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Interview Transcript Title Page

Collection title:	AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive
Ref. no:	106

Interviewee Surname:	Ellinson
Forename:	Eva
Interviewee Sex:	Female
Interviewee DOB:	June 1933
Interviewee POB:	Breslau, Germany

Date of Interview:	28 September 2005
Location of Interview:	Salford, Manchester
Name of Interviewer:	Rosalyn Livshin
Total Duration (HH:MM):	4 hours 19 minutes

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THE AJR AUDIO-VISUAL TESTIMONY ARCHIVE

INTERVIEW: 106

NAME: EVA ELLINSON

DATE: 28 SEPTEMBER 2005

LOCATION: SALFORD, MANCHESTER

INTERVIEWER: ROSALYN LIVSHIN

TAPE 1

RL: I'm interviewing Mrs Eva Ellinson and today's date is Wednesday the 28th of September 2005. The interview is taking place in Salford, Manchester, and I am Rosalyn Livshin.

RL: What is your name?

EE: My name is Eva Ellinson.

RL: And what was your name at birth?

EE: Maiden name was Koppenheim

RL: And did you have any other names?

EE: (Shaking her head) I don't know? I mean. That was my name. I have another name but I don't use it.

RL: And where were you born?

EE: I was born in a place called Breslau in Germany, which is now Poland.

RL: And when were you born?

EE: I was born in June 1933.

RL: Now, if you can tell me something first of all about your parents. Where they were from. Their family background.

EE: Well, my father was an only child and we lived in his father's house, in his house, and he was, when he got married he was a qualified doctor. This was the

beginning of the Nazis. And my mother was a quite a bit younger than him and she came from Leipzig**.** And, she was the eldest of her family. And they got married in 1930, I think. And my relatives whom I met since after the war in Israel and the Americans said that was the last time when my father's side of the family were all together because he had lots of uncles and aunts but he was an only child. And the chasna was just before Pesach; there was some reason it had to be postponed. And they had a honeymoon in Merano in Italy, where there was a kosher hotel. The same hotel which is today the St Moritz Bermans hotel. In fact the old lady is still alive, Mrs Berman. She was then the daughter of the owner. And there were another two couples that also got married then before, before Pesach.

Tape 1: 2 minutes 39 seconds

And then they went back, they went back and lived in Breslau. And we are six children. The first three of us were born in Breslau. In 1937, that was long after, long after Hitler, I mean there were already problems. My mother had part of her family were in the fur trade. They had already emigrated to England because life was getting very hard. And, my parents decided that my mother was going to have the baby in London. So she should have a British nationality. In those days if you were born in England you were automatically British, no matter what your parents were. And they thought it might help, you never know, to have a British child, which it did in the end. So my mother came to England. My father was already there. My sister was born in October '37 in the East End of London in a pea souper fog (laughing) so I, which they didn't know much about. And then I don't. She must have stayed for a short time. And then my mother went back to Breslau. But not my father because things were already not good and my mother didn't want my father to get into problems.

Tape 1: 4 minutes 5 seconds

And we had already, in 1934, we had got an orthodox Jewish girl, who used to, who was like a children's nanny and home help. Now she, my grandfather had died, my mother's father, so my grandmother and my aunt they moved, we had a big house, they moved to our house, and also my, my, my, what we called my nurse, she had, she came from Darmstadt, she had a brother and a sister, they also moved. And the thing was to get permits for them all to come to England. Au pair, whatever. And, also my father was doing that anyway. He was trying to get guarantors, people to sign, because everybody knew that there were people, you know, anybody who could get out got, even though it was only '37. And my mother didn't want to leave everything behind. So there were ways and means. You had to get a permit to get your furniture, to get this, to get that, to be able to take. We had a lot of sephorim, a lot of books. My father collected a large library. And also we knew that when we got to England there was not going to be any money. So my parents didn't want to leave everything to the Germans. So it took a whole year. And I don't remember, but I know my brother started school, you only started school at, and my older, my older brother was born in 31. So my brother started school, but I was too young, I didn't, you couldn't start school until you were six. And it got to 38, 38, 39, and all that time till she got. I mean I can't remember. She always told us she got a permit, she got the furniture, the silver. And she bought a lot of clothes for all the children, for every year, because she knew once she gets to England who knows, you've got no money.

Tape 1: 6 minutes 14 seconds

So she might as well pack clothes. She packed whatever she could. China, bedding, everything you could imagine. And, so it must have taken a long time there. And I also had my grandfather, my father's father, who was a widower. He lived at, with us, I mean it was his house, it was a large house, he lived with us, and we kept on, I mean my mother kept on saying you must come with us, you must come with us. And he kept on saying don't worry, I'm, I'm too old, I'm not going. He was in the seventies. And he was the eldest of ten children. And, his parents had died and he, they were very poor. And he sort of supported all these brothers and sisters. And, he was in business and he did very well. So there was a Jewish hospital, so my father used to go into that hospital. But not, not after '37 he didn't go, because he was in England. And, my mother, obviously, she was in charge. She was a very capable lady, even though she was so young. She managed to get, so, any money that we had you had to leave behind. So she decided that we were going to fly to England and spend the money on an expensive air ticket. So we, we, we ended up, and it was February the 4th, I vaguely remember this, 1939. We went to Berlin by train and then we must have gone from Berlin to Amsterdam. And, we had an uncle in Amster-, my, my, grandmother's, that's my father's mothers brother, was a lawyer in Amsterdam. So we were going, so she took the three, only my mother and the children.

Tape 1: 8 minutes 1 seconds

They, we all went by train then from Berlin to Amsterdam. This was in 1939. And, all the rest of the family stayed and they all were waiting for permits, this one and that one, they were all going to come. Kindertransport one or au pair, train, whatever, they all had permits to go out. My grandmother and my aunt, my aunt lives here in Manchester, she was single at the time, well they had their sister, my other aunt, in London, so it was just a question of. I don't exactly know how they went but they all went by train and boat somehow or other. But I think we got there before them. It was before. We, we, it was, it was on a Thursday or a Friday, I can't remember, and my, my uncle had a country place in the Hague, outside the Hague, in Scheveningen, which is a seaside resort. And I remember we went to this seaside place for Shabbos, and, although he wasn't all that orthodox, but (laughing) we were very, very religious, so you know. But anyhow, it was my brother's birthday and he'd bought him a violin. He thought he, you know, he was not going to get any chance to get any music, violin and a large book and all kinds of things. Anyhow. And he saw us off. Now my grandfather came with us to Berlin, to the station. And I still remember, my mother told me, we begged him to come with us. And he said no, he's going back home. But there was an elderly caretaker, there was a caretaker, he wasn't so elderly, lived in the house, non-Jewish and he was going to look after him. And he had some kind of a cooker range, but you know. So, he, yeah. At that time it was very bad. It was after Kristallnacht, '38, but somehow or other the Nazis in Breslau were not as bad as they were in other places, so I heard afterwards. So he, he stayed.

Tape 1: 9 minutes 58 seconds

And we arrived. Now we must have arrived in Croydon. We arrived in Croydon**.** We flew from Amsterdam to Croydon. In this, what I would call, rickety, well it must have been very rickety, but I vaguely remember walking down steps, and, and we

must have gone from Croydon to London, to my aunt, who lived, who was already living in Golders Green. And then we went straight to Manchester, somehow or other, but I can't remember how. And my parents were in charge. My father was very busy with these children, and, you know, young people coming in. He had, they were going to run a hostel. For refugee boys. It was run by… It was attached to the Manchester Jewish community, in Upper Park Road. And we, my sister and I, were going to. Because my mother had like a big son and a baby, a little baby, in between, we were the two sisters. We were going to Rabbi and Mrs Wilensky. He was the Rov of Holy Law Shul. And they were newly married. And they wanted to take some children. And I, one. And the sister of our nurse, she came over and she was going to be their au pair. Cos, remember we couldn't speak English or anything like that. And she was delighted to have us. I can't remember. We were certainly there over Pesach. My brother (laughing) my brother broke his leg and straight after Pesach I got scarlet fever. And in those days scarlet fever was a major illness. And you had to be quarantined. So I was shipped off to Florence Nightingale Hospital in Bury. And, and, it must have been like two months, whatever, with the, with the, with the, with the Wilensky's which we liked very much. And especially as we had this girl who spoke German, and she was a very good cook, and you felt it wasn't, it wasn't so strange. And they were lovely people, the Wilensky's.

Tape 1: 12 minutes 4 seconds

And, we often went to visit our parents, but, it wasn't too far away. And then, I don't ask me what happened, but I can only remember that my parents only came to see me through a glass window, because, because. I remember writing. How I could write I don't know. I used to write these little cards, you know. I mean they spoke English. They understood. So I must have learnt English. My sister got the same scarlet fever a couple of weeks later. And because she was living with them in Salford she'd gone home. She went to Ladywell Hospital. So my poor parents had these two sick kids [laughing] in two, two halves of the world. They had, the hostel, had, they had a lot, they had, I don't know how long you stay there, my parents, they had a lot of difficulties because they were very particular about kosher food and this and that. It was not so easy. The committee was not very interested. All they were interested in is they've got these refugee children and that's it. They should be happy with what they've got. And so my father and mother decided that they're going to open their own private hostel. And their. Without a committee. I don't know how exactly. They must have got funding from somewhere. And we moved. This was, that must have been the summer of 39, to Great Clowes Street A large house, three storey house, with a cellar. Lots of rooms. And they. We had all kinds of young men. And one was even a married man who had nowhere to live and needed somewhere to eat. And they went to work. Well, they weren't at work at the beginning cos the war hasn't started till September. But they, they were, they were refugees. They went, yes, they started to work in the raincoat factories, you know, they were round about. There were raincoat factories, all kinds of things. And there were also other hostels, which didn't have cooks, just for sleeping, on the same street. And our nurse, former nurse, Liesl, she was the cook. And she was absolutely fantastic, because this was a old fashioned, English house, with stone floors, coal fires, and cellars, and freezing cold. And they were used to modern central heated.

Tape 1: 14 minutes 33 seconds

And the food. I mean she did. Well my parents brought pots and pans. They did bring their own. And so she did have equipment. But I remember the kitchen (shaking her head) a dark little thing at the back with a stone sink. And then there was another one. So we had a fleishik and milchik. How she produced those meals I have no idea. She was a most fantastic cook and baker. Anyhow, she was, that was what, she was a single girl and her sister, who was staying, who went with the Wilenskys, she went afterwards with her brother to Leeds. I don't know what she. And then she got married. She took her brother with her. And they lived in Birmingham. She married also somebody from Europe and she said as long as you let me take my brother, it was a younger brother, who was about twelve at the time. And then came evacuation. So.

RL: Now, can I just stop you here because there is quite a lot I wanted to ask you back in Germany …

EE: The past, oh I see.

RL: … before we continue on with Manchester. I mean, you've mentioned a little bit about, you know, your parents families but if you could just fill in a little bit more. I mean, your father's father …

EE: That's all he had.

RL: … what did he do for a living?

EE: He was a businessman. He had a, he had a business in town. He dealt in, I don't know, I think it was animal feedstuffs. Remember there were still horses in those days. And the army, cavalry and all these things. And he sold hay, corn, or whatever it was, I think, that's what, I think that what's they sold. But they had, did other things as well. But it was the depression. The business was not going very well but they had a big place in town, in the city, a big. And he had a partner. And that partner also came to England. Now that partner was not very, he was, at that time was not very religious man. Cos Breslau was a mixed town. Some people were very orthodox and there was reform. It was very, what's its name? But it was an established town. Had a schools and hospitals and.

Tape 1: 16 minutes 43 seconds

Now various people in Manchester who remember my parents, when they were married, they were sort of you know well-to-do family, who lived in this gorgeous house with this large garden and a certain amount of staff. I tell you they had this gardener, caretaker, or whatever. I vaguely remember going for walks in the park, which my**,** with, with…. And, my grandparents came to visit. Then my grandfather died in, I think it was 37 or 38, so my grandmother was on her own with this younger sist, with my aunt. And, my mother's family were all in the fur trade and they all went to England.

RL: First of all, how many were in your father's family?

EE: He was an only child.

RL: So your father was an only child?

EE: Yes

RL: And you …

EE: I don't remember any, I mean, apart from my uncle who I met in, who we met in Holland. He, my grandfather had brothers, but they did not, as far as I know they didn't, brothers and sisters. A lot of them. Some of them went to America. Some of them went to South America. Some of them emigrated to Israel. But I actually never met any of them. Now after the war I didn't meet, I did speak to a, my father's cousin. My father had cousins who went to Israel. Oh yes that was the thing. My parents in 1933, people made money for, they were Kibbutzim in Eretz Yisroel, and my mother was a very active lady and they made money to buy cows for Chofetz Chaim Kibbutz.

Tape 1: 18 minutes 29 seconds

And in 1933, after I was born, they went on a trip to Israel, thinking that they might live there cos some of their family had gone there. And they had mishpocho; they had family in Haifa, and then this Chofetz Chaim. And they went by boat, you know. They went, don't know, was it January, I can't remember. Then they went to Alexandria and Haifa. And she was a terrible traveller my mother but she must have survived [laughing]. And they went round to, visiting, went round to Eretz Yisroel and my father decided it was not enough education, it was very primitive. He couldn't see how he was going to bring up a family of, especially daughters. We had like a boy and three girls. So he came back to, to, to Breslau. And I had been terrible. My mother was in bed with me, pregnancy, the whole of 1933 til I was born. Cos she, they said, she wasn't, she'd had a mis, and, you know, that she mustn't move. She went to Israel. She came back and my sister was born without any problem on Simchas Torah, the following year, now I can't remember how long it was after they returned from this long trip. I mean it must have taken quite some time, you know, a few weeks anyhow. And, they met their family. They must have met all their cousins and family. My mother also had cousins, I think, who had gone.

RL: What siblings did your mother have?

EE: My mother was one of four children. A son and three daughters. Three daughters and the youngest was a son. And then. But she had brothers. And I had a great grandmother. My, my mother's father was the oldest of the children. And, her youngest son was more or less, almost the same age as my mother. He was only a few, you know. They didn't have. They had, he had, I think they had about five or six. My grandfather was five or six. And, and, his mother lived with her youngest son. And she came over, she, I think she already came over in 35.

Tape 1: 20 minutes 45 seconds

RL: What was the family name?

EE: My mother's father. My mother's family was called Hepner H-E-P-N-E-R. And they… there are a few of them in London. And, they were all in the fur trade. And they started up. Well they. You know its London-Leipzig, it was all one, it was part of the business, so. Different kinds of fur. You know the quality furs. Some had cheap furs. They, you know. They ... and they were sort of getting themselves established. My grand, my uncle, one of my uncles was the founder of Hendon Adass, you know, when they got to England. And then he, they were, I mean, I mean, I think we must have seen them then. And that was more or less it. Cos of very little travelling. Cos we just had, we'll stay in Manchester. Now there were lots of people from Europe coming to Manchester, as well as London. And my father knew, my mother knew some of these people. From Europe, from home. And they were all needed, everybody needed….. And they... we were friends and neighbours with the Heilperns, that's Chaim and Godul Heilpern, young men, who were nineteen, twenty, English speaking, been to Manchester Grammar. And everybody needed forms filling in, letters writing, and all that kind of thing. And my, and they used to come to our house, cos it was just a few doors down the road. And we had a big library and they were very interested in the sephorim. And they helped. They were very public spirited people. The Heilperns, boys, young men they were. Both. One was married, one was single still.

Tape 1: 22 minutes 29 seconds

And their father was a, you know, President of the Machzikei Hadass, yes. And, but the refugees, they started their own Shul, The Adass Yeshurun. The Yeckers, the German Shul.

RL: Can I come onto. Again, can I …

EE: Now you're going to back, to the back, to the back …

RL: … just take you back. Yes, I'm just bringing you back again …

EE: Yes, yes

RL: … because, then we will come on. But you were saying. Yes, I wanted to ask you about your father's education. What kind of education he had had?

EE: Well my father was not so orthodox when he was young. He was, he was, you know, ordinary, what you would call, schooling. And then he went to university. And in the university there was what was called the Association. It's not like the Jewish Student Society here. It's much more serious kind of thing. Mainly men. There were very few women in university in those days. Cos he was going to be a doctor. And he met all these, very religious orthodox people. And he'd, and he joined the Agudah and he got to know all these Rabbonim. And he became very orthodox himself. And then he married my mother, who came from a very religious house. So, so that, you know, we were very, very. There's Rabbi Dunner in London. Who's the old, he's now over ninety. Now he married a lady, a young lady from Breslau, who were friends of my parents. And my parents went to Königsberg to their wedding. That was, I think, in 38 or 39. Because they were friends of the

parents, right. So there were various people. I mean, all, they, they, these, people all knew each other. The Agudah, they used to have these. I think, I think, my, I wasn't sure if my father didn't even go to one of the Knessi Gedolah You know, these big meetings that they had, the Agudah in nineteen twenties. I think he went to one of them. And. Not the first one, not the one in 14. I think the one in 27 or 28 or something like that. So he was very active. He was a very public spirited sort of person. He belonged to all kinds of things. Yes. Very. So. And, and.

RL: What kind of things did he belong to?

Tape 1: 24 minutes 54 seconds

EE: These kind of, you know, Chesed organisations. You remember he was a doctor as well. So that he, he. If there was anything that needed doing. And there were lots of. Now Mrs Rechnitzer tells me, there were lots of refugees in Breslau. That means Polish, post World War 1, escaping from the pogroms in Poland came to live. And they all needed looking after. And, I think there were various societies, you know, to help. My mother also, belonged to all kinds. You know it was very, very organised in Germany. It was org, you know one did, you know everybody, was very public spirited. And, they belonged to the shul and they belonged to the thing. And they had these societies. But I was too little to know about that. I only heard about that from other people who told me that, what my parents did when they were young. But because he was an established member of the town so things he could do to help other people. Now some Germans were very anti-Polish because, like you've got here the asylum seekers, the same principle. The Ostjuden were not very well received because (a) a lot of them were Hassidish and secondly they were not so educated. And, you know, you know the establishment's like here, the English establishment wasn't very crazy about refugees either. Certainly not in nineteen. There were some**.** I think my parents, everybody always went round. Anybody who could sign. My father-in-law did it….. Anybody who could sign for somebody. If you had a signature that somebody would guarantee for you then you automatically got a permit to come to England. So after 38 things got very bad.

Tape 1: 26 minutes 53 seconds

RL: In terms of Germany you say that there was a sort of like a division?

EE: Yes there was a division. Everybody knows there was a division. I mean, they both lived in the same towns but they more or less separate. But, but, but, my friends. People tell me, older than I am, that. Cos my mothers family came from Poland. And they settled in about 1895 in Leipzig. So, they were then already establishment by the time it got to nineteenfif... So I don't know whether you hid your past or you didn't hide your past. But there, there, my uncle's all married very bone-fide German ladies from Hamburg and Berlin and that kind of thing. So, although they were originally Polish origin, well Russian-Polish origin, they were sort of, belonged to the German.. But they were friendly. Now that was another thing. The Rov of Machzikei Hadass in Manchester in 1933 was Rabbi Feldman. Was he called….. And he was a friend of my parents. He'd come from Leipzig. My father must have met him by the chassene whenever. And he. My par-, my mother knew him because she grew up together with his children. Then one of, one of his sons, the same age as my mother, they had

only boys, and when they got to Manchester he was the Rov of MH. And so my father joined MH because he was very, very pressed with the greatness of the Rov. He was a very wonderful man this Rabbi Feldman. Although he also belonged to the other shuls. So when I was a little girl I went, we went to both places. Most of the refugees did not go to Machzikei Hadass. They had their own minyan cos it was in the Nusach Sephard, it was Hassidish and the people had a different way of doing things. And these were all Shimshon Refoel Hirsch people. And they had their own way of doing things and they made their own community. Adass Yeshurun I mean it was in Northumberland Street we started off.

Tape 1: 29 minutes 3 seconds

So he sort of sat on both places, you know. Because, because of Rav Feldman probably because. He wanted to. He was his Rov, he davened in his shul.

RL: Which shul did he belong to, did your parents belong to in Breslau?

EE: Ah, I don't know, I couldn't tell you that. But it was, it was. I should imagine it was the. There was, there were two. There was an orthodox shul and there was like a united kind of shul and I think my father belonged to both. Where did he actually daven I don't know. Probably. Because my grandfather was one of the. You know he was like a, sort of, he must have been one of the, President or Vice-President or whatever. Because he was very long established there. So, therefore, you know, that's. I don't know whether my father went to dabble in the more, in the more Haimishe shul even though he belonged to the other one. But they were. I mean the two orthodox, the orthodox shuls And I can't remember who the Rov was in Germ…, in Breslau but I do remember Rabbi Feldman.

RL: And where did your father work in Germany?

EE: Well that, he didn't you see. That was the point. He was in England.

RL: Before he came over.

EE: Before he came. Well he qualified. When did he qualify? He must have qualified about 1930. And then it was very hard because. I think he probably did part-time. But because his par, his father was in business, I imagine that he went into the business and his father supported him and he basically went to the hospital, worked in the hospital. I doubt if he got paid in the hospital. But he, but he was qualified to be a doctor. But he could not afford to retrain. Now there were various doctors who when they came to England you had to retrain and you could be a doctor in England. Well he wasn't going to do that: (a) because he didn't have, want, have to and secondly because he was, more important, looking after all these people, these young boys who came. Now there are various men all over the world, young men, who, who I vaguely remember some of them, and there are some in London, who tell me stories about how they were boys in the hostel and about what my father did and you know how he looked after them. And it was very, very hard because they were torn away from their families and it was a very strange place, Manchester, in those days. Not like it is today.

Tape 1: 31 minutes 21 seconds

RL: In what way was it strange?

EE: And they, they were very orthodox. A lot of them came from Vienna, from a very, very, strict Hassidish type background. And they come here and most of the Yidden, most of the youth were very lax. I mean we had the big shul, the Higher Broughton shul which was the shul of the town. And up the road in Duncan Street. Well you're not, you weren't even supposed to go into there unless you were somebody very, you know, prestigious. But I mean I went in, like we happened to go on Shabbos, we liked the Chazan or whatever. But girls. But I mean they didn't, they did not accept, you know you had to be sort of fully paid up member. And, and these boys had jobs. One or two actually went into the army. But all that was afterwards. Nineteen thirty nine in, when the war started.

RL: Can I just ask you …

EE: Yes

RL: … before …

EE: That was the cut off you know what I mean? But he already started that hostel in February.

RL: I want to come back onto the hostel.

EE: Yes

RL: But just to finish with Germany. Just to get …

EE: Yes

RL: … the last bit on Germany. What is your earliest memory of … ?

EE: Well I can just remember this gorgeous house. And, and, I mean, I've seen the photo's of what I looked like in those days. I mean. And we had, you know, we had large dining room, and large rooms, large gardens. And there was my, my, my, my, my sister and the baby**,** who was Miriam, and my brother, my brother. I remember my brother going to school. I must have been four or five. My father was very particular about education. We learnt how to read, even though we didn't go to school, we could read loshen kodesh. I think he must have taught us himself.

Tape 1: 33 minutes 8 seconds

And I could also read German. How I managed to read German I do not know because I never went to school. And I, I could read them, the German script. Not the A, B, C, that, you know, the old, the old fashion German script. I remember I spoke German, we spoke German, but that doesn't, that don't, I don't know how I managed to rea. I must have been a bit of a book worm that's all I can say (laughing) because I could read. I couldn't write that script but I could read it. And, I don't, my sister can

read it, I don't know. I know, I ca, I was a, very upset that I wasn't allowed to go to school. You know when you don't, you didn't start school until you were six. So we must have gone to some kind of kinder garden or play group I imagine. But I can't remember that. I can only remember Yomtov and Shabbos and my grandparents coming once and that's about, you know, I don't, I don't have such a lot of memories of.

RL: Whereabouts in Breslau was the house?

EE: Oh well this is a. That house is a very interesting story. It was on a very fancy street called Kastanienallee, which we'd call Chestnut Avenue. We had lots of paintings as well. And those paintings all came with us. Very good paintings. And, and, when the Germans came, this is the story, when the Germans came they decided that the Nazi guy was going to live in our house, so the, cos it was a very nice house. And, (laugh) when it got to the end of the war and the Russians came he decided he wasn't going to surrender. You know Nazi would go on forever. And the Russians were so furious, this is what we heard, that they absolutely razed this house to the ground. So all the other houses (laughing) in the street are still there but not ours. Because, I don't know what they did, they must have captured this guy in the end. Now I've met a man in America, who was in a concentration camp, and they were in the coal mines of Breslau during the war, and he said there were Jews in Germ-, in Breslau then. So the Na-, the, although there were Nazis, there were some Germans who sort of let you, live and let live, they sort of under cover.

Tape 1: 35 minutes 26 seconds

And, and, also we used to get letters from the Red Cross, from my grandfather. But my grandfather died in bed, at home, in about 19, I can't remember, it was 41 or 42. He never went to any camps. Nobody ever took him away. So whether it's because he had loyal servants or whether it's because he was a prestigious person, or an older person, but, but. And after the war this guy who looked after our, it was a young fellow who looked after the garden. I think he's still alive today. He's about ninety-odd. But he looked after my grandfather. And, and, he, I can't remember if it was '41 or '42, but we got a letter from the Red Cross, or somehow or other, to say that he had died. And he was buried. And he's he buried in the beis olam. My brother's been there and we want to go again. It, the, the cemetery in Breslau is absolutely massive. Because there's been Jews living there since about 900. So you can imagine. It's about. 900 years there. To go and find who you want, yeah, if you don't know beforehand. So, I think, various people that, people have gone back. There are various people from that town who my brother, they all belonged, you know. If anyone goes. And, and, Mrs Rechnitzer had a Polish cleaning lady who came from Breslau, who went to, I think, to the beis olam and found her father's grave. And she sent over a photo of the actual grave. That was before people could go back. You remember it was East Germany so you couldn't go there. Poland, East Germany. It was the Iron Curtain. In the last few years you could go. And my brother's been once or twice. But I, I mean. Now they say there's a, there's an air service now. Ryan Air does something from Stanstead direct. It's terribly hard to get to because it's hours and hours on the train from Berlin. And. But my father went very often to Berlin. He seemed to have. So as I say, I don't know. As I, I can't, I can't, I mean, he wasn't what you would call a working man.

Tape 1: 37 minutes 49 seconds

I means. He didn't have to go to work. So therefore he had time to do things that needed doing.

RL: What is your …

EE: But after '37 he never went back cos my mother wouldn't let him come back. For fear that. Cos everybody was being arrested. All the men were arrested. In '37, they went to Dachau and they went to various places until you got them out. And, you know, this was be …, you know before the concentration. Anybody over, I think, the age of about seventeen or eighteen to whatever, were automatically arrested. Any man was arrested. And some of them came back, and then took ages, and whatever. So once my parents heard about that my mother wouldn't let my father come. He was in London all the time.

RL: And that was from '37?

EE: Mmuh

RL: What's your …

EE: The end of '37, beginning of '38. Listen, my sister was born in October. So the whole of '38. We left in February '39. So it took over, say twelve, fourteen months. But she really. But I can remember (laughing) in Manchester in, which was quite a primitive town in 19, whenever it was, it must have been 1939, '40, these, this enormous. Well it wasn't an articulated truck. I don't know what it was. It was a massive vans with these enormous, containers, wooden containers, which contained all our stuff. Furniture, books, clothes, whatever. And, I can remember them standing outside the door. I mean, I've never seen anything so large. I can't remember the big packs, but, the, the, walls of those containers we made a sukkah in the back garden for our hostel. And I remem…, you could still see the name of the airline, the shipping line, you know, it was [laughing] written on there. Cos wood was not an easy thing to get. And that, and that, we had a, we got a, we got, I mean a lot of people got their furniture from thing, but we really got a lot, a very lot. And we had these clothes which we wore for years.

Tape 1: 39 minutes 58 seconds

RL: What is your memory of Kristallnacht?

EE: I don't remember Kristallnacht at all. But you remember I don't know about my, my grandfather. My father wasn't there. I don't know if Kristallnacht was so bad in Breslau like it was in Berlin and Leipzig. I have a feeling that it seems to have been a bit on the border. But, I don't know whoever it was, although they were nasty. Cos my mother kept on having to go, to go to these SS places to get these permits signed, to police and whatever. Somehow or other she used to wangle it. I think women had an easier way of doing it than men. You know, you dressed up and whatever. She must have paid. I don't know what she did with them. But she... The thing is you

had to have these signatures. Without the signatures you couldn't, you couldn't. So she, they tried to liquidate as much as they could. But there was still stuff left in the house because my grandfather lived in the house, on his own. And, and, my aunt and my grandmother, that's my mother's mother, and all these people all came between 38 and 39.

RL: What's your memory of the flight over?

EE: I, I, I just remember sitting in a plane. I can't remember. I mean, I don't know if the plane. I mean it was one of those little planes. But I can't remember whether it was cold or whether we got …. I just can't remember. But I remember Croydon. What's Croydon? Never heard of Croydon, you know. That was where the airport was. And, I don't know how many people were on the plane. Maybe my brother remembers. But there's, like a, a young woman with four children. A baby and three other children. And somebody must have met us in Croydon and driven us to London. And then we must have got on a train to Manchester, I have a feeling. And that, because we, we didn't, I can't remember staying in London at all. Because my parents had this job in this hostel, you see, my mother and father. And we took. I don't know when she came, Liesl, this nurse of ours. Cos she cooked. She was a most amazing cook and baker. Well her father was a professional baker.

Tape 1: 42 minutes 6 seconds

RL: Could you not live in the hostel?

EE: Well I think my parents, my, my, I think, either the hostel people thought, or Rav Wilensky had no family and he wanted to do something. For some reason or other, I think it was Erev Pesach and also this, her sister was going there, to this family, to this, that's my, this Liesl's sister. It was, I think even her older sister. So they probably thought that it would be easier for my parents. And he would have more time to devote to the boys if we were not there. So there was just my eldest brother and the baby. So it was left that. I think that was the reason. We walked. I remember we walked back home. We must have been there. But we got very attached to the Wilenskys I mean, I still go to this day and she tells me stories about what she, we did. We must have been there from February till after Pesach. And it's so much so that when, when, when they moved to Great Clowes Street, to their own hostel, they wanted us back. My parents. And they were very reluctant. And we promised them. We used to go every Sunday for lunch. They lived then in Sedgley Park Gate. They moved to. They lived near the, near, off, they lived off Bury Old Road when we were there and then they moved to Sedgley Park Gate, which is. Well the Weiss lived, Professor Weiss lived there after that and now it's a big office block. And then he moved. I mean he went in the war as well. I mean he.,, Rabbi Wilensky was one of the people who went to Belsen. He was the chaplain to the forces, you know. He, he also, they also did a lot of. But, after we left she had her twins. That was her first children. She started her, you know, so that was also something. But. So in that respect we were very lucky. Except when it came now evacuation. That was the thing.

Tape 1: 44 minutes 2 seconds

RL: Can I ask? The hostel that your parents were in in Upper Park Road, how big a hostel was that?

EE: Well it's Cassel Fox that's what it was. It was run by Mr Fox and there were. I don't know. The Cassel didn't take an.. There was a committee. I remember the committee. All kinds of ladies. And it was a very large house. I don't know how many people they had. But I wasn't familiar cos I never lived there. But there were. And there are people who were there, who told me they were there. I only remember the hostel in Great Clowes Street. And that was people who slept in our hostel. And we had this register. I remember that register. And also people who used to come to eat. Because she used to turn out these wonderful meals. And it was a kosher place to eat. For young men to come and have din, supper at night, dinner. So even if they could manage their own breakfasts or lunches they, where, they needed a main meal during, you know, during, in the day time. And also, we had also. That was. Now you're coming to after '39. The war started. There were all k. My father. He went round. He knew all kinds of people. There were all kinds of girls, who were, nurses in the hospital, Jewish girls without family, parents, who had been au pairs somewhere and didn't like it. And they got themselves jobs. And they used to eat with us on Friday night, Shabbos, because, because, it was like somewhere to be.

RL: Does this hostel have a name?

EE: No I don't think it had a name. I can't remember. We just used to call it the hostel. 'Cassel Fox' had a name. It was the Manchester Jewish Refugees something or other. I mean, I remember seeing the. Those were all kinds of correspondence, you know, about. We, we, we insisted on Halberstadt's meat you know and it wasn't the be, it wasn't the local whatever. Aach, my father was sick of fighting with everybody. It was just too much for him. Because he wanted to provide these people with what they were used to. And it. People didn't understand in those days. For them it was all the same. And these boys came from very very orthodox form of families. And, this man who I know in London, everytime I see him, he says how he cried when my father said that he's leaving and he's opening his own h. They all. I mean they were only 14 or 15 year old boys. Because they realised that the next person isn't going to look after them. They had a very good person. But he was not going to worry about them, like my father did.

Tape 1: 46 minutes 39 seconds

Of course they got older. Some of them went to work. Some of them. You see there was, there was, like. We did, you know, sort of, what it's called, war work. Whatever it was, making uniforms, munitions, whatever it happened to be. And there were more and more families moving in all over. And, and. Once we started there were two things. First thing was 39, internment. Everybody of German origin got sent to the Isle of Man. Any German national. So with your Nazis, with your Jews, everybody. And it was just before Yomtov of September and my mother. We joined the Jews school, Manchester Jews School, because we heard that the Jews school is going to be evacuated to Blackpool. And my mother didn't fancy sending us children to somewhere. So she rented an apart, a house, with somebody else in Blackpool, and she took us with her. And we went under the aegis of the Manchester Jews School. I don't think we went to school at all (laughing). I don't know what we did there

[laughing]. Because my brother had gone to Grecian Street school, which was round the corner to Great Clowes Street. And I don't think, I don't know if I went to school even then. I'm not sure. Anyhow, it was a very hot summer and my, I don't know how, but my mother, my father was one of the first out, of the Isle of Man. But some people were there for a long time. And, so the most important thing was there, there was a Yid here in Manchester, called Reb Gedalya Schwartz, who organised to send kosher food. It was Yomtov to the Isle of Man. Somebody was able to travel. I think the Heilperns, these people went, because the people had nothing. I mean, there was [laughing]. Apart from fruit or vegetables there was, what could you eat? There were hundreds. I mean there must have been thousands. Everybody talks about when they were in the Isle of Man. I only know that we always used to say the sooner everybody got out. Once my father got out. Don't ask me how. Maybe cos he was running a hostel they allowed him to go out.

Tape 1: 48 minutes 54 seconds

Or he was a doctor. There must have been some reason. So he was out quite soon when my mother decided, remember it was a phoney war at that time, Blackpool is no place for us, beautiful though it was. And we were back home, I think, before Rosh Hashonah. Or just after Rosh Hashonah

RL: Can I just ask? First of all they were in the Cassel Fox hostel. How long were they there?

EE: Well we must have been there till about June, July. From February til July. I think, I don't know when that, that, the Great Clowes Street opened. But it was rented. I know, I, it was rented from Mr Sereno. He was a very interesting man who had lots of houses. In Bury New Road. He lived in Bury New Road and he owned all kinds of, all kinds of properties.

RL: So you moved in there …

EE: We and when, when …

RL: … before the war started?

EE: Oh yes, before the war started.

RL: And you say your father was active in getting guarantors?

EE: Well he took, well he must have been everything. You see he, he, you hear, you heard post. Everyday, he went to the post office. And it was the main post office in town. Because there was always things to do. Post. The mail was very good in those days. And I was a bit older. During the war I can remember going by myself on a tram to the post office before seven o'clock or eight o'clock, whatever it was, to catch that post to London. And. We did, we did every. We were very. We could speak very good English. My sister and I came out of those two hospitals speaking perfect English. You know how children pick up. So we, we could speak better English than my parents. Or they understood but they couldn't speak as well. So. And then we learnt how to write, you know. But, I mean, we, we, we were very, well, we went to

school. We went to St John's School, which was the primary school on corner of Murray Street. Well, it was a church school, and it had lots and lots of refugee children. I don't know why, why we, I did, I never went, I think maybe once or twice to Grecian Street. But I don't, why my, why my brother went also to this school. And of course it was Friday afternoons and Yomtov and from Shabbos. We had a very understanding head master. But our school was a church hall divided into four rooms. I mean that's what. It was a very good school. But. Consisting, I don't know, of twenty, thirty. There must have been forty, fifty children in a class. And, and we had air raid shelters in a church crypt. We went across the road. And, next to the school was the church crypt and we, we, when the air raids were on you had to go down there, to the thing. We also had air raid shelters. We had an air raid shelter in our house somewhere. But my parents didn't like that because there was a clinic on the corner of Murray Street, a health clinic, and they had a proper, deep, air raid shelter with electric light and what. It was like a public shelter. So if it was ever bad we all walked round the corner.

Tape 1: 51 minutes 53 seconds

And stayed in that shelter which was where you could sit down and where there was a light and where, you know, you could move. Our shelter. I don't, I can't ever remember going into. It was like a little, you know. You sort of went down and it was pitch dark and it was no, you know, it was not proper. And all our boys were air raid wardens. You know, the hostel boys. So they carried you. They had to go around to see that the black outs, you know, and all this kind of thing. So even though they worked during the day they all had jobs at night. To go round. And my mother belonged to the, what is it called, the WVS, you know. She collected all kinds; she did all kinds of things. And I remember she got some kind of, that she collected, paper or, I can't remember. She did all, you know, you know, all kinds of public things. And we had a non-Jewish woman living next door to us, Mrs Tiery. Her husband worked for the Manchester Evening News. He was a driver, so he used to be up the middle of the night and drived the, the first editions of the papers to the store. So he went. She had a big family and everytime she was having a baby (laughing) my mother went over there and, I don't know, sort of helped her have this baby. She had a large family and they also had a chicken coop with chickens in the back garden. Because, remember, there was no thing. And I think, we did, we did used to get eggs from there. But, I mean, we, you had to learn how to get on with your non-Jewish neighbour, you know. She was a very, it was a very. I think the children were all. They must have been ten or twelve.. They did quite well some of them. You know, they got educated. But in our day, in our day, he was always out. He was always (laughing) never home and the babies were usually born at night [laughing]. I remember my mother used to go down. I don't know what she did but all I know is that Mrs Tiery had had a baby [laughing]. You know the next day. I presume there was some kind of midwife. She didn't go to hospital. She had her babies at home. And, and, there were, there were lots of Jewish people living round the corner to us, near, but not next door.

Tape 1: 53 minutes 50 seconds

RL: So who supported your parents …

EE: Now, now …

RL: … at the hostel?

EE: There must have been a relief fund of some kind, which assisted the second hostel as well. They must have got some grant from somewhere. I really don't know. But there were. He had a lot of correspondence, my father. And he had, a, a, a, besides. There were, what, what year? Because my mother opened the chocolate factory. That must have been in '40, '41. Cos, when she was young, newly married, she went to confectionary classes. You know how, evening classes. And she learnt how to make handmade chocolates, or something like that. And so she. My father. You see my father was a doctor. What he did at the beginning of the war there was no food, no food, everything was rationed. And we had to provide food for these boys. So apart from. We went to the butchers shop. Bones and everything like that. This, our, this cook of ours was an absolute wizard. They were not rationed. So then there were lots of Jewish grocery stores, like Gordon's and what was the one on Bury New Road? And, and I remember, I used to go with my father, large shopping bag, vegetables, anything, anything, that you could get, he would bring home. And there were no cars. You had to carry it home. So we helped to carry all this food home. Potatoes, all kinds of thing. Anyhow, I think my parents must have decided that if we had a chocolate factory we would, children would have something to eat. So, they rented the house next door and they hired some professional chocolatiers. That means ladies who made handmade chocolate. And, we went to Wales to the. Mammy went to Wales, to the Ministry of Food to get some kind of a permit. You know, for cocoa and sugar and whatever. And, and, she, she had a friend. I don't know how she got hold of this friend in Stockport who was a chocolate manufacturer. And he put her in touch with these. And it was all handmade.

Tape 1: 56 minutes 3 seconds

So the first thing was to make Pesachdik of chocolate, you see, Kosher Le Pesach. So, I think we must have made it the very first year. Cos they made it all, they made it all the year round. They must have sold it to stores. And it was, it was high class, quality chocolate, with. I don't know who made the centres because later on she had machines. But in the early days everything was made by hand. Marzipan, and nuts, and all these good things you know. So, we used to go next door (laughing) as kids when we came home from school. And you know, we absolutely loved everything. Chocolate, I could eat it like, I don't know. And, the raw chocolate, marzipan, hazelnut, almond, anything. So we were never hungry because we always knew. I mean, I mean, I don't know about other children. And another thing, he went. There was a bit place in town. It was bombed. It was where Market Street now is and thing. It was. What was the name? It was a wholesale food, food, company. And we used to get dried bananas, dried apricots, dried everything. I told you my father was very particular. He knew that children have to eat, you know, the right food. And they were not rationed these things. Figs, I don't think we got figs. There were no figs. Remember there were no oranges, no bananas. But there were dried bananas I remem. Raisons. And you could buy them. Now he was very friendly with this man. Now I don't know if this man was a European or who he was. It was a massive. I went. We used to go with him. A massive wholesale store.

Tape 1: 57 minutes 50 seconds

RL: Now this film is about to end so, just stop here.

EE: So that's where we are. That's where we got up to.

Tape 1: 57 minutes 57 seconds

TAPE 2

RL: This is the interview with Mrs Ellinson and its tape two. So you were just telling me about the chocolate making factory and I'm just wondering how did your mother manage to get hold of all of these ingredients because it was rationing … ?

EE: Yes, well she had this friend. She had this friend. I don't know how they got to know him. He was known. It was Coq d'or chocolate, Mr Marindas Whether it was Swiss or whatever she got to known him somehow or other. And she went to Wales. That's where the Ministry of Food was. I think it was in Colwyn Bay or somewhere like that. And she got this permit to manufacture chocolate. And he must have given her part of his quota or something. And there was, there was two, there was a A1 quality chocolate I remember and then a not so good. And it was mixed because we didn't have enough of that. And all the various raw materials. And that house next door. Most people there were ladies, professional. Non-Jewish ladies. Professional chocolate, who had worked in chocolate business. And hand dipped it. My sister learnt how to do it. I never did it. And, and, you made the centres. And then the packed, packing we could also do. There were, there were ladies who packed. you know, brown paper and put them in brown paper cups, boxes. I remember the box makers designed boxes, all that kind of thing. Now, we certainly made for the whole of England, kosher Pesach, cos I can remember the boxes going out to all the various places in London, Manchester. Anybody, they knew about it. But there was a Jewish newspaper then already. It was called. Not the Tribune. What was it called? The Jewish something. And, it was a little sheet. This was an orthodox Jewish newspaper beside the Jewish Chronicle. And people from all over, even if they were not very orthodox, everybody wanted something extra for Pesach. And you had to have coupons. It was rationed.

Tape 2: 2 minutes 8 seconds

And they, people saved up their coupons and bought these chocolates for Pesach. We only made plain. They were like little round pennies. Bigger than pennies. Twice the size. And, plain chocolate in boxes. But during, for not Pesach, we had other chocolate. But I, we were going to school. It must. There's a difference between 19, up til 1942, 43. 43 we moved. So, between 19. And, my, my grandmother lived with us and she was never very happy in England. She could not get used to the un, uncivilised [chuckle], you know, cold and damp and stairs and no help and, and wartime. And she became ill and she died in 19, I think it must be 1941, 1941. Just before Pesach. And she had also this single daughter, my aunt, who was about twenty four, twenty five. My father was very interested in finding a suitable Shidduch. And this family, whom he already knew from Europe, the Newmans, they were leather dealers. And they came from Pressburg, Bratislava. And there was a father with

three children. Now there were lots of connections with Gateshead. Gateshead, they, a lot of people were sent to Gateshead, went to Gateshead. And then it was a restricted area. So they came to Manchester. Cos aliens weren't allowed to live in Gateshead. And, one of the sisters lived in Gateshead. This, the o, the sister. But anyhow, my aunt got engaged to the oldest son, Mr Newman. And my mother's family from London lived in Harrogate during the war. Their husbands went on a train Mondays to Fridays and the families lived, they rented house in the area, because of the bombs and the Blitz.

Tape 2: 4 minutes 9 seconds

Now Manchester was also full of refugees during the war who lived in Market Place, all over. People came because of the air raids. And they all had to be looked after. And then we had a lot. And my parents had a lot to do with it, because, I don't know whether they were established or they knew the people. People with children. The children went to school. I mean, we kept on going to school all the time. We joined the school. We get home for lunch. We lived down the road. I mean, like, school was nine, what, nine o'clock in the morning. We came home for lunch. And we had friends who also went up and down. Other refugee children. And then lots of non-Jews. I mean the class. And they, they lived also in the same streets. We all went to school together. And we seemed to get on alright. There didn't seem to be much trou, I can't remember much trouble. And then you had to get a scholarship. That was just the beginning of Education Act. That if you passed the scholarship you could go to High School without paying. And so, my brother was the first. He passed for Salford Grammar. And then he went to Salford Grammar. And my, and I, I was very young. I was only ten and I, I sat for Broughton High. But I had friends who'd been there the year before, who'd already gone in. And this head master was very good because he must have coached us, given us extra lessons to get us through the scholarship. Cos the average ability of St John's was not very good. I mean, there were children who could hardly read, you know, in our. You know like all schools it was a very mixed b. In such large classes. But we seemed to manage to learn to read and write and arithmetic (laugh) we managed. But. And all the people who went to that school, who lived in our area …

RL: Were there other refugees?

EE: All full of. I mean, where, where, all our friends. That's where we had our friends. They all, we all passed the scholarship. We all managed to get in. Broughton High was a very classy school.

Tape 2: 6 minutes 1 second

Hi. Fee paying. And. People thought they were, you know, prestigious type of people, you know, not ordinary people. What the scholarship children came in. Even the people whom we knew, who went to the school, who lived in Manchester, local girls. I don't know if their parents paid fees or not. Maybe they didn't. I don't know if they passed the scholarship. But, our friends, we all went. There were lots of people and they don't. Some of them not living here now. But all that time, between 1940,41, my aunt got engaged, my grandmother had died and my mother was expecting my sister. And it was the, that was the big raid of 1941. I think it was 41,

when Market Street got blown up. Now that I do remember. Because, it was Shavuos night, the night of the Blitz. It was in the summer and we went to the shelter. And bombs and everything was falling, right. And. We came out, stood, Murray Street, the whole of town was in flames. You could see the flames going up to the sky. Our windows were all shattered. And the Rabbinowitz's, who lived just round the corner, off Great Clowes Street, that little street I can't remember, their house was completely bombed. They were under the table. And that house was destroyed. But they can re. I don't, I think they must have come into us. I can remember that. There were no windows. We went home and there were. In 3-stories house, these larges houses, and there were no windows anywhere. I think the blackout curtains were sort of fluttering in the breeze. Cos everywhere had these black curtains everywhere. Cos you know you're not supposed to show any light. And we went home. And. That was the big that was the big. Obviously, it must have been, it must have been. People knew, I mean, must have heard from the, from the air raid wardens that it was absolutely crashing and splashing in the night. And, and, and it was already daylight. It must have been like four o'clock in the morning.

Tape 2: 8 minutes 16 seconds

RL: Were people killed?

EE: I can't remember if anybody was killed but I can remember that the whole of town was more or less destroyed. Specially the part near the bus station going up to Deansgate, going up to, going up to where Marks and Spencers is now. Going up. All these old streets. Not the Shamb, the Shambles was still there. But, everything was in flames and.. And we used to go all the time. There were trams. I think the trams had already stopped. We went on the bus to town. I tell you we kept on always going to post office. Besides going to that, my father also took us with. Besides all these people, people were sick. And there was a frum chemist, Mr Leon. He had a shop on Bury New Road, between Rialto end going down, the first, Tenerife Street. And somethings you could get from the chemists. Not rationed or anything like that. Medication. And he used to get, Mr Leon used to make up all kinds of things and we used to take, I don't know, tablets and things to people. Because. It used to be mostly children I imagine all that. And also there were people in hospitals. I remember my own family. My sister, my younger sister, the one's who's born in. Not Miriam, not.. She always got things very bad. She had acute appendicitis, …,I can't remember. We went to that. And we always went. Very often I went with my father on Shabbos to the Jewish hospital. Not all that far away. Down to the bottom of Heyworth, what is it, Elizabeth Street. There were always people there. Frum people. He used to visit. We used to go with him. And I always remember going to the Royal Infirmary with him. Walking on Shabbos afternoon all that way. Cos my brother must have been in the hospital for something. Not all, often. But there were times if, if peop. Maybe it was a child. I don't know why we went with him. But. Maybe to get us out of the way from home. I have no idea.

Tape 2: 10 minutes 19 seconds

But we did a lot, we did a lot of walking. My brother and I. My sister. We were very used to going into corridors. And he knew a lot of the doctors and nurses. Some of them must have been refugees. And I know there's a doctor. Now he's a b, a big

shot. He was training in the Infirmary, a young man, who, my parents knew the family. And he was on duty, I think he took me round the ward or something, you know. As, as a little girl. It wasn't like it is now. I don't know what hospital visiting was like in those days but may, cos he said he was a doctor maybe they let him in. I don't know. Specially people were. On Shabbos they were on their own, you know, just to visit, to visit people. But anyhow, my mother was. My father got nervous and sent my mother to Harrogate. He wasn't going to have this. My. Bombs and this baby was due. So my mother went to Harrogate. And she stayed with my aunt. In, Va near, what's it called, Valley Gardens, or whatever it is? You know that lovely place in Harrogate. And they were getting ready. My sis, my aunt was getting married in Harrogate. And this baby was overdue. And my mother's aunts were getting really nervous because. They cooked a, Chassene themselves, right. I think my uncles brought the fish from London. My aunts then (cough) and whatever. And the Chassene was going to be in Harrogate. Was going to be. I think it must have be after, before the drei Wochen it must have been. Before. I don't think it was after tisch but I can't remember. Anyhow, we were supposed to be bridesmaids. Whatever. But, at long last, my mother Boruch Hashem had my, my sister was born on June the 12th.

Tape 2: 12 minutes 6 seconds

So, this, Liesl, this nurse, this lady who looked after us and cooked and everything, said, "you're getting a special birthday present" on my birthday a few days later. It was nearly my birthday. She was going on a train, with me, to visit my mother, to see the baby. A little girl. It was called after my grandmother who had just died. And I remember this train journey and going to Harrogate. And everybody heaved a sigh of relief I heard because, you know, the, what was, how was my mother going to get to this wedding. They were going to be the unterfurer for my aunt you see. In those days you know, after a baby it took a lot of time. Anyway. Boruch Hashem Boruch Hashem. Now she has a very big, two very big red birthmarks, that my sister. And they said it was because of the Blitz. That my mother was frightened, or whatever, you know, during that time. Anyhow. Then we all went to this Chassene in Harrogate, which I remember, which was very beaut. And I have a photo somewhere. Now that picture I did have. My father at the Chuppah with my, mother. And my great grandmother you can just see her standing at the back. She was like the grandmother of the Kallah. And. I don't know whether we stayed for the day. But we managed to get new dresses, which was a very big thing. All they were, little blue smocked silk dresses. The three sisters. And we were supposed to be the bridesmaids. And I remember it was a very nice sunny afternoon. And it was a. Nobody. I mean. Weddings were rare, very, very rare. And. Boruch Hashem My aunt got married. And my mother obviously came back home. And then we must have lived another year. Is it 42 or 43? Now, the factory was next door. One by one the boys were going away because they got older, they got jobs or they went into the army. And so the hospital, the hostel was liquidating.

Tape 2: 14 minutes 3 seconds

RL: How old were the boys and how many boys?

EE: Oh, well I tell you. We had, we had a married man, a doctor, who was, must have been in his forties or fifties. And we had boys of eighteen. I don't know who, how they managed to get to us. I do not know.

RL: How many?

EE: Now that I don't know. You see it was a very floating population. One or two went to the airforce or the army. Now was he sent to Australia? One or two went to Australia. But they all ended up with jobs. One of them is Mr Stien, Leo Stien. You know Mr Stien? And I used to ask him. He would remember. He. Although he had a father and a brother. But, maybe he came to eat in the hostel or he. Maybe his parents, his father came over later. I don't know. Because I remember his father lived on Northumberland Street. But he belonged to the. He used to eat in the hostel. All these boys came to this hostel, I say, because the food was so good. She was just fantastic. You got wonderful meals. And there were people. I know people. There were two young men who were going to University here in Manchester from Liverpool and they used to come very night to eat supper in our house. Now, presumably they paid.

(Male voice): Sorry just move your arm (away from the microphone).

EE: Sorry, sorry. And, and, and so, and so the, all kinds. It was like a floating population. All kinds. Most. Those who worked, worked. But, as soon as they could, because it was not a very good work in these raincoat factories and whatnot. It was not a very inspiring job. So most of them. Some of them, some of them started off on their own, or they went to London, or they found friends. And, bit by bit, they left the hostel.

RL: How many boys actually …

EE: Well I don't know. I was trying to think. There must have been at least twenty. One was an older person. And they got married after I remember. Mr Possenheimer's father was one. Now he was quite old already and I remember he was lived upstairs in the attic and he used to tell us stories. You know. And he was in a little room on his own.

Tape 2: 16 minutes 10 seconds

And of all kinds of people. Cos there was during the war, at one time, we all got chicken pox, you know how you do. And I got it very bad. And I think it was six or eight weeks. Really, you know, really severe. And. Must been. Maybe it was then. Cos it, you're in pain and everything and he used to tell us stories. We used to. He, he. And there was another man. Who's. Is he still in London? Yes. And he also used to tell us stories. They were older. They were not, they were not boys. They were already men by then. They may not have been married but they were mid-twenties at least if not older. And this Dr Cohen, who went to Australia , he must have been in the thirt---, over thirty already. Something like that. I don't, I don't know what was the criteria of how they got it, of how they. I think. You know. I suppose they just applied and if we had room one took them. As one left another one came.

RL: Who was the, what was the youngest?

EE: The youngest? Now that I don't know. I really don't know who the youngest were. And there were some people only came for weeks or months and then they left. Maybe they. Now all kinds of things happened. There were these two boys. People in the street. You know the people, the frum people. They were liv, liv, living as au pairs and girls, it happened to ladies girls. These girls. One of them was in Birmingham. She used to write to my, to this Liesl, to our nur. And she was her friend. And she said I can't take it. This place is, you know, they don't keep any. So she came to Manchester. And they looked after her. Now somebody else. Somebody dragged somebody out of the house and said meet me on the corner. You don't have to stay there. Because they found it was so difficult to live in some of these houses. And some of them were very hard worked. You know. They made them work.

Tape 2: 18 minutes 10 seconds

They came from Miss Dahl. I don't know if you remember Miss Dahl. The old Miss Dahl was a qual, a qualified teacher. She came to be an au pair. Her little sister. She was a cook. So that didn't bother her. She said to me, "they expected me to sweep the, wash the floors, scrub, sweep the floors." She was an educated lady. She wasn't cut out to be a, a, a nur, a… She must have been nineteen, twenty, or twenty-one, or whatever. So, I don't know how long she lasted there. But, some of them were very. And also it was not. It was, it was not Jew. I mean they were not. They didn't keep anything. It was not kosher. They used to have their own room and eat sort of bread and cheese or bread and eggs, or, whatever. So, these people also came around and about. So I think there must been lots of meetings in our house. People came in and said they'd met so and so. What can we do? We've found them. Where can we go? Now another thing my father was very very particular about was education. So there was a Cheder for boys in Machzikei Hadass which my brother joined. But, for the girls they started a, a Beis Yaacov Agudah. And we had two girls who started at kindergarden. My father started with them at kindergarden. For little boys and girls. And I used to pick them up sometime. Who lived in my. They didn't have to be refugee children or anybody. It was like a play group, kindergarden. And it was run by these two single girls, who were refugee girls. I don't know whether, who paid them. In th, in Northumberland Street, in the Agudah.

RL: Who were …

EE: And then they made …

RL: Who were they?

EE: One is, well she's not alive. One was called Mrs Op, Raina Oppenheimer. And the other was Thea Eisemann. There were two girls who lived in Manchester. They started it off. And then they also started a, a Beis Yaacov cheder for girls. After school.

Tape 2: 20 minutes 4 seconds

We had all kinds of teachers.

RL: Where was it?

EE: In, all in Northumberland Street, thirty-five A. That was the, where the shul was. That was like the Agudah house, you know. And, and you had, we had cheder there in the afternoons, after school and Sunday morning. Now my father and Mr Falk, Mr Falk at the bookstore, were friends. Cos Mr Falk also came from Breslau. And he got married during the war and his wife was an au pair, one of them, in my husband's family, my husband's house. She, she was already engaged. She was already engaged to Mr Falk before she came to England. And she got a placement in Gateshead. And my, my husband always says this story. And she was a very intelligent person. So she had a map of Gateshead. How to get, to A to B to the streets. And somebody saw her open this map and they thought she was a spy. So put her to the police (laughing). And my father-in-law (laughing). I don't know how he got her out (laughing) because Gateshead was a very sort of primitive sort of place (laughing). All she wanted to do was we, the name of the street and how to get there you know. So she. A lot, lots of people stayed in my parents-in-laws house. Cos my father-in-law also was very active. He was English. To get people over. And he took young girls, young peop---, young lady, young girls in. As it helps he had a big family, you know, to look after the children, au pair. So one of them, Mrs Falk she got married and she became one of the teachers in the cheder But we had others, men, before. One of the. All kinds of people. And also, besides that, my father wasn't satisfied with that, and he, he had, we had a private teacher. Shabbos on Sunday. Mr Emmanuel. The father of Mr Emmanuel the optician. Do you remember Mr Emmanuel the optician? So we, we used to learn with him. For the girls.

Tape 2: 22 minutes 5 seconds

And my, and my brother also had a private Rebbe cos the standard of education in Judaism was very poor here. In fact they did try to open a Jewish school during the war but it didn't work out. My parents. We went for a few weeks, months to this school. It was run by Mr Heilpern, another Mr Heilpern. Do you know Tabs Her husband. And Mrs Redmund. Well she wasn't Mrs Redmund then. She was Mr Heilpern, another Mr Heilpern's sister. And we went for a short time to that school. But I think nothing came of it so we left.

RL: Where was that?

EE: It was in Duncan Street. In, off, off Great Clowes Street. I can't remember who else went there but I remember we went there, you know. Anything for education. Anyhow the thing was there to pass.

RL: Who was in charge of that?

EE: I should imagine Mr Heilpern. Cos he's, he was educated. He was a younger brother. Not Chaim, not Goddul, Bumi Heilpern. You know the one who had no family. And he was very intelligent. And he loved children. And he was one of the teachers. But I don't know how. I don't know who went besides my brother and me.

I don't know, I don't know who else went. I can't remember. There must have been very small classes.

RL: And this was a regular school?

EE: And, this must have been before I was ten, before I went to High School. Cos, at ten-plus you could go into High School. So, what is now the eleven-plus, in my day it was ten-plus. So, I was born in June, right, so I was just about ten and I went to sch. And I passed the scholarship. And some of the girls in my class were a bit older but. And that year, 1943, my parents sold this house in Singleton Road. And I don't know anything about. My brother was going to be Bar mitzvah that year or the year after. And, and, we still had the factory next door but the hostel was emptying out. So my mother transferred the factory to the hostel. It was 250 or 252. Cos that was. I don't know she liked that house better I presume. And we bought this house in Singleton Road, which had a big wall in the front garden, a brick wall. We had a bay window and this brick wall went up to the first floor. Cos they were afraid the windows would blow out I presume.

Tape 2: 24 minutes 26 seconds

And that part. These houses in those days. Nobody wanted to move anyway cos it was wartime. And, you know, any house could be destroyed. You really didn't know where you were. That was. The flying bombs were starting then. That was just before. So we moved into Singleton Road.

RL: Before we go into …

EE: So that was 1943. So that is a sort of a cut-off in a way. So I must have started and my sister must have started Broughton High. She, she was the year younger than me. So she went. If I went in 1943 she went in 44. Oh no she wasn't there. So from 1939 to 43 we lived in Great Clowes Street.

RL: So first of all can I just ask you. You know when your father was interned, what happened to the hostel at that point?

EE: They kept on going, obviously. I don't know how many people were left in that hostel but, my, Liesl, my, the cook, she was still there. And my mother was there. But then my mother went to Blackpool. But she didn't take Liesl with her. Liesl stayed in Man, Liesl stayed in Manchester. There must have been always people who needed a meal.

(Male Voice): We've got trouble with the … (microphone)

EE: Oh I'm so sorry, yes. So she stayed and she got married as well. That was another thing. She got married in I think 42, 43, to a young man who used to live in a hostel up the road. So that really was the end. Once she got married. Cos she was, she was the cook. My mother was very good but she certainly wasn't a cook like that. And bit, as I say, bit by bit these young men were finding places. Either they got married or they started businesses or they moved. And, and rented their own houses. They, they, you know, they, they, they found their footing somehow or other.

RL: How many bedrooms did the hostel have?

EE: Oh well that was interesting. Where did we sleep? There was a main bedroom my parents had. And there was a children's bedroom. There was. You went upstairs. At the back there was a big room. Then you went up a few more stairs. There was a third room. So, so say there was two rooms. There was a third room. Then you went up another flight of stairs and there was a room half-way up. And then five more and there were two or three attic rooms. So it was like. It was quite a large house.

Tape 2: 26 minutes 43 seconds

Nobody slept. Did anybody sleep downstairs in, in the hostel? Not that I know. The front room was the library and the office. We had a big desk. And my father did a lot of writing. Apart from the chocolate business he had, what we called relief, he had a secretary and on Sunday mornings they wrote all kinds of letters. For people, to Eretz Yisroel, Platim during the war. I have no i, I mean, I know the girl, Mrs Gluckstadt was one of his secretaries before she was married. And there was another lady who ended up in Canada who also used to be his secretary. She. They did nothing but come on Sunday morning and sort out all this mail that was coming and going. And write letters of all kinds to people. This was all, what you'd call Hatsola, you know. Either to do with the people who lived in the hostel, or for people trying to get people out, or permits, or pe, people who enquired about families. I have no idea. It was a very large. It was a very large correspondence.

RL: Was it under any particular organisation?

EE: Yes. Well, yes. There was a. He belonged to the, something relief organisation. And then he was also. He belong, he'd. The Teheran Children. All kinds of things that came up during the war. London had an office. And we had, we, my father sort of. I think he was the Manchester representative. And he, all the various issues that came up, various refugees, all kinds of. This was already 44. But even before that. I can't remember. He. To Switzerland. You know. Everybody knew him. He, they, we, they all knew what was going on. And this Rabbi Weissmandel you know, with all these stories. And the people from America, people from here. And there were always things going on. And there was always. He applied, you had to get permits, you had to do things. Whatever you had to do. These all had to be done in writing. And, I, I, I mean, I only know that Sunday mornings he was busy with that.

Tape 2: 28 minutes 51 seconds

And, sometimes during the week as well but these girls used to come on Sundays and type out all these letters. In response to whatever mail there was. There must have been things to do.

RL: Do you know which relief organisation?

EE: Yes. Oh dear me. It was called. Ich weiss I can't. Maybe Peter remembers. I remember the headings. You know I remember the paper. You know, we had, what, things, Committee for, Ich weiss, I don't know. It had various committees. Harry

Goodman from Lei, from the Agudah in London, he was one of the main people, you know. Dr Schonfeld, all these people, they were all interconnected. And, then Rabbi Ehrentrau came to Manchester, you know. Then they. That was the dream of this Rav Feldman, to open a Jewish day school. And my sister, Miri, that's the one who's born in England. She was the first one, one of the first three girls to go to that school. She was the first pupil. Because of Rav Feldman**.** We used to go to visit Rabbi and Mrs Feldman. And. They only had boys [laughing]. But my mother and my father and me, you, because, because, she, she, wasn't, obv, obviously not. Sometimes she wasn't very well at all. She also did not relocate very well to England. And she found it very difficult. I mean it was dark and it was cold and it was dusty and it was. Rationing and it was winter. And. I mean there must have been summers as well but you can remember for somebody who's not used to that kind of, that kind. And it was always dirty. I mean it was always dusty. Because of the coal. I mean, til the Clean Air Act you can't believe. The fog was. I mean, there were days when you didn't go to school because it was so foggy. And there were days when the street had these beacons, lights burning. And even with those beacons you couldn't see. You know, they put up these flames. I don't know what. It was some sort of petrol thing. That you see. And. You just couldn't go anywhere. You couldn't walk. You couldn't do anything. And it was thick. And. It wasn't as bad as in London's smog but it must have been. And you were covered in black dust when you came in or out. And we went to school we were always covered in it. We couldn't …all the time. But there were days when you really couldn't see at all.

Tape 2: 31 minutes 19 seconds

And, and, and there was always fetching in the coal and lighting the fires and the ashes and the dust and the fire lighters. All these things. Like, we, I didn't do it so much when I was little but when I got a bit older it was that was part of life. And hot water came from the fire. If the fire wasn't lit there was no hot water. You know, it was, it was very, in that respect. I don't know if we had a. I think when we got to Singleton Road we had an electric water heater, as well. But did we have one in Great Clowes Street? I don't know. What did we do? There was a bathroom that's for sure. There was a bathroom and a toilet, separate. And a, was there a bathroom upstairs? There must have been. Nothing downstairs. And we had these mosaic tiled floors. And, you know. You know, with those sort of, these Italianate tiles, coloured tiles, you know. Freezing cold. And if you fell down, I me, which we, you, no carp. We, we were lucky cos we had some bit of carpet here and there. Cos the carpets kept you warm. And you were, you were all sitting on top of a coal fire, you know. I mean, I can't remember freezing and I remember hot water bottles in bed. But it must have been very. There was some very cold winters. And, and, that was all til 1943. That was, these, it was like, two. For me it was like two halves of the war. Because then we had our own house.

RL: What happened to refugee girls?

EE: The girls? Oh they all did munitions. They went to work.

RL: And where did they live?

EE: Yes. No, they lived at home. My friends, the Gottliebs they lived in Northern Street and the Emmanuels, Betty Emmanuel. Then she went to University after that. You know, you got free University if you'd been a, if you'd been in war work, I think, you got automatically, you got free education after that.

Tape 2: 33 minutes 10 seconds

She did munitions. And th, and this, my other friend, Ruth, I said to her, she's older than me, I said, you never went to school what did you do? Rosie Spiel, not Rosie Spiel, Mrs Harris for example. She di. Rosie I think did go to school. I don't know what she did. I think her father also had some kind of a boarding house, a hostel, so she could have worked there. But she told me she made, she went with a few other girls, and she made uniforms. In those raincoat factories they were all converted to making uniforms. And th. She worked in these, at these places in town. In Cheetham Hill or wherever. It was compulsory.

RL: Were there any hostels …

EE: For girls?

RL: … for girls?

EE: Eh, there was I think one girls hostel. I can't remember. I can't remember. There must have been a girls hostel somewhere. Most of the girls were places with families. Cos that's how they came over, as au pair. And they either got themselves together to a flat. Or some of them got married. And they all, they all the girls got together. Well they were all German speaking for a start and they all had to learn English didn't they. And, Shabbos and Yomtov and I think a lot of them used to come to our house. Maybe, because it was a bigger house. I mean, some of the houses were very small, you know. There wasn't really room for all that kind of thing. But, I mean I was younger so I wouldn't remember. But I remember Mr Heilpern got married, Chaim Heilpern got married. That was in the war. Then Liesl got married. My parents went to London. We were left in the care of somebody for a day and a half you know. That was, a big event. I think my father went on his own sometimes. He travelled. But my mother was always there, was always at home, so we didn't need looking after.

RL: Was there other hostels like yours?

EE: Yes, there was two, in Great Clowes Street there was 266 but they didn't provide food. And there must have been other hospitals, hostels in Hightown I think.

Tape 2: 35 minutes 12 seconds

And I must remember something else. The Yeshiva came, Schneiders Yeshiva came to Manchester. And that was during the war, 43, 44. Must have been the flying bombs. And they lived in Elizabeth Street. Mr Levy, Yankel Levy, the father of. Mr Levy who was. He was quite a big thing. He had a chemist shop at the bottom of Bury New Road and he had a wine factory in Han, Han, where Jewish High School is going to be now, in Hanover Square. He had… Now he employed some of our hostel

boys in his wine factory and, he ran, he had other houses that he gave as hostel. And I think there was a hostel in south Manchester as well. But I can't remember if any of them were frum girls. The most hostels were after the war for the concentration camp girls. That was at 1945. I can't remember a girls hostel in '42, '43. I can only remember girls, young girls coming, who lived in town somehow.

RL: The other hostel in Great Clowes Street, who was in charge of that hostel?

EE: Oh I can't remember. There were so many. But it just, Mr Weinberg, you know the Mr Weinberg? Lottie Harris and their son. Her father, I think he ran, I think they ran that hostel. I'm not sure. But I think it was just for bed and breakfast. It was not, didn't provide meals as far as I remember. It was just a place for people to stay. There must have been many other hostels but I didn't know about them. These were for, these were all for very orthodox. And Manchester Yeshiva took in boys. And there was about how many refugees? I don't know. Must have been at least 20, 30 came in 194, 1939, from, mostly from Vienna. A whole chevra of boys. Now they, they, I think, the boys, our, they walked, our boys sometimes walked up to Manchester Yeshiva you know to Seymour Road. Specially those who wanted to be more interested in learning. People walked everywhere (laughing). Although it was a very good bus service. I mean, there were better buses than I think than there are now. And we had a tram. I don't know when that tram stopped. The tram went from Heaton Park all the way to town. Passed Albert Park down to Victoria, Deansgate.

Tape 2: 37 minutes 40 seconds

And, and, I mean cars were practically unknown, I mean private cars, in our circles, were practically unknown. So people went on buses, buses and trams. And we. I remember going to all these grocery shops. Going home on the bus with, with bags full of vegetables, of fru. Anything they could spare, which wasn't rationed. My father must have bought, or sometimes they gave it to him. Mr Gordon said we used to give it to him for noth. Cos they knew he had a hostel and he had these hungry boys to feed, you know. So whatever there was. Because there was a big shortage of food. There was no doubt about that. But I didn't hear about it. I knew there was a black market and that. All I remember though was in 19, when my brother was going to be Bar mitzvah, was it '44, we, all, all before Pesach, we used to hoard the eggs and the sugar and anything else cos of Pesach, besides the matzos. Vegetables you could get. And, some, what was it, an other thing. And of course meat, the meat rationed. So that we should have for Yomtov. And I remember this places where, you know, you couldn't touch this was Pesach, it's going to be for Yomtov. Also, my brother was going to be bar mitzvah in the winter, in Shevat. And I think we hoarded eggs for him as well so that they could bake some cakes and things. Although I think this, she was already married then, Liesl. She managed to bake cakes out of, don't ask me what. And there was, course, there was egg powder. So that if you were any good at cooking you made it palatable. I didn't mind, I used to eat it. There was also this sort of sausage meat type of stuff. She managed to make it into some kind of hamburger, which was very delicious. Other people they used to hate it. You see it depended who it was. But I know in other houses that people were, met in the local, well the well-to-do, more well-to-do people, they used to buy more sugar, more eggs, more whatever. And also candy and chocolate. But that didn't bother us. Cos you

used to have to cut out the ration. If you'd bought a quarter of a pound of chocolate, see you had to have so many ration points.

Tape 2: 40 minutes 5 seconds

And we had these stacks of these things and you had to, had to, produce a ration. And people saved up their rations for chocolate or thing. And we saved those as well. There were some things like liquorice you could buy without rations. So people got into sherbet and liquorice and these kinds of things. And, but, we nev, we never hardly, hardly had to bother so much because, you know, cos if you're. We were alright. But other children I think they found it very hard. Because there was a big shortage of, of candies and things. And there were. What did we eat for breakfast? We must have had some kind of cereal. But, but, we always had one cooked meal a day.

RL: So would the boys all be with you for Yomtov and Pesach and …

EE: Oh yes, yes, yes, yes. That was it, that was it. The first years. Certainly up to 1942. How we managed to make Pesach I do not know, because there was so many people. To turn it over. We had a cellar though. It could be though that they must have kept things down in the cellar and cooked and turned it over. You know what I mean? And made Yomtov I can remember the first Pesach in the dining room. Loads of people. And that. I told you my father used to invite these girls as well, these single girls, because they had no families. Maybe for one meal or another meal. And, I don't know what, which matzos I think the big matzos and Machzikei Hadass and they must, he must have got matzos somewhere. Or bought, you know, the Bonn's matzos. In those days it was the Bonn's matzos. And they were not rationed I think. You could get as many matzos as you wanted. And, and, bread was only rationed at the end of the war. You could get as much bread as you wanted. So that was a major, a major part of your diet, was bread.

R: Did they, did you have a davening in the hostel?

Tape 2: 42 minutes 4 seconds

EE: No, hardly ever. Everybody went to shul. But there were plenty of shuls. And MH was less than ten minutes away. You walked up, walked up Murray Street or Wellington Street and then up to MH. It was about seven, ten minutes. We were, but that was the interesting thing you see. Because. Because my father decided he's joining Machzikei Hadass he was used to taking his girls to shul on Friday night, as we used to do in Germany. And, and, it was unheard of for women, (a) to go to shul altogether. Cos the Polish Hassidishe women didn't **w**ant to, didn't go to shul. Just for the Yizkor or, you know, or Rosh Hashanah, or whatever. And to op, they used to have to open the shul for us on Friday night, my sister and me. By ourselves. It was freezing cold sometimes. We had a coal fire. It was an old, old house. And we were in the la. And they opened the shul on Shabbos mornings as well for us. I don't know how he managed to do that but he did. The people were very horrified. And, we didn't care. I mean we didn't realise what a, what a, what an upheaval that was. But the fact that there was a Cheder meant that the local girls also joined that Cheder. You know that we had put. Most of the children who started up at that Cheder were

refugee children whose parents were used to their children going to Cheder but the other people also went.

RL: Which families were they?

EE: What?

RL: That sent their daughters to Cheder the refugee families?

EE: Oh the refugee families. Well. Well, the Gottliebs and there was. Who else did I go to Cheder with? Must have been about eight or ten of us. And then there were the local girls. The Reich girls went. The Heilpern girls went. Esther Shaw went. There were. You know, people from the, people from the town, who, the girls themselves wanted to go. But who else, who else from the Haimishe girls? Now I don't think. Now, for example, Weinbergs, they lived down Cheetham Hill afterwards. The Cheetham Hill people didn't come to Broughton Park. Who else went besides me? I must have been together with my sister. There must have been eight of us. Who else could have been? In Cheder with us? Trying. Cos I had a good friend. I went with her. Those other, there were girls from. Shirley Morgenstern and Conn, Gita Conn, and, they were the English girls. They joined the Cheder. They were my, younger than me and my sisters. And then, by the time it got to my sister Miri there was already a Jewish day school, do you understand?

Tape 2: 44 minutes 51 seconds

RL: Who taught in the Cheder?

EE: Well the first, we had, Mister. One was Mr Ordentlich**.** His wife was somewhere at the other end of the world and he lived in Manchester. There was another one who went to America, called Mister. '**…**' Could it have been? I can't remember his name. We had a few men. And then we got to Mrs Falk. Once we got to Mrs Falk. She lived in Ashbourne Grove and it, it was. In between having babies she used to teach us. She was very good, Mrs Falk. She was a proper cheder teacher. You know what I mean? You know, she, a proper teacher. And, one was Mr, besides Mr Ordentlich**,** who else was there? There was another man. I've forgotten, I've forgotten his name. But they sort of floating population. They did it as a job because they had nothing else to do sort of thing. I presume they got a certain amount of payment for it. It must have been very hard because we were very unruly children.

RL: Whose auspices was this Cheder under?

EE: It was Agudah**,** it was Agudah. It was a Beis Yaacov Cheder. And, you turned up on Sunday mornings and about four-thirty every day, four-thirty 'till six or four-thirty to five-thirty, Monday to Thursday, oh yeah. And.

RL: And was there …

EE: And then after that we had to go home and do our homework.

RL: Was there an equivalent Cheder for the boys?

EE: Boys had Cheder Machzikei Hadass That was established cos every shul, you know they, the, boys had to learn, bar mitzvah and so on. They had Rabbi Unsdorfer who is now the father. He's not alive any more. He's the brother of Mrs Hoff actually. And he went to Canada or Eretz Yisroel. He was... There was also Reb Siche Waltner, Rabbi Waltner, who ended up in Eretz Yisroel. And then he, he got married and went to Gateshead. Lived in Gateshead and started. He was in the Kolel. They had some very prestig. Rabbi Rosenbaum, the father of, of Hannah Goldstien and Esther Liebermann. And, Yossi, eh, Yossi Rosenbaum, their father. Reb Shmuel Rosenbaum. They had all kinds. And they had another Yid, what was his name?

Tape 2: 47 minutes 22 seconds

Very choshev people. Not always such good teachers but very learned, and, you know. But at the age of fifteen or sixteen my brother went to Schneider Yeshiva, which was pretty unheard of in those days.

RL: How many came up from, with the Schneider Yeshiva?

EE: Schneider Yeshiva was started in London by Reb Schneider, who brought the Yeshiva over from Germany. And then he used to go on the street and pick up these refugee boys. Some of whom weren't even Frum and take them to his Yeshiva to learn. Cos they work. They came over on their own, or whatever. And they were very very very poor. There was hardly any food, and no housing, nothing. But somehow he had this spirit and the. Once they started to learn, even if they learnt from nothing, some of them became very great thing. And they had bochrim. Now the fact is that he, he also, besides the German refugee population who sent their boys to the Yeshiva, the Reichs sent their boys to the Yeshiva, Grosskopfs sent their boy to Yeshiva. A var, few families of the frum families sent their boys to Yeshiva. But it was the exception rather than the rule. And the thing was my father was ill. My father became ill. He had, he had high blood pressure. And, coronary disea, and he knew he was ill but there was nothing you can do about it. All you could do was rest. And he went away. And he used to have to rest in the afternoon. And in 1945. My younger sister was born in 1945, in July, so it was just at the end of the war. And she was born at home, in bed [laughing] and I was there. I mean, I was there, I mean to say, she was born in July, and it was a beautiful room. And we had this cot in this room, you know, and they're saying, Mammy's going to have a baby and this is going to be for the baby, you know, and various babies' things were bought. You know, baby clothes, and so on. And I remember one night. I don't know who the midwife, or who it was, and, all this activity. And you wake up. It was a summer's day, it wasn't middle of the, it wasn't dark. And, all of a sudden I heard all these noises and my father said mazeltov we have a baby sister.

Tape 2: 49 minutes 52 seconds

And I heard this baby crying. And I remember going in, you know, very excited because I knew, we all knew my mother was going to have a baby. And it was four years since the last one. And, whether they were disappointed that it was another girl I do not know. I don't know what we wanted. But, you know, we were just thrilled it

was a new baby. And, and, Boruch Hashem yes, so she, she, she wen, she, like that. And then, because my mother went every day to work, you see, when we moved, when we moved. That was another interesting thing. When we moved to Singleton Road we still had the chocolate factory. So my mother used to go every day with my father in the morning and come home at night. My father sometime came home in the afternoon. Or, he stayed at home in the morning and went in the afternoon. Because he had, supposed to rest. And, he was in the office. And my mother did everything except, you know, she packed and she took the orders and what... She did all kinds of things. She could do the, invoices, or she could type. She was a very, she did a, she was very handy thing. But there was a lot, there were young children there at home. So, next door on Broom Lane to, where Broughton High is, is, is a convent. And that convent had Irish, illegitimate mothers, loads of them. English as well. And once they'd had their babies, I don't know whether they were adopted or what, those girls needed jobs. And we had a succession of English and Irish girls who slept upstairs, stayed with us, who were like. Helped to do the housework. At the beginning we had a lady who used to come in and cook, Jewish lady. But when I got a bit older so we stopped that Jewish lady and I did the cooking. And, and then my sister, one after the other, my sisters did the cooking. Cos you must remember in 46. How old was I in 46? Wasn't very old. That was. My father was nifta. My father died just before Tisha B'av in '46. We were all sent away, except for my brother. So my parents could have a rest at home, so to speak.

Tape 2: 52 minutes 5 seconds

And, and, and, I went by myself on the train to London. And my father drew me a thing of the underground and said you get on at this station and you get off and round the corner and that's where your aunt lives. And didn't think twice about that. Now I was about. How old was I now? Twelve or thirteen. So, and I went to stay with them, with my aunt and uncle. The aunt who, who origin, who was the very first one to come to England in '35 or '34. So I was going to London to stay with my aunt. And, I don't think I was there more than a few days. It was the Motzei Shabbos. I must, I must have come on the Tuesday. And, and, I remember my, my uncle came into my room on Sunday morning and said you must get dressed we're going back to Manchester, your father's not well. And I thought, I've only just come, you know like, a few days ago. And then, my sister went to camp. My other sister went somewhere else. Anyhow, when we got to the station my aunt and uncle were both on the train. And my mother's aunt and uncle, and somebody else, they were all on that train. I thought, this is, you don't go on a train just to see somebody who's not well. But you know you don't really. You know, telephone's nothing. I think I had a letter. I think my parent's wrote me a letter, and a card, and I got it on Shabbos morning, you know. And I must have written them a card to say I've arrived or whatever. Anyhow, by the time we got to the house, off the train. I think my uncle told me then halfway down on the train that he wasn't, he was not, wasn't alive. He had died. So, how much, how much do you know about these things? Although you do hear, we did hear during the war, nebach about, you know all the casualties and all the things. And we got there and there was an enormous crowd outside the house, you know.

Tape 2: 54 minutes 10 seconds

And somebody was speaking. And, there was only my brother to say Kaddish. There was only one boy. And, somebody went to the camp in the middle of Gloucestershire to pick up my sister. And when she got there it was already all over. I was there bef, you know, at the hesped you know it started from our house. And then we sat Shiva for a week, you know, which was not very easy. And, my two, my two little sisters were sent away. So that three big ones. There was a baby and two sisters, so they were sent away. There was a, there was a Jewish place in Altrincham in those days. And one of the people who ran that place was Mrs King. She was the nurse who used to eat in our house. And she married. And they opened a sort of convalescent home in Altringham. We used to go there. It was a very nice place, a country place. That was another thing. My father was very particular about fresh air. We went to parks and gardens, and, on Sunday's, you remember all this smog, we used to go out on Sundays. Outings. Not only like Lag B'Omer outings. He used to take us to, he decided… cos people were always catching cold and tonsillitis and that. He used to take us to fresh air. Now Altrincham was a beautiful place in those days….a country place. Now we used to go there. And we went. And we went to Heaton Park, went to Buille Hill Park. I think we went to ev, Bellevue, wherever you can want to, we went. So we. He was a traveller anyway. He was a traveller and he was also mountaineer. He used to love mountain climbing. He used to go to Switzerland and climb mountains. And my mother hated heights, so she used to [smiling], she said she went, when they were married she used to sit on the first, you know when you go there, and the deckchair in the snow, and wait for him to come down [laughing]. Cos she, she was nervous of heights.

Tape 2: 56 minutes 9 seconds

She's still up. There was a kosher hotel in St Moritz and my parents, my parents used to go to St Moritz before the war and then after the war she went on her, with my sister. But the interesting thing was that we had this, these trunks in the attic. All kinds of things. And my father's climbing gear was in there. And he had an ice, axe, or whatever it was, thing, all kinds of things. And, that, she must have packed that, why, I don't know? Can you imagine, mountains here to do that? But he was a. He, he used to like that. He was, he, you know, these, he used to get dressed up for climbing, you know. These wool, woollen, heavy woollen socks and climbing boots and all that. So, we saw that so we knew it existed, you know. But, I mean, during the war all these things were just noth…. I mean, you know, you don't, you didn't, you didn't, you knew about them. But of course he was never, he never, he never managed. I mean that was it.

RL: You say he belonged to two shuls. There was Machzikei Hadass …

EE: Yes he, and that was another thing. Every Sabbath evening, Motzei Shabbos, we went to Adass Yesurun. That means Agudah, it was called Agudah for and so, I, and we wen, so we Ashkenaz that's right. And then he went, Mrs Halberstadt and Mrs Gluckstadt had a, had a elderly mother. And, they must have had a father, but the father died, and they lived. I can't remember if it was Ashbourne or Welbeck And every motzei Shabbos, on his way home, my father went to make havdollah for the two girls and their mother. So, you know, that was on the way home. So, we, we went. I think. I mean to pretty well every. So, I remember going Friday night. Shabbos morning we went by ourselves. Obviously we didn't go to the beginning of

davening. And, a gradual. As we went to shul other people also went to shul, you know.

RL: This film is about to end so we'll just …

EE: End of story, yes, yes.

RL: … stop there.

EE: So …

Tape 2: 58 minutes 14 seconds

TAPE 3

RL: This is the interview with Mrs Ellinson and its tape three.

EE: Well, I was just saying that before, after 1946, life was different in a way. Because then, we were on our own. That means to say, my mother with her family.

RL: I had just. You were just telling me about …

EE: Now we're get, before …

RL: … the shul. We were just talking about, we stopped about …

EE: Yes, well the shul. But it, they didn't actually have a Rav because it was affiliated to Machzikei Hadass. The, the, Adass Yeshurun as it turns. It was called Agudah in those days. But they davened the same way as they davened in Germany. You know nusach ashkenaz. And, and of course, MH was very Hassidish. But they had two wonderful Baal Tefillla, which was Reb Wolf Dresner and Rav Pesach Goldstien. Completely different because Reb Wolf Dresner was a Belzer Chossid and Rav Pesach Goldstien was English but he had learnt in Hevron Slabotka Yeshiva, in Eretz Yisroel and married a lady from Yerushalayim, an Israeli wife. And he was Litvish. And both of them were most wonderful baal tefilla. So, even though we davened Nusach Sephad, we children had to get used to. You see, in one shul you davened like this and in another shul you davened like that. Because it was a different Nusach altogether. I mean. But we. You know. Nusach Sephad was different. But we at home davened Ashkenaz

RL: Who davened at the Adass in the Agudah?

EE: You know that. Well we. I was never there Rosh Hashona but there was Mr Isak, olov hasholom, who was the father of Mrs Grossberger, Mendle Grossberger's wife. And there was also, was there a Mr Emmanuel must have been Mr Emmanuel, who else? They were, they had their Baal Tefilla, they had their Baalei Tefilla. But I was never there Yomim Naroyim. We always were in Machzikei Hadass.

Tape 3: 2 minutes 2 seconds

We got very used to the Nusach anyways because he was beautiful. They were absolutely fantastic. They had, Mr Dresner was a Belzer Chossid fro, who was, who was by the old Belzer Rebbe in Belz as a young man. And his, had the most, he had the most. Well the whole family was musical and he had the most beautiful voice and beautiful tunes as well. Beautiful nigunim,. And I remember Herschel Goldstien. who also, used to daven half in Machzikei Hadass and half in the Yeshiva And when I got older I think we used to go to the Yeshiva for Rosh Hashona as well. Manchester Yeshiva cos he was, he was, he davened Musaf, and, you know, Kol Nidre, you know. The same as he, up to, as Schneider's son still does it now. I mean. I don't know if his son davens in Machzikei Hadass but his son still davens the same as he, as he did in those days. But you see my brother went to Yeshiva. There was a lot of controversy. Rabbi Ehrentrau came to be the principle of Jewish day school. And it started off in the polygon, where Jewish King David is now, in a house. And, oh I know the family that I went to the thing. The Wach's family, Doreen, Selma. They were an English family and their father had sent them to America at the beginning of the war. Because he was a well-to-do businessman. He was, thought he'd send his children. He had a sister. And his wife, she, she couldn't take it. She missed her husband and she came back to England. And they had a house in the polygon quite a big house. And they went to school with us, I think, they went to cheder with us. They all, they had two or three girls. And, and, so Rabbi Ehrentrau after my father died, my mother used to go every afternoon on the way home from the office to speak to, to visit him. He was very sick at one time. And he was, used to…. And we also used to have a shiur with him on Sundays, or Shabbos or Sundays.

Tape 3: 4 minutes 3 seconds

Besides Mr Emmanuel. And that, because we were already leaving school. Then the Sem opened in 1945/6 I think, Gateshead Sem Should you send your girls to the sem should you not send your girls to a Sem There was a lot of controversy. Now, all the refugee people wanted their children to go to a Sem. Cos they didn't think the, the, there was enough Jewish education, you know, to make up. Also to become teachers it was a thing to be. And a lot of girls had arguments with their Hassidishe parents whether or not they could go. But there was no question in our family of going to Sem because my mother was on her own and the oldest girl. We had a cook to help in the office, or whatever. My sister. I got to 'A' levels and my. We had, I had a wonderful time at Broughton High and the principle said, she was a very nice lady, and she said if I get the 'A' level, which one 'A' level, you can get a grant, you can go to University. And you get, and you get paid for it. So my mother wasn't anxious that I should go away because long as I was there then she did, she didn't need to worry about the cooking side. We had somebody to do the housework. These live-in girls. Exce, say, they all got married, some of them, afterwards. Some were English, some were Irish. And then my sister did an office and she taught in cheder. My next sister. And then my sister after that became. Then there was Broughton Jewish Primary as well, besides Jewish Day. And Mr Bamberger and Mr Feingold opened Jewish Primary. And those two schools were parallel schools. Not like they are today. Very frum schools. I mean, both of them. You, you, you, it was a, your children could go to either. In fact in some families, some children went to one and then they changed in mid-stream and went to another. And that. They both had kindergardens but the Broughton Jewish kindergarden was in Latham House on Singleton Road.

Tape 3: 6 minutes 6 seconds

And my third sister, Miriam, the one who was born in London, she started off in kindergarden there. And, til she got married I think. And, my next sister, very intellectual, Hannah, she went to University. But my younger sister was also a kindergarden teacher, til, for, til, almost til she got married. And she sort of had every child, every child, you know, in this, between the ages of thirty and fifty, most, a lot of them went to Broughton Jewish, cos it was a very popular kindergarden. So, which meant they were practically at home, that means they were at home, they were only down the road. So, so, none of us. We had, we had, besides, there was still some shiurim, Reb Herschel gave a shiur each week. And we had. And now another thing that my mother went to, which was Rav Dessler, the famous Rav Dessler who started the thing. Every Monday night he travelled from London to Gateshead to Manchester. Every week. His family was in Australia. And he gave a Ladies Shiur I think it was Monday evenings. Either in Herschel Goldstien's house or in the Rosh Yeshiva's house. And my mother used to go to that. I don't know if she went to anything else but that she certainly went to. And, then Reb Herschel gave a Ladies Shiur, at the Rosh Yeshiva's house on Sunday evening's. I went, I went to that. My sister went. And, cos you, you were too old. You couldn't go to cheder anymore. But until we got married we still went to Mr Emmanuel, every Shabbos and Sunday. And they were Bnos groups, you know, you had group leaders and group. And we had also, afterwards, there were various girls. There was a girl who had been to the Sem who lived in Manchester. And she lived with her mother, Naomi Marcus she was called. She was originally from Sweden, or somewhere, and she lived in Wellington Street, and we used to go to her. Private lessons. She used to give shiurim or lessons. She ended up in Eretz Yisroel. She married Pehls, Robert Pehls from, what is it, from Schneider's Yeshiva. And she has a very big family.

Tape 3: 8 minutes 19 seconds

And she comes over in the winter to Bournemouth sometime. She loves to come back to England and give shiurim. She… We went to her. I don't know. My mo, my mother found all kinds of people. There was always. Cos we always, you know, cos, because we'd studied, or we learn, then, we always had to have more shiurim. It wasn't enough just nothing. So every week you had a certain amount of time. Oh, and we also, my sister and I, enrolled in town, when we were about seven, eighteen, seventeen, eighteen, to learn Ivrit**.** In the local Institute. And, there were lots of Jewish girls, frum girls, we used to learn Ivrit. I think Monday nights or Wednesday nights. I think my sister did Italian as well. Cos I'd done Italian in school. So she did Italian or Spanish. Cos she did a secretarial course. And you went to this College of Commerce, in Princes Street, Portland, somewhere, you know, one of the. And it, sort of night school place. And lots of frum girls went to these courses. And we did Ivrit. There was a very good teacher, who was not, not very orthodox at all, but he was very good at Ivrit. So we did dikduk and that. Although we did a little bid on cheder we, we did and all that. I don't know how exact, how much we learnt, but it was something to do for a start. And it certainly gave us an idea of. Cos we knew Loshon Kodesh. But this was Ivrit and he could speak Ivrit.

RL: What were the B'nos groups that you mentioned?

EE: The B'nos, the Agudah groups. They were run by the Agudah and they were group leaders. And older girls. I never got, became a group leader. I never had the time. But the older girls. When she got to a certain age, eighteen, nineteen, and. Like they still have. Shabbos afternoons and sometimes there were activities on Sunday. And we also went to camp. Now I only went to camp. The very first Agudah camp I went to, it was in Chelsford, in Gloucestershire, with outside toilets and some farmhouse in the middle of nowhere. And, Rabbi Dunner I think he was then, was he, well, I don't know if he was still in Nottingham or he moved to London. He was the camp Rosh. So I got to, we got to know all his sons. You know, he had a bunch of sons. And we had a, some other people, who else, were the people there who looked after us? There must have been a cook. And you went for about a week or two. And you met girls from London, from the East End and Stamford Hill. And we all had these two weeks in the summer.

Tape 3: 10 minutes 45 seconds

But I didn't go anymore. I only went to one or two camps. But my sister went to Tunbridge Wells and they had a camp in Europe. They once made a camp in Switzerland. And, and, everybody remembers my sisters, two of them went. Even from over, all, other parts of the world. Because girls from Belgium and Switzerland of that age also went. It was a one-off, a one, you know, it was like an. I forgotten who organised it from England. It was like a international camp. So everybody went. And that was very. But I never got there so. I was already too old (laughing). After my time. I only went to two camps. The first two camps. One was Mr Kohn I think was also there. The one that became the Gateshead, principle of Gateshead Sem. He was at camp, he was in the camp. Which camp was he in? And, I must have been about sixteen, or fifteen, sixteen. I don't know who the cooks were. We had a very good time. We lived in these old fashioned. It was real country life, you know. And then, after that. We did also, when we were girls, my mother rented a house in Southport. There was always a kosher hotel in Southport. Mrs Gevirtz and Mrs Lobel. My parents that, that year my father was sick, in 1946, he had gone for a few weeks to, two weeks or a week, to the hotel, with my mother for a rest, you know, sea air. But the following year, the year after, we rented a house in Southport, in, in Berkdale, it's on the way to Ainsworth. It's walking distance of the kosher hotel. Cos that's where the shul. Besides the shul that's. There was a minyan. I think in that hotel. So, and we went. You know you met everybody there, you know. And it was, so. And we got into the habit, the habit of going away for, for. And, I think we only went once to South, or twice. To going away in the summer, taking, taking your food, and going to, you know, on vacation. Which we, we all ended up doing. Well, well, well, I certainly ended up doing when I got married to get, take the children out, you know, away for two weeks.

Tape 3: 13 minutes 9 seconds

In the summer, come rain, come shine. Because sometimes it was a bit wet. But, my brother was all the time in the Yeshiva. The Yeshiva with the flying bombs, 1944, where Safeway used to be. Where now it's, at the corner is Lester's Discount, next to Crumpsall Library, that was there. There was where, that's where the Yeshiva used to learn. It was a, must have been a warehouse, or something, that belonged to somebody. And they slept in Elizabeth Street, opposite the Jewish hospital, the boys.

RL: Is that on Cheetham Hill Road?

EE: Cheetham Hill Road, on Cheetham Road, next to the Crumpshall Library. And now the Bochrim used to eat in private houses sometimes, on Shabbos, because there was always a shortage of food. When they came in 1944. And my husband, the Ellinsons, they joined the Yeshiva. His brother had already joined in London but two brothers joined in Manchester. They were fifteen, sixteen and so they came to Manchester. And they had their uncle here, the Rosh Yeshiva anyway. But that was Manchester Yeshiva. And they joined Schneider's Yeshiva. And then after the war that Yeshiva moved back to London. And my brother joined that Yeshiva.

RL: How many Bochrim came with the Yeshiva to Manchester?

EE: Oh, now that I don't know. But there must have been quite a few of them. You know, at least forty, if not more. And they also joined up a bit with Manchester Yeshiva. But, we had a boy, who I think had lived in our house, who ate with us for Shabbos, I can't remember, who belonged to the Yeshiva.. A Posen, he was called Posen. And my brother. That was after my father died. My, my brother was sixteen when he left school, after 'O' levels. My, my mother very much wanted that he should go to Yeshiva. My father had wanted, and there was a big to-do, because everybody said that she shouldn't be on her own. And, the son should stay at home and help. And what was he doing going to Yeshiva. This was no place. There was a lot of controversy in those days.

Tape 3: 15 minutes 19 seconds

To send your boy. You could send your boy to University but you couldn't send [laughing]. But anyhow, she insisted and she did. And she said we'll manage. And so my brother went to Yeshiva. And when he was in Yeshiva, 1945, 46, he and two friends, who both became my brothers-in-law, well, I mean, one I married and one married my sister in the end, they went to Europe by boat to Switzerland. Cos there was a Yeshiva in Montreux, a famous Yeshiva and there was a big godul there, Rabbi Weinberg and also Switzerland was a beautiful place and they had kosher food, and whatever. So these four boys went off. It must have been 48, 48, or. And we have a picture of them, I think, on the boats or something, you know, and they went. I mean lots of boys went in groups. And that was their group. And then the following year. My brother also like my father is a traveller. The Reichmann family lived in Tangier and the Reichmann boys, the famous Reichmann boys, you know from, what's its name, what's it called, … what's the name of the, I can't think of it (laughing), the famous place in London where the skyscraper is, where the …

RL: Canary Wharf

EE: Canary Wharf, well it wasn't Canary Wharf. The two brothers learnt each night at Yeshiva and my brother went back with them, through France and Spain to Tangiers, after the war. And met all the family. And, I don't know who else went. Whether he went by himself or he only went with the Reichmann. Cos he was just that interesting type of boy. Now I also went after the war with my mother to Paris, because we had an uncle and aunt hidden during the war, all the time, somewhere in

the south, in the middle of France. And they got back to Paris after the war. And I went to see them. Now their children were in the Resistance, these, these cousins of my mother. But my uncle was a man, we couldn't believe it, who was so finicky that he wouldn't touch a door handle. It had to have , wear a glove, a white, he was scared of germs. You know these people who are very very conscious.

Tape 3: 18 minutes 1 second

And my aunt could speak French. And they. I don't know how they got to France somehow or they lived in Paris. And she hid him, some farmhouse or somewhere, all during the war. I think he was in a cupboard or in a… or something. And she and her children, I don't know if they were like Goyim or what, they lived as French people, right. And there's a book written now, I, I must write again, these two child, these two cousins of my mothers, what they did during the war. It's getting people from France to Switzerland, you know, over the border. That was the thing. Of getting people. There was a Resistance group all over France, everywhere. So they belonged. Anyhow, we, I met this uncle only once or twice in Paris. I can, couldn't get over the fact that this man had sort of been in the cupboard all the war. I mean he must have been. I don't know exactly how. My aunt was a very, what's it name, lady. That is my mother's aunt. And my father had a cousin who also must have survived the war somehow in France. And we went to visit him. And my mother's, mother's family, they, she, they had, she had two uncles. Her mother and father were no longer alive. But one was in Sweden during the war and the other one ended up in Paris as well I think, or somewhere. So, we must have gone in 47 and 48. Did we go to Paris and Holland or did we? Cos, that one year I remember going to Paris. And we certainly went after the war to find out what had happened to my uncle. That uncle where we stayed on the way to England. He had changed his name from Cohen, his name was Cohen, Cohn to Van Deurin and he was a lawyer and he was divorced. And what happened to him? And he was a very rich man, you know. He was on his own and he was doing very well. Anyhow, to try and trace what happened to him.

Tape 3: 20 minutes 0 second

Some. And we had friends in Amsterdam who my mother knew, who were related to this aunt. That means it was her aunt's Mishpocha, and we went to stay with these people. And we. I remember going up and down the canals into these old Dutch houses asking, do you remember Mr Van Deurin, you know. I, she must have said it in German. I can't remember. Trying to find out where he was, what happened to him. Now he had this lady, it's very interesting, he had this lady who had a, who he got friendly with or he looked after, who, must have been on her own. I don't if she was a divorcee or something. Anyhow, things got bad and he thought either he survives or she survives he'll marry her. And then. If either of them survived the war. People were being, you know. I mean, obviously he must have been hidden for a certain amount of time. It was the very end of the war it seems. He, somebody must have spilled the beans or something. So he was arrested and he was taken I think it was Auschwitz, I'm not sure. Anyhow not first. You first went to Westerbourg, to this place in Holland and then you got shipped. And so did he. And then they must have got separated. Well, she survived the war, this lady. As his wife. So there was my father. And we have a cousin in Chile, who got to Chile. That was

his sister's son. Was it his sister's son or his brother's son? Who were the two surviving relatives of this uncle, right. There were four or five them but there were only. These were the only two surviving relatives. So they. He left a certain amount of property and paintings and I don't know what. Anyhow they tried to get it altogether, whatever there was, and it was divided among these three people. Us and this cousin and this lady.

Tape 3: 22 minutes 18 seconds

I don't know if she's still alive. I'm not quite sure if she went back to Germany. Anyhow, my uncle's wife. So she did very well out of it (laughing). So, but, that's my, that was my trip to Amsterdam. But every winter after my father died, maybe the second year, between, when it was slack time in the business. That was between Xmas and after New Yea, my mother used to go to Switzerland, St Moritz, for a holiday, vacation. And, and, I stayed at home to cook. And my sister used to go with my mother. So she, she. I, It didn't really bother me, in a way, cos, really, why, you know, you think. Cos you didn't know. I didn't know. I mean I heard about it and I saw the photos how beautiful and all that. But, I felt that my mother needed a holiday and my sister was younger than me. So. And I could sort of manage if there was anything in the business, you know, could do that. I could keep it ticking over. Cos we didn't close down. We only closed on hol, on, on, on statutory bank holidays. As well as Yomtov of course. So, so, the, of, the business was still open, the factory was still open. Was my brother away? So they went for a few years to St Moritz. There was a kosher hotel at St Moritz. My mother had been there during the war, before the war. And this was, that's when you went, you know. That was the season, between end of December, beginning of January. And, and, it did, it did my mother a lot of good I think.

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

EE: Oh we did, ware, we were very aware. Because this paper. It wasn't called the Jewish Tribune, it was called the Jewish something. And it had extracts of people, what they wrote, and from the conc, we knew all about the concentration.

Tape 3: 24 minutes 9 seconds

We knew that people were being killed all the. And then of course in 1944, 45, that was another thing. Our house in Great Clowes Street, people must have known it was a frum house. We used to have American soldiers came in from Warrington, Jewish soldiers. And they used to eat with us for Shabbos, or if they got leave they used to come over. So, it, maybe because it was a hostel. Cos 43 they were already coming over for the invasion. And they were from frum families, from America. Some of them were even from. I think one of them was even relation of friend of family who originated from Germany, where they got a permit to go to America instead of coming to England, you see. So, and, we remember these, I remember these American soldiers with their nylon stockings and their chewing gum and. They used to bring all these things, you know, which were like something from outer space. Because clothes was such a difficult thing during the war. Cos when we were bas mitzvah**,** not like now, so we started wearing stockings, long stockings. Well, first of all, we were on ration. And second of all they were always tearing. And the Lyle

stockings they were very hard to come by. So there was a Jewish draper who used to let us have them without coupons, you know (laughing). And if you managed to get a cardigan or a new blouse or something. I don't, I don't know what we. I remember there, somebody sent us clothes from America, I remember a parcel came. The, I don't know who, maybe it was one of those soldiers who must have written to his parents or somebody. I remember wearing this dress from America. It had long sleeves and a high (laughing). You know, you, you know, I mean it must have a hard for my mother, you know, to dress us children. Because, as I told you. We had loads of clothes which were handed down to the children, Shabbos clothes, which must have lasted, and came back almost the whole war. They were such good quality. We just got sick of seeing them that's all.

Tape 3: 26 minutes 13 seconds

But, but, they, they, but, they, they. And mother wore the clothes that she brought with her. She had them altered or whatever. They were very, very fashionable, good quality wool suits and hats and things, coats, all through the war. All you needed was a good dressmaker that, you know, at, makes, to alter a bit here and a bit there. I can't hardly ever remember getting, apart from school uniform, I don't think we got any clothes at all. I can't remember getting any clothes. But, when, what, when we got to being teenagers then we must have started. But that was already 47, 48. Things were already better.

RL: Now you were mentioning about the Americans. So was this in 43 whilst you were still …

EE: But this was before we moved. It was 43 and maybe the beginning of 44. Cos we moved, we moved, I can't remember we moved to Singleton Road. It was, it was before 1944 because forty. We must have moved in the summer of 43 or autumn of 43, something like that. Because the winter of 44 was the bar mitzvah and that bar mitzvah was, we were already in Singleton Road and the Seuda was in the house. So therefore that was the cut-off point. And I remember moving. We, a whole week, we stayed by, takke, **Mr** and Mrs Heilpern lived on Wellington Street. They were married, this Mr Heilpern, Mr Chaim Heilpern. And my sister lived somewhere else. We were all parked out in families for a whole week. And my par, and my parents moved house. So when we got to the new house. And we, we walked round the empty house a few times. But when we got to the house the house was already furnished. That means that all the furniture had been moved. And, but you must remember Liesl was already married then, so we didn't have Liesl anymore. So then, that's when we, had a, a Jewish lady who used to come in to cook. She was also out of this world that cook.

Tape 3: 28 minutes 8 seconds

And we also got our first washing machine. And my mother. I mean the washing was such a big problem. Remember my mother was, hadn't got time. And, and, we got this machine. It was always breaking down. And you had to. It had a mangle, an electric mangle, when it worked, and it had a tube, which was supposed to go to somewhere. But we mended it, ended up with buckets, putting the buckets into the sink. You know what I mean? But it actually washed and then you put it through the

mangle. And this contraption. And, and we also got a coke stove. My mother had enough of the fire places. We had a coke, a little stove, and that heated the water with a pipe. And it, and it, it was, it was coke, was much cheaper than coal. And it was supposed to burn overnight. And we also had an anthracite stove in the, in the, in the, in the library, in the living room. Which was supposed to burn overnight. Cos this making fires in the morning was. And you were lucky you had a little electric, one bar fire, in the bedroom. I can never remember. I can remember in Great Clowes Street having fires in the bedroom. It must have been a very cold winter. There were every, every bedroom had fireplaces. But nobody used them. Because you just froze and had a hot water bottles. But there must have been when we were ill and I can remember this big fire going. It must have been when we had chicken pox. Cos we were all ill. And we were infectious. And we couldn't go down stairs. So we had a fire upstairs in the bedroom. Was in, that, that bedroom had a big fire. You know some bedrooms have tiny little ones. That had a big fireplace. But, this, anthracite stove, which sometimes used to go out. But the one thing about an anthracite stove was it was burnt overnight and you came down in the morning to a warm room. Cos when your fire went out at night and you came down in the morning it was freezing.

Tape 3: 30 minutes 11 seconds

I mean it was. Icicles everywhere. You know the bed was so cold. But we had more, maybe a few more carpets. And they were very large ceilings and rooms. Very large high ceilings, beautiful rooms, beautiful. Lovely garden.

RL: Did the house have a name?

EE: Yes it was called Overbrook and it was over a brook. And it used to flood sometimes, that brook. And we had a cellar. The cellar had a toilet and a sink. And you could go down the steps. And one room was a coalhouse. So at least your coal was dry. You schlepped it down there and then you had to carry it up the steps and wherever, you know, coal or coke or whatever it was. And we must have had for Pesach as well. We used to kosher the meat down there for Pes, you know, you know, all kinds of things you did down there. It was alright in the summer but in the winter.

RL: Did you have an air raid shelter there?

EE: No, no. 1944 we didn't have air raid shelters anymore. I don't know what happened. I mean, there, what happened if there was an air raid? I think there were only flying bombs. There were no air raids in 44. We only got what. I don't think we hard, hardly any flying bombs in Manchester. We had a very large London population again in 1944, the flying bombs. People came. It was terrible. And there people did go. Cos you didn't know where it was going to g, land. It was something terrible those flying bombs. You just. You knew when it stopped. If you heard it stop you were lucky. Because, because, it probably wouldn't land straight on top of you, you know, it would, used to, it had a sort of trajectory. But people used to run into the underground, or wherever. You know, it was terrible. You know. Once it exploded, exploded. And with children, and schools and everything. So they must have set up temporary schools and things. I think more people came in 44 than came in 41. And people put them up, took them in and, temporary apartments, and all that.

And they all joined the schools, the children. I was ready after school age. I must have been at High School by then.

Tape 3: 32 minutes 8 seconds

And then after that we had the post-war concentration camp children who came. There was a girls hostel. There were girls who I knew went. Some went to Eretz Yisroel, some went to Europe and brought back these girls. Orphans basically. Who had either no family or wanted to go to America for a little while. And they were very, you can imagine, traumatised. But when we saw them there, there was a big girls' hostel. I don't know about boys. And we adopted a boy, a French boy. I mean he spoke French but I don't know whether he was in the camps or what. And he stayed with us. And then he went to Eretz Yisroel I think and got married. He lived in our house. My mother adopted him.

RL: What's his name?

EE: Polish name. He was called Bunem Rijonski. I don't know what happened to. I think we once met him in Eretz Yisroel?? I don't know why. There must have been nowhere for him to go. So he stayed with us. And, there were people, who, who, who sort of looked after these people. Who brought them over. And Broughton High. We used to have Jewish lessons, you know, Hebrew extra scripture. We, we started off with Rabbi Casper who was the Rov, of the High Broughton shul. He went to South Africa. He used to come once and do RE. You know, do it, thing, once or twice a week. And then there were all these girls. And they were between fifteen to nineteen. And there was nothing for them to do. So we had this very nice headmistress, Dr Wicks, and she arranged for these girls to have a separate class, Broughton High, and Miss Shlesinger, the old Miss Shlesinger she taught them. English, maths, whatever. And she spoke German, so most of them, even if they didn't know German they know, knew bit of German because having been through the war. They had to learn German.

Tape 3: 34 minutes 3 seconds

A lot of them were Polish girls and they stayed in a hostel. Where did they stay? And they used to come to school every day. And it was quite hard in a way cos they mixed with the non-Jewish girls and that. And you know, I mean, obviously there's somethings. I mean they, I mean they had, had had a, a. We couldn't fathom what kind of life it was. We were just schoolchildren. But they all. I don't know they all went s, and none of them stayed here. They all wanted to go to America. That was the dream. And, and some of them actually came from very orthodox families. And, you know. I mean, there was one, a hostel in South they might have went. But I remember a few of the girls who came to school. So that lasted for a few, maybe one or two years. Because I left after that. And, so I don't know how long that went on for. It probably went on for a year or two. And as I say all kinds of people came, you know, there were people who came. And my father had people who he knew. I remember in the war these, this very, enormously tall man came. Couldn't get through the door. And he was a relative of one of my father. And he was from Switzerland, or somewhere, and he was neutral, so he had got in. And for some reason, and they must have talked about somethings, some, about some people like

that, and I remember this tall guy, (laughing) you know, this tall guy. And, he was, cos, if you had people from out of the country it was very rare, apart from soldiers. Cos it, we were at war and the place was absolutely, thing. We heard about people going to Australia and Canada, being shipped off, deported, you know, during the war. And, and, I knew, we knew people, everywhere, South Africa, we knew people. But they never came. Most of them didn't come back. They stayed there. And, and I think. Then there were all kinds of old ladies and people. And my father used to write letters for them to find out where their children were, where they are. You know, lone people who, sort of.

Tape 3: 36 minutes 14 seconds

I mean, I was too young but there, obviously there was a sort of network where people did try and look after families, families, you know, and try and look after people. Find them somewhere to live and also. There, there was no welfare. I mean I don't know. I don't think. There must have been a soup kitchen of some kind but I don't remember that. Cos we did. What did my mother do? She also did something. There were all kind of sorts of tzeddaka, chesed societies, the people there. But I remember the most is getting food for people, people who lived in outlying areas who couldn't get kosher food. And came Yomtov sort of thing to send chickens or bread, challas, or fish or something that these people could eat. Some people lived in little places where there was no, where no. Most people tried for Yomtov to come to places like Manchester, Newcastle, London. And then they were evacuated in Letchworth in London. You know London had these little places where people were there. And there were people who travelled, who went to there. And if you heard a family or somebody who had nowhere, no food, then you sort of collect. There were people who collected food. I remember packing, packing sort of ready to eat food for families, or people who, who would otherwise have nothing, you know. Not because there, there was nothing, but there was nothing for them to eat. But that was mostly up to 43. After that, 44, then it was refugees, post-war refugees. People stayed here on the way to Israel, on the way to America. Or they settled here. And then we got a new Rov when Rav Feldman died. Rav Schneebalg came. He had a family and his sister became a good friend of mine.

Tape 3: 38 minutes 13 seconds

They were in Rumania during the war. So they were not actually in the camps but it was pretty bad. And they had to adjust to Manchester. And them I knew very well. But there were others who I didn't know, you know, who I didn't know. Because they happened to. One, two happened to be practically my age. And these were Hassidishe girls. And they were quite educated. They had a very good Dikduk teacher. They used to come with us to Cheder. But they didn't go to school. And their, their brother was already married, Rav Schneebalg. Remember he'd lost his wife in childbirth. She had the second child here and she died. And he, must have then started off that shul in Prestwich, whose now Rav Schneebalg, he's the son of the old Rab Schneebalg. And, and they lived in Hanover Square, which was next to Broughton High. So he, at lunch times I used to go to visit. She knew I was in school and she learnt. They learnt English. They were very good. They spoke beautiful English afterwards. But they came with us to cheder. And they joined in with other things but they didn't actually, didn't actually, father didn't allow them to go to a

school. Remember it was the goyishe school not. And, and, what. My friend married and went to America. But she had two sisters. They lived in London; they married and went to live in London. And, and, and there were a lot of people who came then. Hungarians, the post –war. All the people came after the war, who married, who lived here. And as I say, Broughton Park, we, my, my, my husband, when he was in the Yeshiva they used to go round collecting for the Yeshiva, on Sunday mornings, because you know, they needed funds. And they were practically thrown out the doors by the Haimishe, not Haimishe the local residents. They considered themselves to be a cut above everybody else, you know. After Broom Lane, sort of, this was the posh area, very very posh Waterpark

Tape 3: 40 minutes 19 seconds

and Upper Park, Old Hall, and sort of these people. What are these boys, you know, boys, frum boys doing come knocking at our doors. And I remember, we went collecting, and that's what we did. We collected clothes, on Sunday mornings, after the war, to send to the camps for people. So we went. And we, everyone had streets, and I and my, various girls, we used to go right down to Cheetham Hill in those days, where all the Pakistanis live now. Woodlands, Wood Hill Road and all these little streets. What's the name Lane, Halliwell Lane. Right down. We used to go from door to door. I think they must have leafleted them. Whatever they had. Good condition clothing we used to collect. And then peop, and then Mrs Bamberger or whoever, packed and then they used to send these used clothes. Cos clothing was a very difficult thing. There was just no clothes. And anybody I know. And we went also round here. Because the more well-to-do the people the more chance they, what they have of having clothes. Some people were very nice but some people were (laughing) very nasty. You had to learn to be thick-skinned. You really did. We knew we were refugees and we also knew that we were the ultra frum, black people, you know. Well we didn't look it actually, cos girls don't look it, but, people didn't like you to go to your street. And walk up Stanley Road and what are you doing here? There was a lot of class distinction. You would be surprised. Even in school where, in Broughton High, where there were very nice girls in a way, I mean there were Jewish girls, nice girls, but some of them were very snobbish. There was just no other word for it, you know. Not that we, we couldn't really go to them, mix with them much because of, because of kashrus and everything. But we were friends in school. And they were a non-Jewish.

Tape 3: 42 minutes 19 seconds

And some of them were very snobbish as well because they were the ones who paid. The paying pupils, who, who used, who, where this school used to be a posh private school and it was now beca. Well like all of these schools were transformed into High Schools which, which, anybody who passed the exam was entitled to go to. So anyway, they were lucky because we were, basically civilised girls, you know what I mean. The families were very very ma'amin and all the, fam, fam, very educated families, you know. So the children were, you know, ready to learn, and so on and so forth. But we must have been a bit difficult. Certainly coming from different backgrounds. And them with all these Fr, you know, frumkeit, orthodox, all Succos, Chol Hamoed, Purim, Hannukah, Yomtov, everything. But I must say the teachers and the staff they could not have been nicer. In our school we never had any problem.

So, there was no, you know, you didn't get told off because you didn't bring your homework on that day. You had to make up for it but you were allowed to go home on Friday afternoons in the winter. And, and, I must say, apart from a few incidents and, we, we, we, I, I mean as far, I, in my, in my year, and my sister's year, I think, we all had a very. We were very lucky. But there was a certain amount of rishus in the town as well. But. If you were cocooned up to a point you just didn't take notice of it, you know. Cos we all lived in a way in the same area. Bit more lower down, you know, cos people lived in Elizabeth Street, Petworth Street, and down there. All the way up to say Broom Lane. And that was it. And we lived far away in Singleton Road. And we had neighbours, very posh neighbours. Not very happy with us either. Too frum. And refugees and all that. Never mind, they had to make do with us. And then my sister was very good. I mean one of them became very frum cos she said I won't play cricket with you unless you wear a Yarmulke, you know. They came from frum families but they were more moderate. And my mother had one or two friends who lived, lived, very frum people, who lived near us. But they were very few.

Tape 3: 44 minutes 35 seconds

But lots of, lots of Jewish people lived there. I mean to say it was full of Yidden

RL: How well do you think your mother adapted to life here?

EE: Oh, my mother (laugh) fantastic. She, I mean how she adapted to life here was. It was like from day 'till night what she was used to. But I must say, when she was a girl, before she got married, I don't think, it was the depression, so I imagine then that her father was very hard up. But after the, up to the First World War, they must have been quite comfortable. But in the twenties and thirties everybody was hard up. The depression was terrible. And, and, then she married a very well-to-do young man and then she had a life of luxury. A life of ease. I mean she didn't have to do anything she didn't want to. But, but, she always, she always, knew of the hard times. She must have heard her parents and family talking about life was difficult. And her father had very hard time in business and were trouble and he left the business. And, I think that was, that's, you know, he was the oldest son and it was, you know, he. She knew how her father had a hard time. But her sister married a very poor young man but he was, he was looked down upon because he was not well-to-do. And he was also from a Polish background. But he boruch Hashem, he got to England. My uncle said, the biggest thing, he was once walking in Leipzig in the street and a Nazi, a young boy, came and hit him across the face. And he said that's it. He has an elderly mother, I don't know what happened to his mother. He said I don't need to live here. We'll go to London. So he packs up, his wife. I don't think he had any, any children. And he said I'm not standing for this.

Tape 3: 46 minutes 35 seconds

And he got out. And after that my uncles also, got out, because things. The uncles in the fur trade got out, because they realised that he could do exactly the same business and things were very bad already. This was before Kristall.., and in the 34, 35, the restrictions. Leipzig was another place, was the only place, where all the students were kicked out of all the Universities, but Leipzig still allowed Jewish people to study. And a lot of people went there to study. And then when they were kicked out

they taught in the Jewish schools. So that, they had very good teachers in those schools (laughing) because they were very talented and that was the only place where they could be, a lot of them. I said what were you doing? …we went to the war because Berlin or wherever must have kicked them out. And, and, so my mother grew up already in an atmosphere that this is no good, we're going to have to go. So, for the three of four years, the first few years I think they worked so hard they didn't know where they, you know, from day to day. But afterwards, when the war was over. She must have had a very hard time. She was very resilient. And as a girl she was an invalid. And, she couldn't play tennis, she told me. And she. You know it's unbelievable when you think of it. And, and, she, then, she was considered delicate. [Laughing] And, I mean, she was. I must say she was a terrible faster. Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Tisha B'Av we were always worried about her. She was in bed from time start to the. But in later life she was okay. She fasted better in her sixties and seventies. We were all, we used to run home from shul on Yom Kippur to see how mammy was. She never went to shul because she could, she was such a bad faster. It was a long way. It was quarter of an hour, twenty minutes, down to MH from Singleton Road. And we used, we used to take turns. Somebody stayed with her, somebody walked home, somebody that. And over the years she, she, she, she managed you know.

Tape 3: 48 minutes 43 seconds

She had a lot of will-power and she, sheer will-power. Because I mean, she had, she real, I mean what she had to organise and do and run and run that bus. And then the bus, after the war the business went down as well. So because. We got a machine and got rid of. Cos the workers that was, you know, there was too expensive and it wasn't hand made it was machine chocolates. And we got rid of Great Clowes Street and they went to a place in Cheetham Hill. My brother and my sister. My sister was part there and then she got married. I hardly ever went down there. And sold to anybody who would take confectionary. But after the war my sister and I. One year it was very bad, and we went all, in a car, all the way from Manchester to Leeds. And every village, every sweetshop, we went in and took a sample of chocolates. And my sister and I, we must have been about sixteen and seventeen, and if anybody would buy it. I can't remember how many orders we did or we didn't get. It must have been very funny. I remember all the little villages, you know, Halifax road, the Leeds road, Lancashire road. You know everybody had a sweet shop. To, to sell, a case of whatever, chocolates, var.., different kinds of chocolates. Mixed chocolates …. we went various times. And they were always called Koppenheim's Chocolates. So they had a. I mean they had a long name on the front. And they usually very fancy, fancy, some very fancy boxes. And in the winter we ma, we made presentation boxes, and, you know, you know, for the holiday, New Year, for all kinds of things.

Tape 3: 50 minutes 29 seconds

And there was a. In those days everything went by train, rail. The railway man used to come every afternoon and the boxes had to be ready. And you took them down. There was two flights of stairs and they were heavy. They were packed on the first floor. I don't know. We had a thing to take them or the guy took them down and put them on the, on the rail truck. And they got sent to wherever it was they were sent to. And also the raw materials were delivered. And there were places where, you know,

great boxes of things came. And we were used to that all the time because when we were little we used to. I mean I never saw it so much as. Even when I was at college, at university, sometimes mamma needed somebody I used to go, used to go in the afternoon to help.

RL: How long did the business go on for?

EE: Well that. Great Clowes Street must have stopped in about 49 or 50 maybe, I don't know. I can't remember how long it went on for. It went on for quite some time cos my brother was married and he was stud, he was still. But it was going down the drain because once rationing was out and the multiples got bigger supplies. I mean you couldn't compete with the big boys, you know. So, so, my mother went into rent collecting then. How she did it I do not know. People had to rent states, Crumpsall, Cheetham, or wherever, and she used to go collecting the rents. I don't think now-a-days anybody would go in these places, these houses. The people in London, say they owned maybe twenty, thirty houses, so she would go and collect the rent. And she went with a f, another lady and they had, the other lady drove the car. But if you wanted she was like sort of an agent and that was what she did for a certain amount of time. Af, after the chocolates finished.

Tape 3: 52 minutes 30 seconds

RL: And what did you do after school?

EE: I went to University. I had a wonderful time. I did. It was the easiest thing in the world for me. I didn't do a lot of work but I did do. I didn't really know that I would get through some of the. I told you the princ.., the headmistress said, take the exam and if you finish I'll put you in for this that and the other. So I passed the exam. I passed everything and I got a grant. And, what are you going to study? I went for the interview, where you cou.., had no idea what to do. So I said I don't care I'm doing French, you know. I'm not doing science, I thought, it's too complicated. The least possible amount of work. So I started with French. And you had to do various other subjects, you know, it was compulsory. There were lots of orthodox Jewish girls, all passed, and were all going either my year or the year before me or the year after me. So I was not the only one. We were a whole crowd of girls went. And, I, but I see, I could cook. The way. I had a bus every morning. It doesn't run anymore, the 75 bus. Goes from the top of Singleton Road all the way to University. So, I didn't go to lectures as much as I should have done. And the first year my mother was ill, and she had to have a major operation. And it was the week of the finals. And after the operation we went to the South of France for a week. And I remember studying on the plane. I thought I'll (mumble). Anyhow, so, instead of getting the Honours school I passed for the Ordinary, you know like French Honours. So I decided I'm not doing Ordinary French, I'm doing foreign language, European languages. So I. Second year I thought, oy, they, maybe they won't give me my grant. I was already engaged then, I was getting engaged or was engaged. So, they, they gave me my grant. It was so much a week plus books. It wasn't a lot but it was better than nothing. And, so I did an ordinary, ordinary arts course, BA, ordinary arts. And I learnt Spanish and Italian and French and a bit of German. You know you had your set books and you went to. I was no goo…. I was (laughing). I went into the. Til I got engaged I wasn't too bad but once I got married (laughing).

Tape 3: 54 minutes 46 seconds

It, I only had, I only had eight months to go or seven months to go to the final. So everybody said well if she can get married to a Yeshiva boy and went to University it was a bit of a contrast. But the meise was that I could get my degree then it would be wor, you know it might be worth something. And also as long as I was at college I was getting so much a week, you were getting a maintenance. So, which helped towards the housekeeping. So, that, I was very bad. I hardly went to any lectures at all. I mean I tried to hand in the essays. Not that I cou, didn't want to, but there just wasn't time. There was, you had, you know, other things. So, but. And I wen, I wen, I managed to, I did the f, we did the finals in June. May-June. And I was expecting. And I went on a Friday afternoon and got my degree. And that was it.

RL: Did you participate in any …

EE: I went to the Jewish. They had a very nice Jew, you know, Jewish society there. I used to eat lunch there cos it was a place to go. In the main building, in the students, there was a Jewish there. And that's where you met all my friends, all the girls I knew, and that some minyomim and you davened and all that but we never bothered. As soon as the University was over I went home. And there was very little we could go to. I really didn't want to either cos I didn't have the time. But, you met them during the day and, and, you went home with them and you met a few people, that sort of thing, you know. And it was. I did it for three years. Well so did everybody else but in the. It, it, I wasn't, I wasn't cu, I mean I wasn't in an office, I wasn't a, I didn't want an office job. So I was very happy because I sat in the library there and enjoyed it. I mean looking at whatever. And when I had the koach to do it it was very interesting.

Tape 3: 56 minutes 40 seconds

But, but I can't say I was 100%. I mean, maybe the first year but after that (shaking her head). The main thing was to get through to pass the exam and to. And, and we had very interesting people there at the time. And my uncle had a car accident, the first year I think or the second year, and he was in hospital, in the Infirmary, for months. And I used to go from the University in the afternoons and sit by his bed and visit him because (a) because he was on his own and he was a very restless man, you know, he was used to, and he was stuck with this broken leg, and I don't know broken whatever bone and (b) it was somewhere to go. It was only a few minutes down the road to the Infirmary. How far was it? So as. And then there was another fella there, you know, you, it's amazing what you did in those days, you know. That was the first year before I got engaged. Boruch Hashem he got better but he was stuck there for must have been weeks or months. A really bad car smash. But, I mean, life, sort of for me, changed after I got engaged.

RL: The film's about to end so if we just stop there.

EE: There we are.

Tape 3: 57 minutes 52 seconds

TAPE 4

RL: So this is the interview with Mrs Ellinson and it's tape 4.

EE: [Rolling her eyes]

RL: Now if we can maybe move onto your engagement and how that came about and your marriage and who your fiancé was.

EE: Oh that, that was. Well, it, you must remember I was the oldest of five sisters. And, and, various members of the family and friends suggested, various people you know, but it never really got to anything until my husband was learning in the Mir Yeshiva in New York. And his father was different from us. He was English from many, from quite a few generations, lived in Gateshead, married a la, his wife was actually born in Poland. Her father came to Gateshead. He was an American. Her, my father-in-law was an American in the First World War, originated from Leeds, a big family. I mean, not his family but his father was one of a big family. And he and his brother didn't want to go into the army in the First World War. And so they went to America. And he, they both. He stated off as a night watchman. He was very intelligent person. And he, then a tea boy in Wall Street, and, he was looking at the books and how they were doing the book keeping. And he said to the book keeper, this is, this is no way, well, do it this way. They managed to, they managed to find a Jewish lady and they liv, lodged with this lady. I don't know which part of Brooklyn they were. And so the boss, uppers, got to know about this, or somebody, the one in charge. And he said he was very satisfied with this new system of book keeping so he said you don't have to be a tea boy and you can come in so many hours a day. And, cos he wanted to learn, that was the thing, you see. My father-in-law was.

Tape 4: 2 minutes 21 seconds

He had been in Yeshiva in Birmingham, Rabbi Bloch, before the war, before the First World War we're talking about now. And so he went to half-a-day to this office and did the book keeping. And the other half-a-day he was learning, I don't exactly know where, some Yeshiva in New York. There were not many Yeshivas around in those days. And after the war they came back to Leeds. And his brother had, was engaged already before he left. And he ended up marrying this lady, young lady. And his sister was a single girl. There were only three children, two boys and a girl. And I don't know why, but my father-in-law went to Gateshead and started, I don't, either in jewellery or in property or something. And he married my mother-in-law whose father was a Gerer Chossid, which was unusual cos he was very litvish. And my mother-in-law was born in Poland. And she, her name, they, they were Counts. Her father were Coun.., and he had four daughters. And, and the eldest, the eldest daughter was married to my father-in-law. And they had, she had two children and she died in childbirth. And not long after that, it must have been a year after, or something like that, he married her younger sister. And it was a secret. In other words the children never knew that their mother was not, the older children never knew that their mother was not. I don't know how. But I knew. When I got engaged I knew. But they, they, grew, Gateshead was a small town.

Tape 4: 4 minutes 17 seconds

And then there was an older sister. He didn't marry the oldest sister, he married, I think the second sister. The oldest sister married, lived in Antwerp, a Hassidishe Yid and she had no family. And the younger sister married the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Segal, right, Aunty Eva. Well, when, when, the two sisters were brought up by my mother-in-law and then she had her own children after that. And she had a third daughter, so there were three sisters. And there were not that much different. I think there's only two or three years between them, my sist. And they were all. All their lives those girls thought that that was their mother. There were difficult times, you know, when you started school, and when you had to thing. In fact, my sister-in-law Rosie, who is from the first marriage, Mrs Steinhaus, she used to go around with her, with her, birth certificate in her handbag during the war and on that birth certificate, if she would have ever looked at it, it would have said that the name of her mother was not the name of my mother-in-law. Obviously right. But she never looked at it. So all their life they, they. But my, my, my husband was the oldest boy and he once saw this photo and he said to his mother, that's not you mummy, this is you, cos she was the bridesmaid at her sister's wedding. Anyhow, that photo disappeared and he never saw it again. And his father came in and said, what are you talking about, something, I don't. He remembers this, I don't. And then he heard somebody talk once and so he suspected. But my two sister-in-laws say that when they got married their parents told them that their mother had died.

Tape 4: 6 minutes 11 seconds

But, but most of Gateshead was one big family. That means that everybody was somehow connected to everybody else. Not my parents-in, my parents-in-law they were not connected in. My, my father-in-law was, my grandfather, my husband's grandfather was a Gerer Chossid and my father-in-law was very litvish and he considered his litvischer life. And that was the beginning of the Yeshiva in the school. He was involved in all that, building the shul, you know. He was one of the founders of Gateshead. And he, he started off in, in property, in real estate. And he managed, he made a living, and he, you know. He had these daughters and then he had. My husband was the oldest son. And then. He had a big family, ended up altogether nine children. And, my, my three sisters-in-law. The first, my, the first, my eldest, my sister-in-law, in Eretz Yisroel, her husband came from Brisk, her first husband. He died suddenly. A young man and he died suddenly on a Friday night. I don't know how long they'd been married. No children. And he was a, my husband said, a beautiful, healthy, gorgeous looking man. You would never think anything wrong, so that was a big tragedy. And he never got to hear about it. He was in Yeshiva in London at the time I think. He just. It was just one of those things. But, my other two brothers-in-law, B'nai Torah and one, one, one was from Gateshead, and Rav Sternbuch was from Schneider's Yeshiva, right. And my elder sister-in-law, she had to go for Chalitsa to New York because this husband had a brother. And then she married somebody, Rav Kotler, the famous Rav Kotler, a Talmid and this was one of his Talmidim, who survived Siberia.

Tape 4: 8 minutes 17 seconds

And he suggested him as a Shidduch and so she lived in America after that. She never came. The first time she came back was when I got married. It was a boat trip in those days. You didn't fly much. And, so, my, my father-in-law had a sister in, a daughter in America learning and two daughters learning in Gateshead Kolel. And then there was Korea and there was problems. And there were, felt there might be a war so he sent my husband to America, because, he was thinking maybe they would emigrate to America in case it became a third world war. So, my other brothers-in-law, who were younger, they stayed in Yeshiva in England. But the, my brother, my husband went to America. To the Mir Yeshiva in New York, which had come, 48, which had come two years ago from Shanghai. You know, the entire Yeshiva escaped. And he got very friendly with. There were one or two English boys who went to that Yeshiva. And he went on the Queen Mary, after Pesach, to, was it with, together with Mr Churchill, I think he was on the boat at the time. They saw him, you know, like they were in steerage and he was. But he did come and talk to the other people. I think there was a kosher kitchen and it was a lot, people, that's the way people went to America in those days. And he, he, he, he, he knew, he knew one or two people in America, and, but my sister-in-law lived in Boston, in Lakewood first, she lived in Lakewood. And he was in New York. He sometimes used to go to. She was learning in the Kolel in Lakewood. This was a Yeshiva for boys. And he made friends with the, with the American boys. Some of, I mean they weren't American, they were all, most of them European. And he went to their Chassenos and I got to know and they. They got very friendly. One of them was Rosh Yeshiva, one of Rosh Yeshiva's sons, was very good friend.

Tape 4: 10 minutes 15 seconds

And, and then his father. He really didn't want to come back to England at all. He really loved America. But his father kept on saying he should come home. And there was one or two shidduchim suggested in America but never came to anything. And he was not very impressed with the Yiddishkeit, some of the American young ladies at that time. It was, it was still not very many. And these boys had to find wives. They were older than him. He was only young. Anyhow, it came to a certain thing. There was one Shidduch nothing came of it and his father wrote him a letter that it's time he came home. And his m. He went to the Rosh Yeshiva, the Mashgiach, and the Mashgiach said "look you've been here, now your father wants you and you'd better go home." With great reluctance he went home. And it was Pesach, after Pesach, and here that Rosh Yeshiva's son, Pesach Segal was getting bar mitzvah after Pesach, and he was going to be at the bar mitzvah. And my mother was very friendly with the Rosh Yeshiva's wife. Because my sister was a year older than the Rosh Yeshiva's youngest daughter, Malka. And my mother had a nurse came during the week, from Monday to Friday, or Sunday, from Monday to Friday, to look after my baby sister. She used to live in the house and go home at weekends. And we used to look after the baby at weekends cos we were in school. And she used to. She was this old, old lady, very interesting old lady, been to South Africa and all over the world. She was, getting old, but very good with children. She knew, and she knew how to look after babies. And so when my, when the Rosh Yeshiva's wife had this baby girl she came to her for a bit. Afterwards, to. So, anyhow, so that was it. So then somebody suggested. Now my brother had been Yeshiva with my husband. I told you they all went to America. They all went to Switzerland (mumble). And, and, my uncle, this Mr Newman, the one who had the broken leg, he also, he had some

connection with the Rosh Yeshiva and, with the Rosh Yeshiva here, and he suggested, he said, he was going to suggest that Shidduch to, to, to the Rosh Yeshiva and he should pass it on to his brother and sister-in-law. That was how it went.

Tape 4: 12 minutes 40 seconds

So, well, we knew that. You know, in those days there were not so many boys in learning and that. There were loads of girls looking for that kind of boy. And why should it, why, you know, what, what, what, why should I be any better than anybody else. And I could think of half a dozen girls, which he told me afterwards were suggested, you know, that might have been. Anyhow, whether it's because of the Rosh Yeshiva, the next thing was that his parents, found out his parents were going to come and have a look at me. Well that didn't bother me because, you know, in those days you went to meet the girl first, you know, before anything. So, they came. And I, we had a very nice afternoon. And I met his parents. And, his father, unfortunately, was not, he'd already had a stroke then. He was getting better so he was a bit, you know. He was, not, had difficulty, and he was a little bit of an invalid, but anyhow. And the next week he came, or the week after, and that was it. I mean, not, we only met a couple of times. And, and, we got on very well and that was the end of that. And it was b, bank-holiday weekend, Shavuos, and I was going to University and I had my finals. And it was very hot. 1952, '52, '52. And I said to, I said to, so the Rosh Yeshiva phoned up. What, what, well? I said, well what did, what did he say? I'd never say anything. So he said … "Okay, he said, then the day after Shavuos they'll come, we'll make a wort." "What, the day after Shavuos? I've got my finals." I said. He said to me, "what are you talking about, your finals." End of story. So my mother, of course, got all excited. And she had to get somebody to organise. Cos in those days, you know, you had a sit-down dinner. I mean you had a seuda. My children still have it. It's wasn't like now, now you just come and go.

Tape 4: 14 minutes 35 seconds

And we got old Mrs Rappaport, I don't know if you remember Mrs Rappaport. Her husband was the Shammas, very good cook, in Machzikei Hadass. And, it was a big secret, and there was only one friend of my mother's. Cos it was bank holiday and where were we going to get any flowers from? Bank Holiday Monday. So she took all the flowers to her house and put them in a bucket. He'd sent a bouquet or something. to have a bouquet, in Yomtov, you know. Even though it was Shavuos And we, it was a whole weekend we had to sort of survive. Cos nobody knew, except, I think it must have been my aunt, maybe, and I think. And then, I think, my mother must have phoned my, her uncles and aunts from London to come. Cos like, it was the first child. And, they were coming. My, my in-laws were coming with one or two son, with a daughter, a son-in-law, two sons-in-law, I think, not the wife, one wife … they were all having babies. And was it. And I was sitting on Sunday, was it,… was Sunday afternoon, trying to learn something, in the back garden. I tell you. Nothing went into my head. Anyhow, the Monday, was it Monday, it was Bank Holiday Monday. Shavuos must have been Thursday and Friday or something like that. So anyhow, Sunday, Monday morning it was more or less official. And Mrs Rappaport came in. She'd brou, most, she'd cooked most of the things at home and brought it with her or we, we took it. And in the afternoon it was official, or whatever. And I don't think my mother had invited whoever she had invited and my

various members of my family. And of course the Rosh Yeshiva and his wife. And, and, the people who came. And those days the Choson made a Droshah at the engagement.

Tape 4: 16 minutes 32 seconds

And my husband got up and said, the Choson got up and I. We were outside. Now why was I there? Was. No I was sitting at the far side. The ladies were here and there. And there were two, a few of my aunts, my mother's aunts, not my aunts, my mothers aunts, my mother had two aunts. And they came down. And my husband.. got up and said his piece of Torah. And my, both my brother-in-law and his younger brother Rav Ellinson, they were all very brilliant young men. And they decided they didn't agree with this. So they started a discussion and it came to, it took ages. Mrs, I remember Mrs Rappaport knocking at the door. And she was saying, Mrs Koppenheim, "the oyfers were verbrent", you know the chicken was going to get burnt in the stove. She can't serve the main course. Anyhow, it went on and on so. My, I, wasn't bother him. He said he was going to say some. And I think his father was quite happy to see, you know, like his son was keeping his end up. They must have finally come to some sort of agreement. Anyhow [laughing] we, we ended up with a seuda and they all went home. I think he stayed on til the next day. And I had to go to University next morning, Tuesday morning, to sit this exam. And I remember he gave, they gave me a watch, a watch. You know in those days they gave you a watch, or whatever, a matona. I didn't wear it. And I went to the tutor, and I said to one of my girlfriends, one I'm doing French you know, and I said, do you know I got engaged last night? She looked at me as though I'd been to the moon. (Laughing) Who on earth to, you know. So I said who it was. They knew who it was because their parents had stayed ups. One of them was the daughter of one of the hoteliers, this Gewirtz. Her daughter was in college with me, you know. So she knew that family cos they'd been to Southport. Their, their daughter, one of the chassenes was in Southport with their daughter.

Tape 4: 18 minutes 32 seconds

And, it was such a funny day that day. I th, I'll never pass that exam.

RL: What was his first name?

EE: Eh?

RL: Your husband

EE: My.Moishe. So, anyhow (laughing), I sat, I sat through that exam. I think there was another one. I don't know what I got. I must have, must have just about scraped through. I do not know. 1951, and the year before I couldn't, '52. Anyhow, anyhow, in those days, in those days you looked for a house. And he was. What was he going to do? So he got a job in. He didn't want to go back to Gateshead. He learnt at the Kolel for a bit, you know. So he got a job in Jewish Primary, to teach, Mr Roberg. And, and, I had another year to do at University, remember, from September to the, whenever. And we couldn't find a house, we couldn't find. It was too expensive or too far away, or this or that I don't know. Anyhow, we finally found a house. And

we got. And the Chassene was fixed. We got engaged Shavuos time. We didn't get married until the January, which was a long time. Nowadays, but in those days it wasn't all that long. Because unt, I said I didn't want to live in apartment. I said until I have a house I don't want to you know.

RL: What year was that?

EE: I got married in January '53, got engaged in June 52, and I got married in January '53. The following week after the engagement we had a sort of the reception at home but my Choson, he wasn't there, he was back in Gateshead. So all my mother's friends came to wish mazeltov that time, you know, the Shabbos. This had happened on the Monday afternoon. So they came on the Shabbos. And, we must have had a few pictures. I don't even think we had pictures.

RL: And where did you go to live when you did get married?

EE: Well, that, we, we, what we were doing, we looked at these houses. Now when I look at them. We ended up in Parkside Avenue. We found this house in Parkside Avenue. And there was already two or three frum people living there.

Tape 4: 20 minutes 42 seconds

Berish Weiss, they married the year before. And Mr and Mrs Corn, the one, Mr Corn, m'emes Hashem is going to be a hundred now this winter. He was two doors away. And it was a few Yidden in the house. Mr Roberg all lived in Parkside. So we, we, we, we had to buy this house in Parkside. And I wanted. I was very particular. I didn't care what I wanted. It was (a) possibly carpets, which I didn't have to do the floor, and (b) a kitchen with two sinks and preferably two cookers. So I didn't have problems. Cos we were u, at home we always had. Because first of all from the hostel and then when we moved to Singleton Road we had fleishik and milchik and we had two separate sinks. Everything separate. Although a lot of houses didn't have it. I wanted that. And in those days you had to wait for your furniture, even if you ordered it. It was still post-war. And we went to all these places. My friend, my friend daugh, my mother's friend's daughter got married and she told Miri about all these wholesale Yiddishe places where you went to buy your trousseau and your furniture, and this and that. Wherever she went we went. And, but, what we wanted. I know, and we got one piece square carpet, which I said I was having a square carpet in the morning room cos I had a fire there, a fireplace, and I said I don't want to be freezing cold, you know. And a carpet you don't have to wash the floor. A hoover, and that was, you know. So I had a carpet. And we had. But a carpet was ordered and that carpet came cos it was a square and we had a square in the dining room. And I also got, like my mother, an anthracite stove in the back room, in the living room. And a gas fire in the front room. Because I said, only one fireplace in the kitchen and that's it.

Tape 4: 22 minutes 36 seconds

RL: How long did you stay in that house?

EE: Oh we stay in that house from 1953 until 1964 I think, was it ’62 or ’61. I can’t remember either ’61 or ’62.

RL: And where did you move to?

EE: Here.

RL: Stanley Road?

EE: Uh huh. Cos it was a question. Although we had an attic up there we only had two, only have two-and-a-half bedrooms in those houses. Beautiful garden back and front and everything. It had a goy next door but only. And she was such a thing. No washing on a Sunday and. She was a very nice woman but she was very particular about Sunday. So if it happened to be sun-shining and you didn’t have a dryer on Sunday and you had all these nappies you could not put them cos she didn’t like it. This she didn’t like and that she didn’t like. I was very accommodating I must say. But, the rest of the neighbours. It was a cull-de-sac and one by one they were all, you know, Haimish people moved in. And, it was a question of to build out or do this and there was this neighbour. So we said if we can find a bigger house we’ll move. And we. This house wasn’t, didn’t look like this but more or less like this. An old lady had lived in it and she was deaf. Every room had a big bell (laughing), those old fashioned, where you ring the bell and various other things. So we took out all the fireplaces. We took out the fireplaces also in the other house already. And, and we still had a fireplace in here. We didn’t have central heating. The first year, when we moved in, I said, I don’t care what we’re doing we’re having central. You know how old this central heating is? It came out of the ark. And we, we put in the central heating. And was it ’61 or ’62? Central heating and a Sukkah. Those were the two things. I think we were about the first people to have a built-on Sukkah. We built that sukkah on the, at the back. It’s a bit make-shift but it’s still there. Because I used to have a Sukkah at the bottom of the garden. You know, where, you know like a shed where you. And my husband wanted a big Sukkah so that was that.

Tape 4: 24 minutes 43 seconds

But, but, the most important thing was the neighbours and we knew the Brunners. They, we had boys the same age as our boys and, and, this house had an attic and it had four bedrooms. Boruch Hashem. That, that, that was the most important thing always, you know, who was your children going to play with.

RL: What family did you have?

EE: Oh I had all my children. They were all born before I came here. Only had five children and. When my youngest daughter Rochel was born that’s when we moved. And she was born in November. And I don’t know if we moved December 61 or 62, I can’t remember. I must have a look. But she, they were all born by the time I got here.

RL: So how many children was that?

EE: Two boys and three girls, in that order.

RL: And what are their names?

EE: The names are, oh, Avrohom Yishayo, he was born three weeks after the Chazon Ish died. My father was Avrohom and I had to give another name so I always said if I have a boy it's going to be. I mean I never knew what the other name was going to be but when the Chazon Ish died I said right now I know. So he, he was, and he was born three weeks after. The next one was called after my father-in-law. Unfortunately my father, I told you, he had a stroke, and in those days you went on this Edinburgh nature-cure diet. And my mother-in-law did everything, you know, wholemeal bread, salad, vitamins, whatever, no meat, no this, no that. He got a lot better but. His, my next brother-in-law got engaged to a girl from Switzerland and the Chassene was going to be Rosh Chodesh Iyar. And, it was a year after, my son was born, so it was a year-and-a half after I got married, Pesach time. And the Chassene was going to be Rosh Chodesh Iyar, straight after Pesach, and I, I went, we went to Gateshead for Yomtov.

Tape 4: 26 minutes 35 seconds

And my husband was then still teaching in Broughton Jewish. And of course he had to get back because school and all that. And the day of the Aufruf he was taken ill, heart attack. And then, only one brother-in-law went to that Chassene, my, my, my, my, the Choson, and he was nifte during, during the Sheva Brochos of that Chassene, the following week. So my next boy was born the following year and he's called Alexander, Alexander Ziskin after my father-in-law. And then I've got three girls after that. Yocheved. Well, the Rosh Yeshiva's wife, Hebrew name Yocheved, you know that, and, she was always called Aunty Eva. But, but, I always liked that name, Yocheved. So I thought, whoever she's called after I can always call, you know, who you, who, in those days. But the meise was she was born on Zayin Adar, which is Moshe Rabbenu's birthday. So I said she's definitely going to be called, Moishe's her father, she's going to be called Yocheved. She must have been the first Yocheved of that Dor because my friend Minnie Weiss had a girl and the grandmother, the first grandmother was called Rivka and the second grandmother was Yocheved. So she had one. And I said I'm not going to change her name. She's going to be Yocheved. So that was Yocheved. And then I had two daughters after that. Rivka, was just because I liked the name. Because we have lots of Ruths and Miriams in our family, and my mother was Esther, so there was no Esther. And I said well nobody's got a Rivka, it's time we had a Rivka, so she'll be just called Rivka, like that, on her own. And, and then I had another daughter. She was. Those two were the fastest. There were only fifteen months between them. And I decided.

Tape 4: 28 minutes 31 seconds

My grandmother was called Chaya, Hannah, my sister's called after her. And my husband's grandmother was called Chaya and his had a niec, we have a niece, was born not long after she died, and they called her Judy. You know, her name was Chaya but don, just because Chaya, Hebrew names were not very common in those days. I felt bad but decided that we're going to call her Rochel anyway. My sister-in-law's called Rochel after, my husband's sister. And there's a Rochel in our family,

one of the grandmothers or aunts. Distant not close. So we called her, so we called her Rochel Chaya. So, that, that was that, that's as far as we got.

RL: What schools did they go to?

EE: Now they all went to Broughton, to Jews Day. And my boys went to Jews Grammar and my girls went to Jewish High. Actually my husband changed. Broughton Jewish, he was only there for two years. And then he went to teach in Jewish Day. And there were more hours, more gemorrah, even though it was Primary School, more gemorrah, more mishnayos. And he taught his own children, in school, and when my son got to be ten. Jewish Grammar had started the year before and my hus, my husband decided that, that he's going to change. Maybe go to J,…. now there was a Grammar School. And he… Reb Lippe came that time to, to become the. It had already been established before but he reorganised the school under the auspices of Mr Anshel Pfeffer. He was the chairman of the governors. They revamped that school to make it into a Grammar School. It was just like, just an ordinary. It was called Jewish Grammar. Rabbi Balkin, Rabbi K… whatever. It was a sort of a, not very academic. People still wanted to go to Manchester Grammar or Salford Grammar. And he decided that he wanted for his boys Mr Pfeffer.

Tape 4: 30 minutes 43 seconds

So that, David, did David, I think he didn't go. Did he go? But Raphael Pfeffer, his own boy, he put into that school. And you know he was a big shot in the town, Anshel Pfeffer was the man in the town. And if his boy goes to that school anybody could go. Do you understand? And that's really when it started. And my husband came then. He started that year. The year my son started.

RL: So what year was that?

EE: It must have been '63. Moishe was ten. '63, '64, something like that. And he stayed there. In between he had been a private Rabbi. In between Jewish Day School there were two to three years. Professor Weiss, you know Professor Weiss, who was the father of Horodonk. He was, he had a job in the Manchester University. And he was a lecturer in Mishnaic Studies. And he had two boys and a girl. And his girl lives in Eretz Yisroel**,** Geula and he had these two sons, Chaim, Dovid and Yitzchok Aryeh, the Horodonk and he, together with Mr Bamberger the father of the Bamberger boys. So the oldest Bamberger is Mordche in Glasgow and the next one, I think, is Moishe. So these four boys, he wanted a person to teach his boys, private, Rabbi, and so my son, my husband left Jewish Day. For, it must be. I don't know exactly which year. I must ask my kids. It was before Yishayo went and so it must have been in between 1955 and 1963. For one or two years he went there every day and he taught those four, privately, those four boys. Only Limudei Kodesh, mainly gemorrah and a bit of Chumash. And he used to. Jewish Day was up here (pointing) and they lived at Sedgley Park Gate, you know on the corner of Sedgley Park. So he didn't have much different. And the children used to come from Jewish Day and pick, he used to take them home, pick him up you know, next door, to when he was finished.

Tape 4: 32 minutes 48 seconds

I can't remember if he went all day. And he always gave private shiurim besides that, in the house, to, to, all the, people are…. He learnt with young men, for many many years, gemorrah. It must be three, three young, young men, they're all old men now, grandfathers. Naphtoli Yochnavitz, Harold Slutskin and Shlomo Kraus. They learnt twice a week, they used to come. And then we had Grammar School boys, who came to gemorrah. And there was my cousin Eli Newman and Meir Roberg, you know Meir Roberg, Principle. He was at Manchester Grammar in those days. And then after that he had four or five who came together. Rabbi Ehrentrau of Sunderland, AB Ehrentrau. I don't know if you know. They came to our house every afternoon at about four-thirty until six. You know, instead of going to Cheder. And they had. They learnt gemorrah. And that was on top of school. And then he gave other shiurim. But they, they were the regulars. And my own children, as well, on Shabbos afternoons they used to have hi, friends, with friends. They used to learn with them as well. So, I mean, you, you must remember that Kolel was practically unheard of. There was Manchester Yeshiva and there was Schneider's. Do you know many Yeshivas, Gateshead Yeshiva. One or two people in Manchester learn, learnt a bit. And then when, then Rav Weiss opened with Dr Rottenberg the Manchester Kolel. Not long after we came. Must have been in the 1950's, late '50's. And even that was a sort of, a, you know, quite sure whether it's going to succeed or that was that. And. and, so he coming from America, from a place of Torah**,,** you know, which was much more, much more, accepted than here.

Tape 4: 35 minutes 1 second

It was a different kind of town altogether. It was a very business-orientated town, you know. Career, business, you know, that was the thing; to learn. But the schools gradually got…. That, that's where the schools did have an affect. I mean, the Hassidishe children they never went. But there were a lot of Hassidishe children went to Sou …, Jewish Grammar at the beginning. Cos their parents wanted them to get some kind of English education in case they had to make a go of it on their own. And they were not in a position, might not be in a position to help them. And they were not, aware. And so, and gemorrah was good and if they learnt gemorrah. And when it first started and so we had a mixture. We always had, there was a mixture. And the, the, the, the, the English became very good. Thanks to Lester Wilson. I mean he started them off, by hook or by crook and the teachers. And they realised that you could learn and have academic without going to Manchester Grammar. That was the achievement of Jewish Grammar. That, because. They didn't care about the girl's education. But the boys had to have proper, you know, if they're going to learn they have to learn. Not this, this half-baked, half a bit, English. Even though people who wanted their children to learn wanted their boys to be able to pass whatever it was, 'O' levels.

RL: And what did your children do after … ?

EE: [Laughing] Well, that is the interesting thing. My eldest boy, who went to Lakewood, I mean he went to Gateshead Yeshiva when he was about fifteen, sixteen. He had already done 'A' levels. Cos we wanted to rush it, you know, so they'd get to Yeshiva. And then he was, until he was about twenty, and then he went to Lakewood.

And then he. There was this Shidduch suggested to him, in Eretz Yisroel, and the family, whose father, her father wasn't alive any more, and my father knew each other in Europe before the war.

Tape 4: 37 minutes 13 seconds

We knew who they were. I didn't know her but I knew her fath, we knew her, her father once came to Eng …, her father was a very interesting man. And so he went to Eretz Yisroel and they met and they got engaged. And my son's been there ever since and he's been learning ever since. And he had a very large family and he' still learning now to this day. Boruch Hashem. And my second son, whose only a year and a bit younger than my oldest son, he also went to Gateshead and then he went to Lakewood. And then he met this girl. She's originally from Denver and her parents. Her father was in Siberia together with my brother-in-law. You know I told you my sister-in-law….. So they knew each other. They were Talmidim with Rav Kotler. And, and, she was the daught, she was the youngest daughter. And they were living in New York. So my son got married and started off in the Kolel in Lakewood. And he's been in, living in Lakewood ever since. But he went into a magazine and we, well. My, my daughter actually started a Jewish magazine in Yerushalayim, Yocheved, the Jewish Women's Outlook, and that went over to my son when she couldn't manage it anymore. And he did it in America. And then he went into the printing, into the publishing. And he publish, he's a publisher, of books, Jewish books. And he still lives in Lakewood, you know, and his, his children, and his children. And my daughters, they're all married. My eldest daughter.

RL: What did they do after school?

EE: Who, my daughters? What did Yocheved do after school? She went to Seminary of course. She got engaged when she was in the first year in Sem [laughing]. But she did 'A' levels so she went to Sem at eighteen not like now.

RL: What Seminary did she go to?

EE: Gateshead Seminary, they all went to Gateshead Sem.

Tape 4: 39 minutes 7 seconds

And, she, she, she left. He. My, my son-in-law was learning in the Mir Yeshiva in Yerushalayim. American boy, Hassidish., a Chossid. He was the Talmid of the old Gerer Rebbe, the Beis Yisroel. But he didn't look Hassidish. He was clean-shaven, except in he wore a beckishe on Shabbos and a Gartel, you know. And his father was also clean-shaven. And, he was going back to learning, in Yerushalayim. So that's what they did. They set out in life in Yerushalayim and that's when she and her sister-in-law decided to start this magazine off, this Jewish Women's Outlook. Which must have been about, when the very first? It was a very beautiful glossy magazine. It went on for a few years. And then she had children, she couldn't do it. So my son used to do it in America. He published it. But, although it was beautiful it didn't make any money. Because, because, there were not enough membership paid. Everybody read it but, you know, very few people bought it. And then my next daughter went to. She started off in insurance, cos my husband refused to sign for

three years. So they wouldn't take her in Gateshead. Because he didn't want to sign that she's going to stay for three years. Because he said he can't do that, he's not sure. She was already, had done 'A' levels. They'd all done 'A' levels in Jewish High. So she went into a big insurance company in town. It was called, a what, British Engine. It used to be next to Marks and Sparks. It was a big building there. And one day. She left school in July. One day, at the beginning of September, my husband got a phone call from Mr Corn, at Gateshead Sem. If your daughter comes before Rosh Hashona this week she can join the Sem.

Tape 4: 41 minutes 11 seconds

Out of the blue. We don't know what was going on, so, anyhow, she was very keen to go to Gateshead. She was very upset. She was going to apply the following year to go to Israel, to another Sem. And so she said okay. So she left her job and all this. She'd all got herself all installed and she started off in this insurance, thing. And she said goodbye. She took. They couldn't believe it, the office, watching what was going on… packing everything up and going to the study in this college up at. Anyhow, it was thanks to Noami, believe it or not, Noami Smiths turn, Noami Smith. Cos she had. She was in school with three or four girls and they all went to Gateshead. And they were all friends of Rivka's. And Rivka was very, she was very good. She used to help them with their Hebrew, and whatever. And Noami used to go everyday to Mr Corn and say I can't friend Rivka. And she was the one who encouraged us to come here and she's not here. How can? So she must have been a few times. Noami's quite insistent. And it's through her that Rivka got into Sem. Can you believe that? And she also used to write up all her notes and send them to Pennina Cos Pennina Wieder, Pennina Grosskopf went to University. And she didn't want to miss out on the lectures in Gateshead and Rivka. And, and, she must have them somewhere. Rivka used to write up every week the main shiurim and send them in to Gateshead. So anyhow, she only went to Sem for a year. And she went, left and got a job. I think. Did she leave and get a job? In an insurance, in another insurance company. And my son-in-law in America, a friend, in Eretz Yisroel, suggested a friend, his friend's friend not his own friend. Lag B'Omer, you should go and meet him. And he was learning in the Mir Yeshiva in America, in Eretz Yisroel , and he's an American boy. And travel was not easy.

Tape 4: 43 minutes 13 seconds

So, it was easier, the middle of the term so she. So they met in Eretz Yisroel and Boruch Hashem, they got engaged. And he was going back to New York to learn in Chaim Berlin. He was really a Chaim Berlin person. He was a New York pers, New York born. And he was going. Like he went for a couple of years to Eretz Yisroel to learn in the Mir. And that was it. So she got engaged in the summer and she's been there ever since. She got married. She had her last Sheva brochos in New York and she's been living in New York ever since she got married. And she has had various jobs. She's always worked. Starting off in an insurance company in America. And she's now in Boruch Hashem in a computer. She must have done. In a big accountant's office, which is very near, not far from where she lives, which is very good. And my youngest daughter. They didn't refuse her.

RL: What does her husband do?

EE: They did not refuse her. He did not sign for three years. And they, he, Mr Corn the following year, he even made her to be the Sem rep, the class rep or something, you know, before she even got there. Cos he thought he was getting another Rivka. I do not know. Anyhow, she had no. She also only went for a year. Because you know why, she was nineteen, eighteen, nineteen. They had all done 'A' levels. And I had wanted them to have some kind of career before they got married, cos in case they needed it. And she also went into insurance.

RL: What does Rivka's husband do?

EE: Rivka's husband learns, he learnt in Chaim Berlin and now he teaches in a, in a High School and he t, and he needs teaching in Chaim Berlin in the afternoons. He's a Mashgiach in Chaim Berlin in the afternoons. And Rochel, she started. She. I don't know who suggested. Oh yes, somebody, a friend suggested, suggested her husband. He was American. He wasn't American. He was born in South America and he, they came after the war to New York. And he learnt in the Mir Yeshiva in New York, the same as my husband did. And he learnt in Brisk, in Yerushalayim.

Tape 4: 45 minutes 37 seconds

That's where he was. And, and, he came over to England. And he was the oldest of his family and she was the youngest of our family. And, they have two things in common. They're both very punctual and they hate smoking (laughing). She, she said she could never marry anybody who smokes, you know. She was very, she's very. Long before anti-smoking she was a very anti-smoking girl. And they started. they got married and they started off in Eretz Yisroel for the first six, seven, how many years? I don't know, six years, five years, I don't know. And they went to Lakewood. Her, her parents and I, together with us, had put money down on a house, on a house in Lakewood. It must have been before they actually got there. And they moved to Lakewood and she was working in it, she was working in Yerushalayim. She started on computers. She also in a lawyers office, and now and now, and she's, she's, she's been working all the time, but now she's in a big insurance company.

RL: And he?

EE: And he was learning most of the time. In about five years ago, his father is in a furniture, is in furniture, bedding business, and he works with his father. He travels. He does a lot of s. Half-a-day. He's home every day at three-thirty and then he's got his seder, he learns, he's got his Chavrusa. But she's married off a daughter. She's, she's….. you know what I mean?

RL: And how many grandchildren do you have?

EE: Oh, hah, hah, hah (rolling her eyes). Well, got loads of grandchildren. Cos two of them have got very large families. And then Rivka's got, Rochel's got ten and Rivka's got nine. That's besides the two big ones. And Rochel's got six. So there's quite a few, quite a.

Tape 4: 47 minutes 46 seconds

Dozens of grandchildren. They're all floating about here, over the place. And.

RL: And how many are married?

EE: Now. My eldest son's oldest daughter only got married last year. But my Yocheved my daughter, the Hassidishe one, they went to America half-way. After, from. He stopped in the Mir. He went to New Yo, he went to Monsey. Must have been when, let me see, nine. The first son, the first son was born, the second son was born in America. She had four children. All her children were born in England, my daughter from Eretz Yisroel. Cos he's, he, he's an American citizen, wasn't crazy about the army. And, if it was a boy, and also in, he didn't have anybody to look her there and so she used to come here. So her first four children were born in St Mary's. And after the fourth one was born. I think it was the fourth,…..yes. So, they were on their way to moving to America. And then she had the, she had the rest of them in America. So she, she had another six. She had twins. She had another six children. A boy and twins and then another three little girls. That's right isn't it? Yeah, a boy and twins and another three little girls. So they were all born. But three years ago they moved to Yerushalayim, went back in Israel. So I have two children in Israel and three in America. And married, she's got five children married. And the other. My son's got, well my son's. My o, my son's got two children. My daughter had, has now got two children married. And the youngest has got two. But then there's two after now, after Succos. So there's quite a few.

Tape 4: 49 minutes 55 seconds

They're on their way. But quite a few married.

RL: And how many great-grandchildren?

EE: Oh dear me (laugh). I've got quite a few. Well one was last week at my grand-daughter had a little girl. A week, two weeks on Sunday. Quite a few. Not as many as grand. I mean, you know, I've got. In America, my two grand-daughters have got two boys each. That's my son's daughters. Rochel, my daughter's daughter's got a girl and a boy. And then, Yocheved my oldest daughter, she's got four children married in America, and Eretz Yisroel. And one lives in Lakewood. She's got, she, she, she made it before her sister. She had five, the fifth child before Shavuos. And my grand-daughter, I told you, had one two weeks ago. Now hers are older. Her oldest is already eight, nearly eight. But, so they've got. I mean, so they've all got mi, you know, the two, and they've only got two boys. But all. And my, my daughter from, from New York, she, her eldest, her eldest daughter's married but the boy's older and he's the one who just got married after Tisha B'Av. So that eldest daughter's got two kids and she lives in Yerushalayim. She's a, she's the only American daughter to live in. But my American grand-daughters, most of them, went to Sem in Israel. My sister's husband, Rabbi Refson has got various Sems and about four or five of my grand-children went to the, went to Bnos Chava. Is it Bnos Chava, that's right. And one, my daught, my daughter, one of them went to BJJ and one of them went to Hadassah, that's two other Sems. So they've all. And then my youngest daughter, the one who's got her married daughter, her daughter went to Sem in New York. She didn't go.

Tape 4: 52 minutes 2 seconds

RL: Which sister married Rabbi Refson?

EE: My young sister, Devorah, the youngest sister. The one who was born after the war, in June '45. She was the only one. She lives in Beit Vegan. And she, he's got. And did, he's starting Maalot in Whitefield. You know Maalot is like a grad, post-graduate seminary. You can do all kinds of courses. And you have credits, I think, to American University. And he's got them in America. He's got them all over. And I think he's starting one off here in Whitefield. I don't know exactly when, either in January or in July, in June? For anybody who's, who's been to Sem. And there's various courses you can do. And it's, it's called Maalot. He has them post-Sem, post-Sem Maalot courses in Israel. And he's got one or two in various places. One in New York and there must be others in America. So it's a like a kind of a college. And you can whatev. It's, it's, it's considered as part of a American University diploma, I think.

RL: Now have you? You were talking about your husband teaching and giving Shiurim**.** When did he become …

EE: Oh when he became a Rav yes. Well Rav Weiss went to Yerushalayim. How many years ago was that? When he was appointed the Rav at Yerushalayim. Must have been about thirty-five, forty years ago then. And then, then with the shul didn't have a Rov. He was Rov in Ohel Torah practically from the time he arrived in Manchester. Started off in Levi House opposite Fulda's Hotel. Then they moved to Leicester Road. And then after that, I think my husband gave a Shiur initially. He always gave a Shiur on Shabbos mornings. And they asked him if he, asked him about a year, a year, something like that, on Rabbi, Rav Weiss's recommendation, if he would take on the job initial. So that, so he did. And that must be about thirty-five, forty years, must be something like.

Tape 4: 54 minutes 26 seconds

Fifty-Three, sixty-eight. About '39, '39, something like that. I think it was '67 or '68, something like that. So, he took on, he took, he took on the job of Rov, Rov of Ohel Torah.

RL: What kind of shul was that?

EE: What do you mean Ohel Torah?

RL: Yeah.

EE: Well it was started off by Mr Fulda, from Fulda's Hotel. Who lived in half a house, you know, and had the thing. And he wanted another minyan somewhere nearer the hotel. I think he used to daven in various places. And he must have rented a room in Levi House. We used to dab. When we, when we were first married there were very few shuls to go to. You either went to Manchester Yeshiva, which was very early, or we went to MH, which finished late. I mean, there was Adass Yeshurun

but my husband was not, was not, you know, was more for, more German type. You know, Ashkenaz. And where else? That was about it. So, Levi House, they started a minyan. Young. Mr Dresner, the Mr Dresner who used to live here. He ended up in Bentley Court, you know. And, Mr Fulda, two Fuldas, the other Fulda, you know, who used to. The father of Simcha Fulda, you know, from Prestwich. And various other people. There was a. A Mr Crane and they, they had this minyan only on Shabbos in Levi House. And when Rav Weiss came. Well first he lived in Wellington Street. I don't think he was Rov there. It was too far to walk. I don't know way down there. And when he moved to Leicester Road, you know, he used to live on 150 Leicester Road, it was very near. It was just up the road.

Tape 4: 56 minutes 18 seconds

So he took over that shul. And then they bought the house on the corner of Granville and Leicester Road. And they converted it into a shul. Well at first it was just downstairs. And they made a little ladies section and a men's section. And they got bigger and so they, the whole of the downstairs was made into a men's shul. And they converted the upstairs into a ladies shul. And then, they've add an extension to that, at the back. They've built over. And they want to extend again. I don't really know where they do, that, but, I mean, that's. Once that shul started and then the Kolel came next door. He, Rabbi started that Kolel next door. So that little block, you know, that section, was always, was always. And we all lived round the corner. You must remember my brother got married and lived in Granville. My sister got married and lived in Granville. The Fuldas got married, jus, Rosie Spielman and, and, and, Norman Fulda here, Mrs Spielman and Leo Fulda. That was half the shul in, not half the shul but you know, we were, there were, two, two, two parts of. The family of Rav Weiss, Mordche Weiss, Rav Weiss, Herschel Weiss, you know, Sylvia's father. And, and, the others who always there. Mr Abenson, there were people, you know, the, the two Mr Mashers. They were, they were sort of long-standing, you know. Mr Corn and, oh, Mr Silver, you know, who used to live on Leicester Road. And, it was, it was an interesting shul. It was like the Gateshead shul. It was basically Ashkenaz.

RL: I'm just. I think this is about to stop so if we can just finish for second.

EE: I think.

Tape 4: 58 minutes 16 seconds

TAPE 5

RL: This is the interview with Mrs Ellinson and it's tape 5. You were just about to tell about Ohel Torah.

EE: Yes, well it was basically Ashkenaz but, because of Rab Weiss we have various minhogim, Hassidish, such as dancing on Shemini Atzeres night, saying Hallel on Pesach night and, what else did we do? A few other things which are not Ashkenaz, which are more Hassidishe things. What else did we do? And those people who don't. Oh yes and the Roberts family. I must remember. The Roberts moved from Man, Liverpool to Manchester. And there was Mr Roberts and Sheppie Roberts and

Mr Mendleson, who always lived here. And they belonged. You know. These sort of, three or four families plus friends, and it just sort of gone on from there. And it's always been a very convenient spot. Because it's, you know, very central. And, during the week sometime it's much more crowded than on week, than on Shabbos. Because, because, it's very near, very convenient and everybody knows exactly what time and what, you know, what the Nussach is. And even though some people are Hassidish they still daven there. Which is interesting. Cos we have people Hassidish people daven in the shul. And, but basically it's not. So, whe, whe, my husband he was, he was more, we, we, we're more Ashkenaz. So. But we still keep up those takonos of Rav Weiss. What was the something else that we do? That, that the ordinary Ashkenaz shul does not do? So it's a bit of a mixture. And, and, and it's, it's a very close knit shul, always has been.

RL: How long was your husband Rov there?

EE: Thirty-odd years. Thirty, it was about 34, 34, something like, 68 til about 34, 34 or 35 years.

Tape 5: 2 minutes 12 seconds

RL: When did he die?

EE: In Pesach, in America, in 2001, 2001, Chol Hamoed Pesach. It was very sudden.

RL: Were you involved in any communal …

EE: In the shul?

RL: Well not necessarily the shul but any other …

EE: No, well you see, I was going to tell you. My mother was very very committed. My, communi, my. I mean she worked for Rabbi Horowitz Dvar Yerushalaim. She was o, Jewish High Committee and various other committees, whatever was going. She was a very good secretary. She could type and keep papers and things. In the olden days she did everything. And she was very active in those things. But I was, I mean, I was. First of all I'm not a typ.., I'm not, I'm not as gifted as, in typing, you see. And I found that. I mean I, I belonged to the Neshei. There was a. Up till about ten, fifteen years ago, we had a Neshei in, here in Manchester. Not Pres, they have one in Prestwich now. When we were all young marrieds and that was very active. And I belong but I was never a committee member, you know, I mean, I just did what I had to do. And, everybody else did as well. It was a very close-knit crowd

RL: What did you do? What sort of thing?

EE: I mean we had activities, every week something. And then we had drives you made evenings, you know, fund-raising. And, the, they may even put on shows. Not that I was ever in the shows, but. It was, it was, it was a very. Most people didn't have family and parents, you know in town. So it was a very. And we were all newly, newly married. And it was, it was somewhere to go, once a week, to get away

from home. You know, away from the kids, or away from the babies. You know, somebody babysat for you. Your husband, or whatever.

Tape 5: 4 minutes 15 seconds

And, it was a very interesting. I mean, we were all a very close-knit crowd. And you didn't have to go every week but I think they've started it off now in Prestwich, which is very important cos it's the same type of situation. Where lots of people starting off and they want to do something just a bit more. We did, we didn't have all this, we didn't have a lot of this how to business. We didn't do all of that. If we did have somebody it was something interesting. We're not, we're not into, we were not into that, into that.

RL: Were you involved in any other kind of committee or … ?

EE: No, I don't really think I was. I don't, I can't remember being actually involved. I used to go to Seed. I did do that. For many years I used to go to South Manchester and Bayla Klein was then in charge to the students. My sister went and I went and my brother went. On a, was it, Monday night, or Tuesday night. And that was many years ago. And I've been on and off ever since.

RL: Have you had any connection with AJR?

EE: No, only my mother. They, we used to get, we used to get their newsletter. Up til. My mother may have got it all the time. She probably got it after the war as well, yes. It used to come out every so often. And she used to, two page or four page pamphlet, or eight page, or whatever it was. I mean, it didn't mean very much to us because a lot of the things that'd been discussed in there are not really relevant to our thing. But the people who are mentioned, they knew, my mother knew them, my parents knew them. So she was always interesting to see, you know, what people were doing all over the world. People who write into this places from far away places. But we have our, you have your own family. You know after the war we went to Eretz Yisroel, we went to America. And. I did keep up. I did meet after the war, when I first went to Israel. And, and our various cousins of ours, far, far-flung cousins. Not the, because we ourselves don't have hardly any family, on my fathers side.

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And I met people in Haifa and I met people in Chofetz Chaim and I, also, there's one, my father's cousin, who lives in the Bnei Brak. And he. The interesting thing was that when I met them I could see a family resemblance to, to my brother, to my children. Even though they were cousins of my parents. He, they, he's already an elderly person there. And his children. Anyway. And my, my sister, Mrs, Rebbetzen Refson from Beit Vegan she finally, two, three years ago. It's so interesting because she's lived in Beit Vegan all her life and all her fam, all, she has many friends. And there was this French student in some Yeshiva, whose name was Koppenheim. And it took about two years until one of her friends realised that it could be connected to her maiden name. Anyhow, he turned out, this young man, his mother is Sephardi. He is the grandson of my father's cousin. And he has a sister and she ended up in the Sem.

And they're married. My sister's met them. And they have the same name as us. Cos I don't know anybody in the world who's got our name who's not related to us. And their grandfather used to sen. You see my mother corresponded with all these people. We used to get Rosh Hashona cards from all parts of the world. Or post, picture postcards, you know. She used to write to them every year. And they used to respond. So we knew these people existed. And, this uncle from Sweden came to my Chassene. He lived to about ninety I think. And then this, this one from Paris, this was my father's cousin. He, I think his, his son died before he did. He lived to be ninety-odd. And this is the grandchild.

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And he's settled in Israel now, in Bnei Brak, I think, so, very interesting.

RL: Now when did you get British nationality?

EE: Oh. Well my three sisters were automatically British cos they were born here. We mustn't, be, before the end of the war, after the war, because when we travelled to Paris I think I already had a British passport then. So must have got it during or after the war.

RL: And how would you describe yourself in terms of identity? What, you know, how would you describe yourself?

EE: What do? Identity I would say would be, I would say would be, would say traditional European origin but basically English. I mean, grew up in English, in England and you have all these foreign connections. But when you go to America you, I'm much more Anglicised than the Americans Europeans are Americanised. I find they are much more. Because they're mu, more numbers of them, there are larger numbers and they stuck to their own things. England had this tendency that everybody was Anglicised as much as you. Now they don't any more. In our day everybody, sort of, conformed, you know. You spoke the language, you did this, you did everything. And in the… I mean it wasn't terribly hard. I didn't find it hard. I mean, we used to, you have your own, your own thing. But it was not difficult. You fit in with everybody else. You do what everybody else does, you know. You try and. I mean the fact is that you're born in, born in Europe and your, your par, your parents, you know. I mean, I mean, the first few years of your life and. I very rare. I mean I don't. I mean I speak German to people who don't speak English but I don't be my. I never spoke German to my children. Although my mother still did occasionally. You know when you can't be bothered. I mean she couldn't be bothered to thing.

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But she, she ended up speaking English to us all. Which, for example, in America they would still speak say Yiddish more so than we would having only been here so many years. Maybe now, I don't know, now maybe it's different. But I find they're more Eur, they're more European in their ways than we, than the English refugees are, shall we say, all the English refugees are. Of my era. Because there's the people

who came in 1950. Nineteen Forty-F, people came straight after the war and then the people who came from Eastern Europe in 1956, the Hungarians.

RL: In what ways do you feel different to the British?

EE: I don't feel different at all. I don't feel different. I mean when I'm in England I feel like an English person and when I'm in America I just feel like I, you know, … not American but, you know, I try and, the thing. And when I'm in Israel I feel like I'm in Israel. You've got to adapt to. I don't, it doesn't bother me. But maybe, I should say, I'm too, more English than I would other, might normally have been. And, but there are, there are some things that, that, that, that are English, that I, you know, that I wouldn't do, you know, that you, you don't come easily I wouldn't do. But basically I don't find it difficult. Maybe growing up in Manchester, in a smaller town, you know, it's not London. You can, you can, you can do what you like, up to a point, and still belong, you know, without having to, without having to, do everything the way you want.

RL: Have you ever come across anti-Semitism here?

EE: Yes, but that, not against yourself personally. Yes, nowadays more so than in the olden days.

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I mean people scream at you in the street. But, but that's just crazy. But, I, I mean, you expect it, shall we say that. We grew up in a time when you realised that you're in a county which has given you sanctuary and that you have to do what they want and be grateful. That's how we were brought up. And whatever, whatever it is here, you know, you have to do your bit and try and do what you can for, you know, as best you can for what, what, for the people who live here. And, of course some people are a bit nasty so what can you do, you know, that's not your, it's not their, it's their fault not your fault. And in that respects people, that was much more, that was much more, the common thing in our young days. Everybody's parents were very insistent, you know, that the children did everything right, you have to behave, you had to do this, you have, you know, lots, do anything to make a, not, not, not, exhibition, you know, try and sort of, you know, fit in with the c, general people. And then in those days you did because of, the times were hard and everybody pushed and pulled together. Your neighbours were your neighbours, you know. So, in that respect I find it was, it was much more cohesive.

RL: How do you feel towards Germany?

EE: Huh, well I've only passed through there once and I don't know if I crazy about. And people do go all the time but I, I, I'm not very, not very good at. I mean somebody said they went on holiday to Austria, or somewhere. To me if I would have to go to Austria I would still not. At that respects I'm a war child, you know, I can't, I can't. I mean people go for work, or for business and that. But I, I find it very hard.

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And. So, my, my brother says maybe we should go back you know, and go to the Beis Olam. For that maybe I would go but. And I know some people go. They, they give shiurim. There's lots of people living there nowadays, in Berlin and in Frankfurt. I suppose for that it's a good thing but I'm not a. I still, you've got that inside you, you can't, you can't take that away. Not that I experienced anything bad myself but I remember and I've heard from other people. So I can't, I can't. I'm not very keen. Even France, with all due respects. It's not, it's, they were, no, during the war, they were not so (shaking here head).

RL: Do you have any, any message you'd like to end with?

EE: In what respect?

RL: Anything you'd like to add, anything you'd like to?

EE: I don't know. I think, I think everybody has to adjust to try and make the best of their background, or their life, and to contribute to the wellbeing and to make, make the world a better place if possible. And try and see to it also that the children have an idea of, where, where you've come, where, what, what it's all been like. That's the only thing. And that we are very fortunate. When you hear and you see and you meet the people, you know? When we say we were refugees, compared to others, we had it very easy. And as children we were even more sheltered. So I can't, I can't, I can't. I mean, money hard and times hard and all that went through and it was certainly there and we felt it but it was not, never noticed. But, nev, we never had any problem. We all knew that we were poor and short and that. But somehow our parents, you had that background, it never, it was never a thing that, that was a major issue. And that, nowadays, I think, is very hard because it's a ma, it's, without. Poverty is a. Well everybody lived in poverty in those days. There was no food because there was no food, you know. And, and, and that, that is the difference. Materialism has really gone over the top now and. What people call poverty today is not what poverty what I knew. And then, people who were harder up than I was. It, it can't compare. Anyway.

RL: Okay. Thank you very much.

Tape 5: 18 minutes 8 seconds

EE: This is a photo of my mother, Mrs Erna Koppenheim, taken in Manchester at a wedding, about 1979.

This is a photo of my husband and his mother, Mrs Dina Ellinson, taken in London at her son's home in November 19, approximately, approximately, November 93.

This is a photo of myself with my children. The boys, on left to right, Alexander, Avrohom Yishayo, then me, my daughter Yocheved, Rivka, and Rochel taken in Yerushalayim, February 2005.

Is it working? This is a photo taken in September 1996 in New York at my granddaughter's wedding. Herself and her Chosson, my husband and myself, all of our children and a selection of grandchildren.

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