory. He managed to find a factory that would take me on and the first day I went there, before I went I cried my eyes out. I felt that that wasn't for me, you understand. I had aimed for

something better than that but obviously had no other choice. I was taken to a raincoat factory where I was taught machining. I think I was paid 7 shillings a week at that time. It didn't take long to catch on and learn the simple things, and obviously as time went on I progressed.

RL: Which factory was it?

AK: I don't remember that name. We were taught...we were doing raincoats there, you understand. I got stuck into it. I had to earn a living and that was life there.

RL: What had happened to your father in the meantime?

AK: Oh my father...yes, there again. Just before the war began, we managed to also send some money across. And he was able to come across – somebody took him across - just a very, very short time before the war started. So now thank G-d we're all out of Germany, and of course he joined my mother and they stayed in Brussels with the help of the Refugee Committee there.

RL: And then did he get across to England?

AK: That comes shortly.

RL: Ah, right.

AK: I'll tell you about that in a minute.

RL: Right.

Tape 2: 46 minutes 12 seconds

AK: So...When the Germans invaded Belgium we were concerned what was going to happen to our parents of course. We were wondering what...you know, what... Because the Germans were advancing quite quickly into Belgium and we hadn't heard from our parents at all. A few days later we got a phone call that my mother had arrived in England and she was staying with a family in Sussex. So. Apparently what had happened. My parents fled Brussels. There was a station. They were going to take trains into France. The station was bombed. They were split up during that air raid. My mother was pushed onto a...to a train. She couldn't speak French. The train took her to a port. It's like a miracle! She got onto a boat, was put onto a boat and landed up in England. It's a sheer miracle.. We didn't know what had happened to my father. He obviously made his way to the south of France to the Midi of France, really... must have been a train that went there. And...He went into a refugee camp there. And... He did some work and he was friendly with one of the guards there. The guard told him one day, 'We've got some Germans coming here to collect Jews to take away. He says, 'I advise you to get out of here.' He got out of the camp and made his way to the Midi of France where he stayed until we found out a year or so later from the Quakers, where he was staying. And so of course with mother arriving in Manchester now, we had to find some other way of living. We managed to rent a little terraced house not far away from my auntie. And friends of hers managed to donate furniture...everything we needed. We had no money to buy. I used to collect things

with a hand cart from houses. And those that couldn't send things to us you understand we collected with a hand cart. And... We settled also in a two up two down terraced house, and which we called our home, you understand.

RL: Where was that?

AK: That was in Sager Street just off Bury New Road. And so... Oh yes my other sister from London, who was actually working as a maid, house maid. had already, as the war started, moved to Manchester as well. And she was also living with my auntie and staying with my auntie – my blind auntie - and staying with my blind auntie in the same room, the same bedroom. So now that we had our own house as soon as we had everything ready. And obviously my sister working and I working we were able to support ourselves.

RL: When did you move into your new house? When was that?

AK: That was shortly after... was Dunkirk in 1940? Yes, in 1940.

RL: So coming back... I took you a little bit away from your job, because you'd been describing working in the raincoat factory. How long were you... Were you still in the raincoat factory when your mother arrived?

AK: Yes. When the air raids in London started both my brother... he wasn't married then. Moved to Manchester... And, my other brother who had married, Simson and Marie, they also moved to Manchester and rented a house there. And we were then working, we moved afterwards... I moved my working place with my brother we went to work for a company called Stark Brothers on uniforms. So we had the whole family working there because both my brothers, myself and my other sister, they were all

Tape 2: 53 minutes 5 seconds

working doing military uniforms. So at that time everybody, apart from my father, was living there in Manchester.

AK: Next step, I felt I wanted to do my bit for the country. And as I became aware that even foreign nationals were able to join the British forces, a friend and myself decided that we were going to join the air force thinking we were going to be pilots. We wanted to be pilots. Obviously not having English education ruled out becoming a pilot. I was... I was... offered... a - to become - a wireless operator ' ' to become one of the units which did work with the tactical air force to pinpoint bombing. I had to go to... went to Blackpool to be trained. And to be trained as a wireless operator as well. That took also near enough 6 months. And after that I was assigned to a unit which went over to the continent 3 months after the invasion. It was a mobile unit, connected with a radar unit that did... gave information to aircraft, reading aircraft, whether they're in the right position to actually... for certain targets they were after. In fact there were two radar stations which pinpointed the particular aircraft and told them which spot to aim the bombs... We were the ones that gave the signal to the aircraft. So consequently we had to be stationed behind - short distance, a mile or two - behind the line of the... the front line, which at that time was Belgium. And we

actually...our unit went to Portsmouth and from Portsmouth across to France and we made our way to Mons – that's where we were stationed - and did our work there until the Germans counterattacked.. I think it was called the Battle of the Bulge... and we were lucky to withdraw in good time before being overrun. And we returned to Mons and were afterwards sent out to Holland where we stayed for a few months.

RL: You know this tape's about to end so we'll just stop there.

Tape 2: 57 minutes 36 seconds

End of Tape Two.

TAPE 3

RL: This is the interview with Alexander Klein and it's Tape Three.

Tape : 57 minutes 47 seconds

RL: I just wanted to ask you first of all the aunt and uncle that you lived with. What were their names?

AK: Sarah and Alec Jacobs.

RL: And when the war broke out, did you have to register with the police at all?

AK: As far as I remember, no I don't think so.

RL: Did you ever have to, at any stage?

AK: I'm not quite sure. I remember something...I think " No, I can't really remember.

RL: You were living in Manchester in 1940, 41. Do you remember the bombing in Manchester?

AK: I do.

RL: What experience did you have of that?

AK: Well, we had...Sager Street was in fact a kind of a cul de sac. The end of Seger Street came into hills which had quite a large area. And we had shelters built into those hills which we all went to when the air raids started. " It was frightening cause on one or two occasions they did drop bombs and one of them was not far away from the Assize Court which was in front of Strangeways Prison. But we all... the whole street was covered in that particular shelter and we stayed there till it was over. It was an experience which... that nobody enjoyed.

RL: How often did you have to go to the air raid shelters?

AK: Well the air raid sounded quite often. And not necessarily followed by air raids, but quite frequently during certain periods.

RL: What other precautions had to be taken now that England was at war?

AK: Well there was a blackout. You had to make sure there was no light shining from your house. I think there was an ARP that assisted you in case there was any problems during any of the air raids.

RL: Did you have a gas mask?

AK: Oh, you had a gas mask, of course. It slipped my mind. You had to carry it with you when you were out and about.

Tape 3: 1 hours and 1 minutes 32 seconds

RL: What about rationing? Did that affect you?

AK: Well it affected everybody, you didn't just...couldn't just get what you wanted, you understand. You made do as everybody else did.

RL: Did the family belong to any particular synagogue?

AK: We did belong to... there was a synagogue my uncle went to. It was on Waterloo Road. Also a small synagogue. And that's where I also attended services on Yomtov.

RL: Did it have any particular name?

AK: Sorry I can't remember.

RL: And did you get to know English people at this point? Did you mix or become friendly with...?

AK: Well when I first arrived obviously I didn't know anybody. I joined the Jewish Lads Brigade. That was in Elizabeth Street. I used to go there a several times a week where we played games, football, etcetera.. And I even had my first holiday at the seaside with them because they went to a camp near Llandudno. Also erected tents. We lived like young soldiers there, six or seven in a tent. We had facilities for washing and so on. As far as I remember we even had a uniform with a gun as well! I sent a photograph to my mother in Belgium and she was so concerned, says, 'Don't tell me they're training you as a soldier already. You're only 15!' Yes it was... we actually did training as a young soldier. Not that I particularly liked it. But the holiday was very nice. We had lots of fun. There were boys of my own age and a little bit older as well.

RL: Did the JLB continue once war broke out?

AK: I don't think I attended it much longer afterwards, much after I started working. I can't quite remember. I may have done, you understand, but I can't quite remember. Once it became a normal way of life you know you take things for granted. I do remember going there very frequently especially playing football as well. It was a way of at least having some, getting to know people and mixing with people you don't know.

RL: So once you started working how did...what did you do in whatever spare time you had. Did you mix in any other way with people?

AK: Well I made one or two friends, one of them I was very friendly with also a German. Irwin Dobson. And my real life was completely different because you were in a big factory and you were able to go home for lunch. I was living in walking distance you understand to where the factory was.

Tape 3: 1 hour and 6 minutes 34 seconds

RL: Did you go out at night at all?

AK: I didn't go out at night much, no. It was during the blackout. You didn't really go out very much.

RL: The cinema?

AK: The cinema - during the day but I didn't go at night, because the threat of the case of an air raid, you made a point of staying maybe in, you know.

RL: So when would you go to the cinema?

AK: Usually on a Sunday, there was one not far away from us. That was when I was working. Before that my uncle used to give me 6 pence spending money. Tuppence got me into the first three rows of a little cinema near us - got to see a film. And the other 4 pence was for chocolate. Very kind of him, he's a very nice chap. Typical Englishman. He was well known, well liked. Especially he walked out dressed, bow tie, bowler hat, 'Hello, How are you?' in the area, you understand. He was very nice; very kind to us.

RL: What else would you do on a Sunday?

AK: Well we used to go to Heaton Park and that was at one time especially in the beginning a regular outing. There again my aunties and uncle met their friends there, you understand. It was a nice Park to spend half a day and have a bit of fun.

RL: Did you continue doing that during the war?

AK: Oh yes. Oh yes. That was an outing; that was a lovely and a beautiful park. Apart from being able to watch the ducks swim in the pond, and go for walks. I used to use Heaton Park a great deal for...for a bit of exercise even when I was much older, you know. My brother and I used to go there and walk and talk, usually on a Sunday.

RL: Were there barrage balloons in Heaton Park?

AK: That's right, yes. I have faint memories of them. I can't remember very much about them.

RL: Would you go to any cafes or anywhere else for leisure?

AK: Well, it depends in what age I was then. I mean the Kardoma Café was a meeting place in Manchester and it was only a short walk to go into Manchester from where we lived. There was the Lyons Café. I remember my uncle taking us there. “ Then...later on going to the cinema there in town as well. But that was really as a young man, not as a child.

RL: How much did you mix with English born people of your age?

Tape 3: 1 hour 11 minutes 13 seconds

AK: When I got out of the...when I left the forces, you understand, I think more so then than before. People I met... I was working with , you understand.

RL: How did the people you were working with get on with you?

AK: We got on very well, yes, there was no problem at all. Everybody worked hard to ...to earn their living. I remember it was piece work there. You got paid by results.

RL: What were you actually making in the piece work?

AK: We were making army trousers. Khaki trousers. And I worked with my brother. And that became really an ongoing thing.

RL: We're back to the army now. When was it that you actually joined up?

AK: I joined up in 1943. I had just gone 18 then. And as I mentioned our unit went across to France and to Belgium and then to Holland. “ In Holland...

RL: Yes, before Holland you mentioned the Battle of the Bulge. What do you remember of that?

AK: Well I remember that we were lucky to escape. We left in time. Otherwise they were closing in on us. And had we been overrun obviously there would have been nothing left of us. So our unit was told to return to Mons. We didn't find out till afterwards that we just left in good time because the Germans advanced and overran the position we were in. So next came Holland...where we did some work there. And then I heard from home that they had news about father, where father was staying. And I asked to... for...I asked for and obtained leave to go and visit my father. That was a journey going to Paris first and from Paris down to the Midi. I can't just remember the exact town where it was. He stayed in a small town out of the reach of the Germans. And there again he's a person who was well liked and people took pity on him and he was able to stay in places where he was kept and looked after. I made a point of must have sent it by post - telling him I'm coming. And I stayed in a small hotel in that same little town, and when I met him he saw me coming but he didn't recognise me... didn't know it was me. He says, 'Who is it?' I says, 'Alex! It's me.' Because when I left I was a child, and now I was a young man standing in uniform. It was a wonderful reunion you understand. And he was...carried on staying there until after the war and because I'd been in the forces he was able to get a visa to come across and join us then. That was the happiest day of all our lives because we were all reunited then. My elder brother was also married at that time. He stayed in

Manchester. My other brother who'd married an English girl from London he went back to live in London. He was then working...he opened up a small company doing a designer company called Matita. They were doing ladies suits. Quite successful. And I was then sent to Germany for a short while where the victory was announced - end of the war. I was fortunate enough to get leave to get back to Manchester and I actually attended victory celebrations in Albert Square. I was home then. Just for a short while.

Tape 3: 1 hour and 17 minutes 47 seconds

RL: Just going back to what you were actually sort of a bit more about the role you were playing in these different places and what you were doing in the army?

AK: In the Air Force?

RL: Yes.

AK: During the war we were mobile units. Completely fully contained in accommodation and everything else. These units were really radar units which were...had availability to...in conjunction with another units to observe a flight in the sky and when they raided targets - towns and so on - the planes were directed through us, whether they were on the right course or not. If they were off course, we sent a certain signal to get them on course. Even at times we gave them a signal when to release the bombs because they were on target according to the information given by radar.

RL: Did your unit have a name or number?

AK: Well that's something I can't remember. I think we were part of the 72 wing. I was looking up even the... in my release book from the RAF and unfortunately it doesn't mention anything, the name of the units or, and I've never made a point of even...At one time it's all in one's mind. But I never made any notes about which unit it was. As far as I know it was the Tactical Air Force and we were the 72 Wing.

RL: How many units were there?

AK: Units? I think it was no more than 40

RL: And what was your specific task?

AK: I was a wireless operator.

RL: Wireless operator, right. Did you have to change your name in any way...?

AK: I never changed my name. I know some people who did in case you were caught, that could be trouble for you. But I never changed my name.

RL: Did you have identification on you that you were Jewish?

AK: No there was no identification. Everybody carried a disc with one's name and number. But no religion was on that.

RL: Right. So are you telling me that you were actually at the Victory celebrations in Albert Square but that was just part of a little leave. How did you feel at that point?

AK: I felt wonderful because you know it was...the war was over and at least it... things would come back to normal again. With rationing and so many restrictions, one felt that at least things would go back to normal again.

Tape 3: 1 hour and 21 minutes 51 seconds

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

AK: Well we knew there were concentration camps, you understand. Actually I was stationed very close to one in Germany. And I wasn't able to visit it because typhoid had broken out and part of the unit that had actually visited the camp – and taken pictures of it - I think it was Dachau - afterwards had them developed, it showed you actually the ovens they burnt people in. Some terrible photographs. I'm glad I didn't go and see it because I would have been very, very upset. But one knew and heard what went on even before the war ended. But we didn't know to what extent they were actually killing people there.

RL: At what point did you actually find out?

AK: Well mostly when the war was over and everything was opened up and pictures were taken from troops that visited these areas.

RL: Did you come across any survivors yourself?

AK: No. I haven't...I haven't been through. I never visited the camp. The nearest I was the one where I was stationed in Germany. As far as I know I think it was Dachau. But I couldn't visit it. I would have visited it had I been able to, but they closed it.

RL: So after you returned from leave...after the victory party. What were you doing at that point?

AK: Well the war was over and we were just doing really very little. I was posted then to... to Brittany, a town called Rennes. Just for really... no duties whatsoever. I learnt a lot about good food. Had a girlfriend there, and...she was the daughter of the chief of police. A student. And she spoke English. And she introduced me to some of the restaurants and foods I'd never heard of before. I was able to sell a few tyres for money...bicycle tyres... That kept me in the funds. And it was a very nice way of finding out what life was really about, especially about French food. And then I was afterwards posted to Paris. And a spell in Calais as well, then it was time for me to be demobbed. I spent 4 years in the Air Force all together.

RL: When were you demobbed?

AK: I think it was June 1947. '43...'47. Yes.

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

AK: No. We had...in my own unit there was another Jewish boy from Scotland. There was no anti-Semitism whatsoever. We got on very well. It was great fun being there, getting to know people from different counties, Yorkshire, Jordies, Scottish boys and Welsh boys. It was a good exercise at my age. I didn't regret it. I didn't have to join. It was certainly 100% voluntary, but I felt I wanted to do my bit for my country and to help the war to end.

Tape 3: 1 hour and 27 minutes 44 seconds

RL: Then how...what happened when you returned to Manchester?

AK: When we returned to Manchester everybody was relieved we were back. Every time I went on leave at first, 'When are you going back?' But this time I didn't go back. I decided that rather than go to work for somebody else, join my brother and work together, and we decided to open to small factory in a disused church in Liverpool Street, Salford. I borrowed £300 from my brother in London. And we fitted this converted church now into a small factory to start with 12 machines which it was worked at least to start off with, with other girls. And that became after a short while 24 machines. We did out-of work for different manufacturers. Our opportunity arose during the...I think it must have been the Coronation. We did work for ourselves doing flags and buntings. Followed afterwards with making ladies plastic macs, which was the latest way of dressing when rain was about. There was a big demand for it and we submitted our samples to Lewis's. And they made an order of 60,000 macs to be delivered of 2,000 macs per week. So that was our start for working for ourselves. I then developed another... A gent's plastic mac... We engaged some agents to work on commission basis to take all our separate lines, one in London., one in Scotland, one in Birmingham. And apart from that there was my brother who was the salesman of the company. He also visited bigger customers. This was followed afterwards by something else which I saw in Italy, an imitation suede zipper jacket. I managed to get a similar material in England. My brother in London made me a pattern. This was just one line to start off with. I introduced them to my agents and that was the beginning of the casual jackets which took off extremely well and from one style it led to another one in different materials and our company had begun to grow. Installed more machinery and took on more work people. I had my sister Anna working for us as a forelady. It helped a great deal. And it...We found that we were getting really too big for the size factory that we had.

It happened to be a lot of land across the road where our present factory was. And the Salford Corporation started building factories there for people who were interested in starting a company. So we engaged an architect we leased some lad off the corporation and we had a factory build as far as I can remember which cost us £10,000. Equipped it, modern, up to date and we had doubled our capacity again. I think we had then about 70 machines going. And we were fortunate to get in with a little mail order, which gave us...found our garments very successful ' and we also made a point of introducing them to multiple stores like C & A, John Collier, which took on our lines on a regular basis. I think that was going into the 60s now. We

increased our factory space to nearly half the size again. And you know grew constantly as far as production is concerned. We were then making – how many garments a week? – I think about 2,000 garments a week. That took a lot of feeding. You're employers, you had to carry on working 12 months in a year. We had a very good relationship with our employees. We believed in working out a good piece-work rate plus a bonus. Every year we gave them a yearly - an increase of what they call it...cost of living index. So that...that kept them very happy. And they did some very good work for us.

RL: Did you have a brand name?

Tape 3: 1 hour and 35 minutes 14 seconds

AK: It was Bendyk. That was my mother's name.

RL: What was your particular role in the company?

AK: I was the designer. I costed out the garments. Originally when we first started out I was the pay as you earn. I was the accountant. I was the organiser. My brother was more concerned...he was more involved in the sales. He had a very nice personality and he went to see the bigger customers mainly, sometimes with the agents. And he was also very good to his employees, sorting out any kind of problems that existed, you understand. If I was there and I did something the girls didn't like, they always went to my brother to complain and he sorted them out. So that was a good way of working together. Yes we had a very good relationship. We never had too many arguments. He believed that what I was doing was right. We always consulted one another, if there were any steps we wanted to take with the styling. We took everything step by step. Although we had overdraft facilities we never actually had to use them, because we... whatever. We worked on the basis of being paid quickly. I gave our clients a 5% discount for 7 days. We got paid in 7 days, especially from the large customers, which doesn't happen these days. And that financed us because you had to buy materials sometimes weeks ahead and so on. And we grew. And that's how we went from success to success.

RL: Whereabouts in Salford was the factory?

AK: In Liverpool Street. In 1985, we received a compulsory purchase order from the government informing us that our land was required by British Rail. They were intended to do a line that was going from Victoria Station to Preston, and as they required this land very urgently, we had to put the factory up – the contents of the factory up - for auction. Everything that was in it we were compensated for, we were compensated for loss of profits, all our employees were...also got compensation for loss of earnings. And before you knew it the factory was closing. It was very sad having to close it because we didn't really know what to do. We couldn't relocate. Our work force was in Salford. There were no other properties available then to move into. We weren't going to go to another area and start all over again. So that was really the best of luck for us. The one who looked after me, looked after me then as well as us. Because shortly after that imports from the Far East made things more difficult in our trade and we had to really keep designing something that was...couldn't be manufactured quickly and come over from the Far East. So that was

our success. But even then, manufacturers were closing down and it was the right time to go out of manufacturing. And I'm happy to say, I'm glad, with hindsight, that more or less it came to an end because even a year or so later there were two manufacturers in the same road that closed down completely because they couldn't get any new orders. It was the right time for our business to come to an end. And I was 60 years of age then. And was happy not having to worry when I woke up what's in store for me that particular day. The pressure of business more or less evaporated shortly after that. Having said that I didn't mention that I married in 1963.

RL: Who did you marry?

Tape 3: 1 hour and 42 minutes 8 seconds

AK: I married a lovely young girl...girl then.. young woman called Joan.

RL: What was her background?

AK: She was non-Jewish and she converted. And we've lived a Jewish life. Brought up the children Jewish. And had a very happy life together so far.

RL: Where is Joan from?

AK: She's actually...she's from Manchester.

RL: What did she? Did she have work...?

AK: She was an assistant. A shop assistant.

RL: First of all, when you came back from the army, where did you live?

AK: I still lived in Sager Street. But when...when... in 1953... '52. My mother died in '52. And shortly afterwards we bought a house...Houses were being built then in Butterstile Lane and I bought a house. A semi-detached house where at that time...my mother had passed away in '52, my father was still living and I was living there with my sister Anna, the younger sister.

RL: and with your father?

AK: And with my father yes.. My sister got married a year or two before me to Sam Stolberg. And I stayed on and was married in 1963.

RL: Is your father still alive?

AK: Yes. Yes.

RL: When did your father die?

AK: In 1969.

RL: Where did you go to live after you married?

AK: We lived in my semi-detached in Butterstile Lane near Prestwich.

RL: You stayed there.

AK: Yes.

RL: Did you belong to any synagogue there?

AK: No actually we belonged to the Manchester Reform Synagogue. That's where they married us.

Tape 3: 1 hour and 45 minutes 14 seconds

RL: Were you a member of any clubs in Manchester?

AK: No.

RL: You haven't joined anything over the years?

AK: No.

RL: So what children do you have?

AK: We have two daughters. One is called Michelle the other is called Diane.

RL: When were they born?

AK: One was born in 1964 and the other was born in 1966.

RL: Where did they go to school?

AK: They went to school to Bury Grammar School... First to primary school and then they went to Bury Grammar School

RL: Which primary school?

AK: Well I think it was attached to Bury Grammar School.

RL: What did they do after they left school?

AK: The oldest went to study in St Martins School of Art in London, as an artist. And the other one also went to another college, also in London, I can't remember where. She studied as an...what do you call... Also in artistic studies.

RL: And who did they marry?

AK: Michelle married a nice guy called Richard Humphries. And Diane the youngest daughter married Michael Spender.

RL: And what children do they have?

AK: They both have two children. Two girls. The eldest one, Michelle's is Claudia and Sophia. And my other daughter Diane's are called Chloe and Olivia.

RL: And where are they living?

AK: Both my daughters are living in London in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

RL: And do they work?

Tape 3: 1 hour and 47 minutes 55 seconds

AK: Yes, they're actually both working together. My oldest daughter has a company called Klein Designs Ltd. And she is a designer herself, and she also sells designs for paperwork, like wrapping papers, greeting cards, birthday cards, and everything associated with that trade, you know. And she has a number of clients in the USA, and England as well. And my other daughter joined her about two years ago and they make a very good team now working together. AT one time was Klein brothers and now we have Klein Sisters working together. Good team.

RL: How far have they continued with their Jewish heritage?

AK: They belong to Reform Shuls and they live a Jewish way of life.

RL: Are their husbands also Jewish?

AK: One of them is, the other is not.

RL: And coming back to you again. In terms of your sense of identity. How would you describe yourself?

AK: Identity. Well certainly I never identify myself as an Austrian. I identify myself now as being British, and being proud to be British. Because I've always felt since I arrived in this country that England, as far as I'm concerned, is the nicest country I could possibly live in, knowing what Austria is like, Germany is like and France is like. But to me England still appeals to me more so than anywhere else. I've done my bit for England. I've served in the RAF. I think I've made a point of being able to employ people. Paid our taxes and all that. And...Apart from that I think we still enjoy living here. And...

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

AK: Well I'm bound to feel different because not having been born here obviously you feel you haven't got completely your roots here. Having said that, I never feel that my roots are in Austria. That's something I wanted to forget as soon as I came here. That's why I actually, none of us, ever joined any German clubs. I only joined the AJR recently. Maybe it's the torment of having experienced what I had done as a young boy. I wanted to disassociate myself from it completely and not keep it in my mind, what I have seen. What I experienced.

RL: Did you ever talk about it to your family?

AK: No... That's what the written work that's here is for. It's taken me an awful long time really to complete it. And somehow only because... somehow one's...there's reluctance to wanting to go back over and over again you understand. I haven't talked to them about it maybe for that reason. When they properly read the full story in there they'll need a few handkerchiefs because maybe they'll have a few tears in their eyes.

RL: What has it mean to you to be Jewish? What does being Jewish mean for you?

Tape 3: 1 hour and 53 minutes 15 seconds

AK: Well I was brought up being Jewish. That is something which is part of my life. I've tried to keep up to the principles of Judaism which I've learned as a young boy. I'm proud of being Jewish really because I feel we have a long history that goes back an awful long time. We've had our ups and downs and we have survived. The same applies to my family especially. We were very, very lucky. Ours being 7 in a family and being lucky enough to have survived all these years where we could have been wiped out like many, many others have been.

RL: Have you suffered psychologically from what you went through?

AK: No. No, no. I've...I have really blocked that out of my mind and just looked forward rather than looking backwards.

RL: Have you revisited...?

AK: Yes, it took me sixty years to revisit Vienna because of what I felt towards that country. And on the plane, going for the first time...

RL: I know this film is about to end so well just start this story on the next reel.

Tape 3: 1 hour and 55 minutes 25 seconds

End of Tape Three.

TAPE 4

RL: This is the interview with Alexander Klein and it's Tape Four.

Tape 4: 1 hour and 55 minute 33 seconds

RL: You were just about to tell me of your visit to Vienna.

AK: Yes, sitting on the plane with my wife, thoughts came into my head. I was thinking, 'Why have I got some kind of a reluctance to come back to visit Vienna?' In a way our family have been fortunate to be able to get out of Austria. None of us was hurt there physically. We've done very well living in England. And it's about time I

stopped thinking...having thoughts about it and this is the reason I'm going back to Vienna. As it happens going back wasn't traumatic at all. I mentioned to the manager of the Intercontinental Hotel in Vienna that I was coming, it was the first visit 60 years. As a matter of fact they sent a limo to collect us and when we arrived at the hotel, I thought, 'What's this, is there royalty appearing?' Because they had the manager out there with the concierge there, giving me a welcome and they said, 'Welcome back to Vienna, Mr Klein.' And I was very touched by, this happening. And I stayed there for 4 days. And I showed my wife Vienna using a car that drove us around. I went up to visit where we lived. And things hadn't changed if anything the...the apartment blocks looked more sophisticated. And also showed Joan where we used to play, the Danube. And took her up to the mountains near us to Kahlenberg, to Grinzig. And showed her where I went to school, which wasn't a school anymore. And...and just enjoyed the stay, and I'm really glad I went and we went home relieved somehow of something that was in the back of my mind which I wanted to forget and now that I'd been, I felt better for it.

Tape 4: 1 hour 58 minutes and 47 seconds

RL: What year was this? What year did you go back?

AK: That was 1999. '99.

RL: Did you meet anybody there that you had known?

AK: No. No there was nobody there which...still lived there. Most people had left. I only met two school friends in America which I found out through the group that still sends out letters to people who are still living from ex-school friends and so on. But apart from that, any friends we had, they're all gone now.

RL: And what made you join recently the AJR?

AK: Well I was...my sister, who belongs to it and my other sister in London as well. I was reading their magazines. I don't know why I shouldn't...I may as well join the AJR as well and be able to at least get the magazine first hand.

RL: Have you attended any meetings?

AK: No, I'm afraid to say.

RL: And what about Israel? What has been your...Have you visited Israel, and what are your feelings about Israel?

AK: I have visited Israel, yes. Visited it with the whole family when they were still very young. And enjoyed the stay very much. It was very interesting. We did use to go there quite frequently you understand but not since the problems over the last years.

RL: And how did you feel on your first visit?

AK: I felt exhilarated because you know at that time, there again we used a guided car which used to take us to all the places of interest. I was fascinated to...to visit all these places of historical interest. And apart from that it was wonderful to be in a country that was called Israel, you understand. Wonderful atmosphere there in fact. Enjoyed it very much.

RL: Coming onto something...Have you ever received restitution for what happened?

AK: Yes, we have received the basic...what everybody else has received. Not the actual claims which one has put in. But yes we have received the usual... what most people who have lived in Austria have received.

Tape 4: 2 hours and 2 minutes 53 seconds

RL: Is there anything else that you'd like to speak about? Anything that we might have left out?

AK: No, I don't think there's anything else that we've left out.

RL: Have you ever come across anti-Semitism in this country, at all?

AK: No, not really. No I haven't. Not outwardly, maybe without noticing it. No I haven't really. I wouldn't say that.

RL: And since the factory closed what have you been doing?

AK: Enjoyed life. As I say I've done my 40 years of hard labour. And made a point of not going into anything else, as tempting as it may have been. I says I wanted to relax and enjoy life now. I've done my bit for family and country, and now I'm going to enjoy myself. And that we have done so far.

RL: In what way have you spent your time?

AK: Well actually I did various courses in art, for the university courses. And... So that's just to fill the time in to start off with. Because it took me two years really to get the business out of my system. So I joined a golf club, and meeting new friends, and being able to learn and play golf you understand. I find that's done me a lot of good.

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

AK: You've asked me that before. Come up with something... I hope if whoever views this in time to come will get an insight what...how hard life has been to start with and I think to persevere and having faith. Not giving up. One can overcome most things. All right?

RL: Thanks very much.

Tape 4: 2 hours 6 minutes 3 second

Photographs. Alexander Klein.

AK: This photograph was taken in 1926. Starting from the left, my mother Rachel Klein. My brother Simson Klein. My auntie Anna Reece. My brother Gershon Klein. My father Jacob Leib Klein. Below, my baby sister Anna, my other sister Erna Klein, and myself Alexander Klein.

RL: And the place it was taken?

AK: The place it was taken – in Vienna.

Tape 4: 2 hours 6 minutes 57 seconds

AK: This is a picture of myself taken in Brussels in March, 1939.

AK: This is a photograph taken in 1937 of myself, Alexander Klein in Class 3B of the Chajes Realgymnasium, in Vienna. (Points with pen) This pointed is me Alexander Klein.

AK: This is a photograph of myself Alexander Klein, with my brother Simson Klein, taken in London in May, 1939. This photograph is one after my arrival in England by the Kindertransport and I'm still wearing the outfit I came in to this country.

AK: This is a photograph of myself Alexander Klein showing me in the uniform of The RAF which I served for 4 years from 1943 to 1947, as a leading aircraftsman and wireless operator.

RL: Where do you think that was taken?

AK: That was taken...well...

RL: Somewhere in England?

AK: Somewhere in England.

AK: This is a Demob Certificate of Alexander Klein, having served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947. This certificate being dated 20th June 1947.

AK: This is a photograph taken in 1942. From left to right, Marie Klein, Alexander Klein, mother Rachel Klein, brother Simson Klein, sister Erna Klein, brother Gershon Klein and nephew Irving Klein.

RL: And the place?

AK: The place... in Manchester.

AK: This a wedding photograph of Joan and Alexander Klein taken on the 21st of July, 1963.

RL: And the place?

AK: In London. Oh, no. Got it wrong, it's Manchester. This is a photograph of Joan and Alexander Klein, of their wedding on the 21st of July 1963 in Manchester.

AK: This is a photograph of the factory of Gershon and Alexander Klein called Klein Brothers Casual Wear Ltd, taken in 1985.

RL: And the place?

AK: Taken in Salford, Liverpool Street.

Tape 4: 2 hours and 11 minutes 7 seconds

AK: This is a photograph of my parents Rachel Klein and Jacob Klein taken in Blackpool in the year of 1950.

AK: This is a photograph taken on my 80th birthday in London, of my wife and my two daughters, Michelle and Diane.

RL: What would the year be?

AK: That was in 19....and...

RL: That would be 2004, wouldn't it?

AK: Can I do it again? This is a photograph taken on my 80th birthday in London, of my wife and my two daughters, Michelle and Diane, taken in October, 2004.

AK: This is a photograph of my daughter Michelle, my son in law, Richard Humphries, their daughters Claudia and Sophia, taken in London in the year of 2000.

AK: This is a photo of my daughter Diane Spender and her husband Michael and their children Chloe and Olivia taken in London, 2005.

Tape 4: 2 hours 13 minutes 57 seconds

End of Tape.