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## Gretel Hirschen, transcript only

Gretel Hirschen

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L.B. ...working, 1-2-3-working, 1-2-3-working...(Tape off). Now, Gretel, if you will tell me your name...now.

G.H. Gretel Hirschen.

L.B. Gretel Hirschen. And what was your maiden name?

G.H. Wolf, W-o-l-f.

L.B. O.K., we would say Wolf.

G.H. Wolf.

L.B. And, you were born, what year?

G.H. Uh, uh, '14, 1914...

L.B. 19-, 19-...

G.H. March, 1914.

L.B. All right, and...

G.H. Which makes me...Yah, yah, great...(Laughter).

L.B. And, you were born...

G.H. You're better in math than I am, so you can figure it out. I was a born...

L.B. And, in the town of...

G.H. Offenbach-on-Rhine, in Germany.

L.B. In Germany, all right. Now, some of the information about Offenbach, uh, we got from your husband, but I'd like you to tell me what you remember. You know, for example, how many people were there in your family?

G.H. My parents, and a brother and sister, we were 3 children.

L.B. 3 children.

G.H. Yeah.

L.B. And who was the oldest?

G.H. My sister.

L.B. And then?

G.H. After 8 years, my brother.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Oh no, um, well, and uh, 8 years...between my brother and myself, or something like this.

L.B. All right, and um...could you tell me what your father did for a living?

G.H. He had, he had, a factory of um, um, you know, to prepare traseaus, bed linens, um, comforters, uh... traseaus

L.B. Tablecloths?

G.H. Tablecloths...

L.B. And napkins...

G.H. Yah, yah, yah.

L.B. Now, you, he didn't make the cloth?

G.H. No, no, no.

L.B. He, they sewed...

G.H. Uh, they were, they were manufacturers, and he uh...this was his business.

L.B. So he was a manufacturer?

G.H. Really not a manufacturer, he had a business of this kind. I mean, he...served, it wasn't, it was like a store...

L.B. Well...

G.H. I mean, a store, to, to sell, um, domestic linens.

L.B. Now, he didn't make these, then?

G.H. No, sold them.

L.B. O.K., so he sold them retail, he sold them to the public.

G.H. Correct, yeah.

L.B. Now, did he have people working for him?

G.H. Yeah.

L.B. About how many people?

G.H. Oh, there was...2 men and a woman.

L.B. Were they Jewish or not Jewish?

G.H. Ummmm, the woman and one man.....the woman was Jewish, the 2 men were not.

L.B. Mm hm. (Pause). And, was, was it a big store? How, about how...

G.H. It was really not an open store, it was like a store, as we know, what you would call a store, it was, um...well, it was a building, and, uh, it didn't have a display in front, let's put it this way.

L.B. Was it more like a warehouse?

G.H. Something of this kind, yeah.

L.B. Was it more than one story high?

G.H. Um, uh, no, it was a very large place, but one, all on one floor.

L.B. All on one floor.

G.H. Yah.

L.B. And he was the owner, of the business?

G.H. Right, right.

L.B. Was he in partnership with anyone?

G.H. No, he wasn't.

L.B. No. And did your mother also work with him?

G.H. No, she did not.

L.B. She did not?

G.H. No, no.

L.B. Now, uh...what kind of, uh, house did you live in?

G.H. An apartment house.

L.B. And, about how many, what was it, a wooden apartment house?

G.H. No, they were, they were the tall, uh, not like, uh, uh, high-rise, we know now, but, uh, this was an apartment house about 4 floors...

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. And, uh, consisted of....uh, you know, it's, it's a large, a larger apartment, it really, it's, it's quite different than here.

L.B. Explain it.

G.H. O.K.?

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. You, uh, walk through a big entrance...uh, a glass entrance, and there was a long, long hallway, and from the hallway all the rooms went off, like, a livingroom and a diningroom and another livingroom and...you know, you had different rooms in Germany, you would call another livingroom, like, a "herr's room". "herr" means "a man".

L.B. Yes.

G.H. And, like a smoking room.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. You know, you had different furniture in this particular room, as you had in, in the livingroom. Old, doesn't it sound?

L.B. Now, what was it, yeah, what was it used for? This is the kind of thing I want to hear, because, men don't pay attention to these things.

G.H. Yeah, you know, this room was really fi...and not only my parents, I mean, this was just a common, accepted, uh, that's the way it was. The furniture were all leather.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Like a sofa, and 2, 3 heavy easy...chairs, in leather, round table with ashtrays, and then, uh, which at the same time, uh, library, many books in it, or other, more masculine, it was furnished more masculine than, uh, the livingroom was.

L.B. Now, was it used?

G.H. Of course.

L.B. Now, who used it? Your father?

G.H. Uh...

L.B. Did the women ever use it?

G.H. Now, for instance...yah, I would, or, it could maybe be compared with a den, what we call here a den or family room. However, in addition to this, we had a family room, where we ate...which was just a general room. Hey, listen, I don't want to give you a big story here, you know...

L.B. No, that's what I want. For instance, what, I want to know, for example, did your father play cards with friends?

G.H. Yah, for instance.

L.B. So he would use the herrn...

G.H. Correct, correct.

L.B. The herrntsimme...?

G.H. Yah, herrntsimme, yeah.

L.B. Herrntsimme, for that room.

G.H. Right, right.

L.B. Did he entertain business friends?

G.H. No.

L.B. No.

G.H. Oh, uh, uh, yes, occasionally, too, I would assume.

L.B. Now, if he did that, would he use that room, or the other?

G.H. Right, right, right. It's just not a room where you ate in, or, um...

L.B. How often was it used, was it used every day, or once a week, or?

G.H. Uh, this I couldn't... whenever, you know, it wasn't forbidden for anybody in the family to go in and be there.

L.B. Yeah, yeah.

G.H. And, for instance, you also had a room... which, you know, it sounds so silly, a room which you would call a salon, it's not a saloon...

L.B. No.

G.H. But spelled, it's spelled s-a-l-o-n, and this was really the best room in, uh, in the apartment, this was only used when out-of-town company came. (Laughs).

L.B. And they visited in that room.

G.H. Right. It was really a, a specialty, it's so, it's really ridiculous.

L.B. No, because the English had something like that, they, well, the French had a salon, and the English had a drawingroom.

G.H. Drawingroom, that's right.

L.B. So it would be...

G.H. A drawingroom, wouldn't this be adjacent to a bedroom?

L.B. No, I don't think so.

G.H. Yeah, drawingroom, you're right.

L.B. I think a dressingroom would be adjacent to a bedroom, but...

G.H. A dressingroom, that's right.

L.B. Yah, a drawl... it seems to me, from my reading, that a drawingroom would be more like a, a salon.

G.H. Right, right.

L.B. And that would have the best furniture.

G.H. Correct.

L.B. So you had a, a livingroom, you had a herr<sup>er</sup>ntsimme, you had a salon...

G.H. A diningroom...

L.B. And you had a diningroom.

G.H. Yah, and then we had...

L.B. Separate from the family room?

G.H. From the family room. And then you had another little room, which really could... be equivalent to a breakfast ~~area~~.

L.B. Mm ym. And then you had a kitchen?

G.H. Yeah.

L.B. Did you ever eat in the kitchen?

G.H. No.

L.B. So, uh, how big was your kitchen?

G.H. It was just not customary in uh, uh, to eat in the kitchen.

L.B. All right, so the kitchen was used for what?

G.H. To cook in... that's all.

L.B. Now, uh, what about washing clothing and stuff?

G.H. Oh, the clothing... was, um... each house had, um... facilities to wash... do the washing, downstairs, I mean, in the cellar.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Because washing wasn't something like you do here, every day, you did this maybe every 2, 3 weeks.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And it was a big, big procedure to, to have a washing, you had, uh, 2 people employed for that, you had your...lady, coming in to take care of a washing, you had another lady coming in, do the ironing.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And, it was, an entirely different process, now, I'm talking...35 years back, it has changed since, naturally.

L.B. So that would be, 35, would make it about 1940?

G.H. Right. We left, we left...in January, '36, we married in December, '35, left January, '36. And that's, what I'm saying now, is the way I left it. So it...

L.B. The mid-'30s.

G.H. Now, no doubt, they have also facilities.

L.B. Yeah, yeah, but that's, I, I want to know about at that time, that, when you remember.

G.H. Yeah, yeah.

L.B. So, uh, was your, um, apartment all on one floor?

G.H. Yeah.

L.B. Each apartment took up an entire floor? Now, uh, so far, I think we've had 7 rooms, you have a livingroom, a salon, a herrritsimme, family room...

G.H. Diningroom.

L.B. ...a kitchen, a diningroom...that's 6, now you had bedrooms.

G.H. And 3 bedrooms.

L.B. 3 bedrooms, so you had 9 rooms?

G.H. And one bathroom.

L.B. And a bathroom. Now, what was there in the bathroom? You had a toilet.

G.H. Tub.

L.B. Tub, so you had, uh, plumbing?

G.H. Oh yes.

L.B. You had plumbing?

G.H. Laba...lab...um...lavatory, what do you...

L.B. Lavatory, right. Did you have hot and cold water, or just cold?

G.H. Yeah, but very, uh.....this is what still impresses me, here in this country, you open a faucet and you have warm water. We had to heat the hot, the warm water...we had a big, open...

L.B. A tank.

G.H. A tank.

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. Well, yah...

L.B. And then, when you turned...

G.H. Yah, which was heated by gas.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. You cooked on gas, of course, too, but this hot water tank was different as we have it here, a long, round thing; it was an open, um...the tank we have here really have the water, don't they, in it?

L.B. Yes, as far as I know, yes.

G.H. Yah, you know?

L.B. Yah.

G.H. That's what we have in the house, here, you know, a vertical, big...

L.B. Like a cylinder.

G.H. Yah, cylinder.

L.B. Now, that wasn't like that in Germany?

G.H. No, no, in Germany you had an oven, which was about, maybe, 3 feet by 5 feet...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. It was a copper oven.

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. And it was lit, it always had a pilot light.

L.B. Uh huh.

G.H. And when you needed warm water, you turned it on, and then, it, it heated the water in the pipe.

L.B. Yeah, I see.

G.H. It wasn't as easy.

L.B. So it was not automatic?

G.H. Oh no, no.

L.B. Right. But the cold water was.

G.H. Yes.

L.B. O.K. And you had electricity?

G.H. Yah. Coming back to this, um, water heater, you know, of course you know, after each meal you needed hot water, you know, you needed water to take a bath. You didn't take a bath every night, there, because it was just a big, a big procedure to do, maybe...really, we were clean, I can assure you, but it wasn't...

L.B. Well, it was like that here, too, you know?

G.H. And I'm, that's what I'm still, believe me, I'm still, to the very day, impressed, to go at any time into the kitchen or bathroom and turn on the water, and here I have...I couldn't believe it, when we arrived here.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Nowhere in Europe. But, over 30, 35 years, a great deal has changed, it really has.

L.B. Yes, yes. So, uh, your mother, did your mother have a, a woman that stayed in, lived in? And, what was her function, this woman who lived in? What did she do?

G.H. What, um.....?

L.B. Did she cook?

G.H. Uh, partly, my mother also...

L.B. What else did she do?

G.H. Well, cleaned the house, and uh.....you know, really, uh...for instance, there was a set day in the week where all...the runners have been cleaned, the...the rugs... in the yard.

L.B. The rugs.

G.H. The rugs.

L.B. Yeah, yeah.

G.H. You know?

L.B. Yes.

G.H. They were all rolled up, brought downstairs, and we had big iron bars in the yard, and beat them with those, this...this was way before your time, Lou.

L.B. No, I know.

G.H. Beat them...

L.B. With a stick.

G.H. Beat the dust out of them, yeah, you know, it was like wicker...

L.B. Yes, uh, wicker, almost like a fan.

G.H. Yah, yah.

L.B. I've seen them.

G.H. So, this was done, let's say, on, on Wednesday; on, on a Thursday, where you opened a window, this was all copper, and so were the doorknobs...

L.B. Mm hm, yes.

G.H. So they were cleaned on this particular day. There was a, every day something else to...

L.B. All right, well, go through the week, that's what I want to know. For example...

G.H. Exactly, I don't remember, but...

L.B. Well, was there one day for baking?

G.H. Well, Friday was the, Friday was the big cooking day.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. I come from a rather, uh, not Orthodox, but...religious home.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. There was just no cooking done on a Saturday.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. So, Friday was the big cooking day.

L.B. And, what, uuh, generally, would they cook? Now, did the, did the maid do the cooking, or did your mother do the cooking?

G.H. No, my, both, you know.

L.B. Both.

G.H. Yah, yah.

L.B. And what kind of things did they cook for a Friday night meal?

G.H. Well, for instance...uh...I felt like it...was Passover, this night is different from all other nights...(laughs).

L.B. On every Friday night, right?

G.H. No, you see, in, in, um...Europe, as a matter of fact, in Israel you observe this, also...uh, you eat your warm meal at noon-time, and at night, what we call lunch.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. Fridays, is different, we eat...a cold meal, or a lighter meal in the afternoon, and Friday nights we had...a complete dinner.

L.B. Now what would a, a, a, an Erev Shabbat dinner be like, what would it be?

G.H. Well, a fish, soup...

L.B. What kind of soup?

G.H. Chicken or, a, chicken, chicken was much more of a delicacy over there than here. Uh...

L.B. Mmm. What kind of fish would you have?

G.H. Also, uh, oh, there is cod, that's the one, I know...

L.B. Was it boiled? Or...

G.H. Boiled, usually, yeah.

L.B. Boiled, mm hm.

G.H. And, uuh, either eaten cold or, or warm, you know. And then, a soup, either, um, a beef soup, or chicken soup, and then there was some...I really don't know what you call this, it's, it's, it's like a...um...it's like a, a, a corn...not a corn, well, a thinner vegetable soup, maybe, with noodles in it, you know, something of this kind. Well, then you, we had meat, and...

L.B. What kind of meat would you have?

G.H. Oh, uh, maybe, mainly beef.

L.B. Wou...would, would...

G.H. Veal.

L.B. ...the cooking be German, in style? It wouldn't be what we, uh, what uh, uh, you know, an Eastern European Jew might eat. It would be, I mean, like, for example...

G.H. No, that's typical, sure.

L.B. You would have German ty...style cooking?

G.H. Yah, like chopped liver...

L.B. All right.

G.H. Or, uh, you, you name some, and I, um...

L.B. Well, for example, did your mother make saurbraten?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. She did?

G.H. Yah, well that's a German type of cooking.

L.B. That's right.

G.H. Right, yeah.

L.B. So, in other words, instead of, of, of what we call...uh, other Jews would call a pot roast, they would make it with the vinegar, they would marinate it in vinegar, and so on?

G.H. Right, right.

L.B. And they would serve it with the red cabbage?

G.H. Right, right.

L.B. Is that correct?

G.H. That's right. Uh, I'm sorry to interrupt you...

L.B. No.

G.H. ...but, you know what was a common, uh, piece of meat on a Friday night? What, what is called here brisket...

L.B. Yes.

G.H. Is a piece of flanken...

L.B. Yes.

G.H. In Europe, and the flanken gives you a good soup.

L.B. Right.

G.H. So it was not roasted, it was really boiled.

L.B. Boiled. And then you would have vegetables with it? What kind of vegetables? Do you remember? Did you eat.

G.H. Um...well, like, like, uh, anything, um...during the asparagus time, for instance, there was nothing but asparagus; but, no can, you know, we didn't *know* canned food there, this was all fresh vegetables. So, according what was in season.

L.B. Now, what kind of...

G.H. Like peas, or beans, or beets, carrots, according to season.

L.B. Did you, did, uh, was the, uh, were the vegetables served with sauces, were they heavy on sauces, or just...

G.H. No, never...never.

L.B. ...a sort of a...

G.H. Just plain.

L.B. Plain, and maybe with what? Butter?

G.H. Cooked. Like we have a, we had a gravy, for instance, with the pot roast we had a gravy.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. But I don't, they, we weren't as gravy conscious as, uh, as I think we are here.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. All the people have gotten away from gravies.

L.B. You think so?

G.H. Don't you?

L.B. I don't, I don't know. I'm not, I'm not much...of a cook.

G.H. Lu, let me put, uh, say one thing. I think we ate plainer, much plainer...

L.B. Mmm.

G.H. ...than we eat here, less rich.

L.B. See, that's what I, you know, the things that happened in the home, people don't know...what kind of a meal would be, or, common, for a German Jewish family to sit down to, a Friday night meal. Did you have a chalah? Did you ever use that?

G.H. Yeah, my mother baked most of the time.

L.B. She did?

G.H. Yeah. It was much smaller.

L.B. Yeah. Now, uh, did she shop every day, or...

G.H. Ummm...

L.B. How did she get her food?

G.H. Well, due to the lack of ref...refrigeration, you couldn't shop once a week.

L.B. Right.

G.H. That's your answer.

L.B. So, was there a place to keep the food?

G.H. Well, we had a, a, an icebox, we had a, a, as a matter of fact, during the wi...winter, we did not. But our ice was delivered, a hunk of ice.

L.B. So you had an iceman that came?

G.H. I had one here in this country, too.

L.B. Yes, yeah, I see.

G.H. No, I, I, uh, we never had refrigeration, what, what I have now.



L.B. Electric refrigeration, right. Now, um, wha...as you remember the town... Yes?

G.H. No, I, I, I just want to say one thing.

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. Off the kitchen there was something, what you would call here, a pantry, but it was more of a room, not a narrow...thing. It was called, it wouldn't mean anything to you, what it's called.

L.B. Say it.

G.H. Shpise Kommer. A shpise is a meal, more or less...and a Kommer is uh, a room.

L.B. Mm hm. So it would be like a food storage room.

G.H. Right, right. But, you had, uh, and this always had a window, so it was a storage room, due to the window, cold, too. So, during the winter, we didn't have an icebox.

L.B. Uh huh.

G.H. I think, at least not, not all the time. Of course, for, let's say, uh, you expected company, or you, you...a special, a holiday or what, I don't know, you could always get ice, but during the winter it was, considerably, considerably eliminated, and the storage room, really, kept your things. You mustn't forget one thing, too, the climate between here and Europe is quite different.

L.B. And what was the climate like there?

G.H. Well, this today would have been a perfect summer day.

L.B. Summer?

G.H. A little, maybe a little warmer.

L.B. The temperature about 70, then? So it was a little bit cooler in the summer, than we have?

G.H. Oh, much cooler.

L.B. Right. And what about the winters?

G.H. They were not as cold.

L.B. So it's more temperate all around? The whole year is more temperate, there's less variation in temperature.

G.H. Well there is a very, there, there is a difference, by all means...

L.B. Yes.

G.H. But not...as strong as here.

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. So, this is, maybe, a little answer to food too, you know.

L.B. Yeah, yeah. Did you have snow, a lot of snow?

G.H. Oh yes, we did.

L.B. You did?

G.H. Oh sure.

L.B. I don't know where Offenbach is, is it...

G.H. Especially the area where I lived, we, I, I started skiing when I was 5, 6 years old.

L.B. Is that right?

G.H. By t...rolley car, about, uh, three quarters of an hour, we were...in the forest, you know.

L.B. Could you help me, uh, with geography? Where is Offenbach? Is it, uh, in...

G.H. You've heard of Frankfurt-on-Main?

L.B. Yes, but I, I can't picture it on the map, where it would be. It's...

G.H. What?

L.B. It's obviously on the Main River.

G.H. On the Main River, right. But it's...

L.B. Is it southern?

G.H. ...pretty much south, right.

L.B. South. Is it hilly there?

G.H. Uhh...

L.B. Uh, to...which is the closest country to border it?

G.H. Well, Belgium is maybe the closest.

L.B. Ah, all right.

G.H. Umm...as well as Holland...next to it would be France.

L.B. Mm, going south?

G.H. Right.

L.B. Mm.

G.H. And, um...England, of course you would have to travel, so it was the same...

L.B. Yeah, no, but I meant actually on the border itself.

G.H. The border, then Italy is further.

L.B. Right.

G.H. Belgium, and Holland, and France, are maybe the closest...borders.

L.B. All right. So you learned to ski when you were 5. Now, did...

G.H. Well...

L.B. Pretty much?

G.H. Yeah, but you know, there's a different kind of skiing in Europe than here. It's, uh, cross-country skiing.

L.B. Ohhh...

G.H. You don't, you...

L.B. We do it here now.

G.H. You do it here, now, yah.

L.B. Now, they just...

G.H. But, for instance, as I said, by trolley car...

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. Uh, cars were not too, too...uh, we had cars, naturally. So, as kids we went by trolley car...to school. Even when the school, uh, went on a, a, you know, excursion of this kind, by trolley car. And, uh...we went in the highest mountains, it was certainly elevated, but not, uh, as high as, uh, the Catskills, or Adirondacks. But you walked all day, then you had a little...slopes, or so, but that's the way I knew skiing, you know.

L.B. So it was cross-country skiing.

G.H. Right.

L.B. Were you an outdoor...girl?

G.H. Very much so.

L.B. You were a sports girl.

G.H. Yeah, I did a lot of sports, yeah.

L.B. You did? Now...

G.H. For a Jewish girl, extremely much.

L.B. Oh, most Jewish girls did, were not sports minded? Is that right?

345 G.H. The parents weren't, and there was quite, uh...

L.B. Nooo, that, that's very interesting, because it's, it's very often true here.

346 G.H. No, I'll tell you something. As...we started, there is quite a difference between my sister, in age, and my brother, my sister is 12 years older than I am...if I told you, my brother, 8 years. And I came, a little....maybe, not even expected. So, after so many years, you know, they were already older, I, I...uh...brought an entirely new life into the family as my parents have known.

L.B. Right.

G.H. My mother, for instance, learned how to swim at the age of 56...because I just became of age to learn how to swim, and she learned along with me.

L.B. Hmmm.

G.H. Very interesting. Snow, rain, sunshine, there wasn't a day my mother didn't go swimming, uh, inside, of course, during the winter.

L.B. Where did you go swimming inside? There was a pool?

G.H. Oh, we had something like the Y, you know, which was open to...uh, until Hitler came to power, the Jews couldn't use it anymore.

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. But, uh, my mother wouldn't miss a day, not to go swimming, it's quite remarkable.

L.B. And you went too?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. And where did you swim in the summer?

G.H. In the Main.

L.B. In the Main. Now, you say, uh, most Jewish girls were not raised to be sports girls, all right. Now, how would you characterize most of the Jewish girls that you knew? If they weren't sports girls, what were they?

G.H. Oh, I mean, they were, by all means, uh...every fine girls...

L.B. Oh yeah.

G.H. ...with a great deal of interests.

L.B. Yeah. How did they spend their time?

G.H. How they spent their time? Well, we had...after school, naturally, there was homework to do...and then, we had little groups, you could belong to 2, 3 groups of, consisting of, maybe, 6 to 8, to 8 girls. And we met, and we got, had little refreshments, and we discussed...

L.B. Boys.

G.H. Boys, clothes, we had, we had a great deal in common, but, um...uh...really, most of my good, they were more, um....protected from sports, you know, sports are...

L.B. Yes, I do know, I do know.

G.H. And, uyh, I hope I make myself clear, my parents happened to be very much in favor of my...activities. I'm sorry Kurt isn't here, because that's... that's one he writes on, usually. I was really...

L.B. He told us a little bit about it.

G.H. Did he really? I was more...

L.B. He said you were really a champion swimmer.

G.H. No, but that's besides the point, but I, for, as of...real early age, 4-5? I belonged to Turnverfina... I don't know if you ever heard of that.

L.B. Yes, they have them here, too.

G.H. They, we have it here, too, I never, um...

L.B. Right. Now, it's a kind of athletic organization, is that correct?

G.H. An atheletic, did you say?

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. Yah.

L.B. Now, from what age did you belong to this?

G.H. Very young, about 5, 6 years old. I went, once a week, for calisthenics, another day, um, for, like bars, you know...

L.B. Yes, yes.

G.H. Or the, uhh...a, a bar, I don't know what you call it.

L.B. Well, there are horses, there are bars...

G.H. Horses.

L.B. ...trapezes...

G.H. Trapeze, yah, this kind of thing.

L.B. Uh, the ladders that you hang and swing from...

G.H. Yah, yah, and ropes, and this kind of thing.

L.B. Ropes.

G.H. And this was, maybe, an hour's activity, every af...I mean, uh, whenever the afternoon...was there, you know.

L.B. Now, uh, the turnverfina was held in what kind of a building? Who sponsored it?

G.H. Oh, there was, uh....uh...a sponsor, it was just called Turnverfina, this was one big building in itself, big shed.

L.B. Well, who owned the building? Was it a city building?

G.H. City, I would assume, city, really. You paid dues.

L.B. You paid dues. And, then, who maintained...after all, somebody has to maintain the athletic equipment.

G.H. Yah, I know, I, I really, you know, when you are this young, you really don't uh...

L.B. No. Now, were most of the young people in the Turnverrine, were they not Jewish?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. Not Jewish?

G.H. Not Jewish, there were a few, but not many.

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. I fenced.

L.B. Oh, you did?

G.H. And, you know, so, so, uh, but this was all within the Turnverrine. Then, a little later, when I was about 12, or, 12 maybe, I joined, uh...a fencing club...where you had lessons at the same time.

L.B. Mm hm. Now, uh, was the swimming pool in the Turnverrine also?

G.H. No.

L.B. Oh, that was in another building. What was that, the name of that building?

G.H. Uh, it was called Shtatbath. Now, shtat is the city, O.K.?

L.B. It was like a public bath.

G.H. Right, right, right.

L.B. And, you could swim, there was a pool in there, and you could swim.

G.H. Oh yeah.

L.B. Did you have to pay for that?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. And that was open to the public?

G.H. Yah, but it, this definitely was a city, uh, type of a...a thing.

L.B. Did many Jews go swimming?

G.H. Oh yah.

L.B. That they did?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. Young people, or...

G.H. Yah.

L.B. But not so many your mother's age?

G.H. Uh...the point actually I want to make, my mother learned how to swim at a late age.

L.B. Yes, yes.

G.H. That's the point, and from then on, she went every day. But, uh...I, I don't even remember if my father...uh, uncles and aunts, I don't even remember them. But my brother and sister, I'm sure they did it too.

L.B. They went swimming also?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. Did most Jewish children go swimming?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. They did?

G.H. Mmm.

L.B. But they didn't do those other things?

G.H. Swimming, swimming...no...

L.B. They didn't do calisthenics, they didn't fence?

G.H. Swimming was...no...swimming was more like a necessity, like a youngster learns to drive a car at the age of 16.

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. But I learned to swim earlier than 16, it was just, uh, a must, to know how to help yourself in water.

L.B. Mm hm. Did you go boating, too?

G.H. No.

L.B. No. Uhh, did you play tennis?

G.H. Yes, I did.

L.B. You did play tennis.

G.H. Of course, you know, compared to this country, the schools were much more physic...uh, much...more emphasis was put on physical exercises, than here.

L.B. Mm hm. Now tell me about your schooling, just a little bit, now. You were born in 1914, and you started school at what age?

G.H. #6.

L.B. 6, and what kind of a school did you go to?

G.H. Well, then I had, uh.....um...grammar school.

L.B. Up until what grade, or what year?

G.H. Um.....well, not too hard to say, I went 12 years to school, and 6 years of it was, uh, a higher school, higher, where you paid for the higher schools...

L.B. Was that like the gymnas?

G.H. Yah, well gymnasium.....uh...was actually only for students who... went into medicine or law.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. It was a different preparation, in gymnasium, you had Latin...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. ...above all, I mean, not above all, but it was a main...

L.B. So it was a classical education?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. All right. So you went, how many years to...

G.H. I did not go to a gymnasium.

L.B. No, but let's start with the, uh...

G.H. I went to...

L.B. ...the grammar school was 6 years?

G.H. Yah, I assumed, yah...

527 (Tape ends)

Side 2

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L.B. Are you working? Are you working? (Tape off).

G.H. Good?

L.B. Yeah. So, now, after...

G.H. Lu, do you, do you know what lyceum stands for?

L.B. A lycée, like in French, a lycée.

G.H. A lycée, yah, yah.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. So this was the school I entered after I was through with grammar school.

L.B. All right, now, what did you study in the lycée?

G.H. What I studied?

L.B. Yes. What kind of subject?

G.H. Oh, well....um...German, naturally...

L.B. The schools were taught in German?

G.H. Oh yah.

L.B. Yeah, all subjects in German.

G.H. Yeah.

L.B. Right.

G.H. So you had math...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Geography, biology, chemistry, according to the grade you were in.

L.B. The grade, yes.

G.H. English, French...

L.B. So you had a second language, German and French.

G.H. Oh yah, this was compulsory, you could never choose any subject, this was it. I had English, you would never know, but what you learn in school, really not, you learn the words, but, you know, it's not a practical type of... you learn a song, and poetry, which is of very little use, later on, this we found out.

L.B. But at least it wasn't unfamiliar to you.  
G.H. Not unfamiliar.  
L.B. Right. So, you had, you learned 2 additional languages...aside from German?  
G.H. ...for 4 years.  
L.B. For 4 years. And the lycée was for 4 years?  
G.H. Well...  
L.B. No, it was for more.  
G.H. No it was longer, it was...uh...for the average student, it was 6 years, but for those who wanted to go on to the University, it was 8 years.  
L.B. Mm hm.  
G.H. Now, this included, that's what, it's junior high, it's 3, and high school is 3, so it would be 6. I think I had, uh....yah, that's what I said, 6 years.  
L.B. You had 6 years.  
G.H. Now, when you expected to go to, uh, further on...  
L.B. Yes.  
G.H. You had....2 more years, and then you had to take what's called an ~~apiture~~ <sup>abitur</sup>, it's really a, um...I can't think of the...wait...uh, uh...  
L.B. Say it in German.  
G.H. Umm...I don't even know, an ~~apiture~~ <sup>abitur</sup>, means like uh, a graduation, a little...  
L.B. Ceremony?  
G.H. Um, well, it, it, it....for....if you, if you, uh, pass this ~~apiture~~ <sup>abitur</sup>, that's the name for the exam, you were college material.  
L.B. How do you spell the word, do you know?  
G.H. Abitur?  
L.B. Yah.  
G.H. A-b-i-t-u-r. Now I, I pronounce it in German...  
L.B. Yes.  
G.H. Abitur, it's um...it's your preparation for college.  
L.B. Mm hm. But, uh, you said, uh, for medicine and for law, you went to the gymnas, not to the lycée. Is that correct?  
G.H. Right, because you needed Latin.  
L.B. Right. So, what sort of studies would you go on to at the University if you took the extra 2 years at the lycée?  
G.H. Anything.  
L.B. Oh, I see. Anything other than medicine and law, I see. Now, what...  
G.H. Not, uh, excuse me one minute...gym...gymnasium was not always coed, it depended on the city.  
L.B. Mm hm.  
G.H. It mostly really for boys.  
L.B. It was.  
G.H. Now, while you had your abit...while you were preparing for your abitur, I just ~~wonder~~ wonder, I think you could, you had Latin also.  
L.B. Mm hm. Now...  
G.H. I did not, I mean, as I said.  
L.B. Well, because you stopped at the end of the 6 years.  
G.H. Right, right.  
L.B. Now, was the lycée coeducational? Or was it all...  
G.H. No, only girls.  
L.B. Only girls. Was...  
G.H. Lycée stands, actually, only for girls.  
L.B. Is that right?  
G.H. Yah. If you, I don't know if I have a diction...I could, no, I don't have it anymore. Lycée stands, actually, for girls' school...  
L.B. I see, but the grammar school...  
G.H. ...of higher education.  
L.B. ...was what?

G.H. Grammar school?

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. No, boys and girls were always separate, there wasn't, uh...

L.B. So, your grammar school was all girls, and your high school was all girls? And the boys went to an all-boys school? Ahhh. How many schools, uh, like this were there in Offenbach? One each? Or more than one?

G.H. Uh, no, 2 for boys, and one for girls.

L.B. Now, in the, uh, grammar school, the grammar school was compulsory for every child?

G.H. Oh yah, yah.

L.B. Was the lycée compulsory?

G.H. Uh, no.

L.B. No?

G.H. If you didn't want...uh, you had to go only 3 more years, what was called mittelshule...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. This did not cost.

L.B. But the lycée did cost? Your parents had to pay?

G.H. You did, you did not pay, I mean, for mittel...for grammar school and mittelshule you didn't pay.

L.B. Right.

G.H. But for gymnasium or lycée, you paid. Now, my school, which I entered after, uh, grammar school, used to be called Fuërer, means "higher", Mädchen, Fuërer Mädchen Schule.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. Mädchen is...

L.B. Girl.

G.H. A young girl.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Schule is "school". But, then, during the time I was...in there, it was changed to Lyceum, you see; you know, you pronounce it French, lycée...

L.B. Right.

G.H. We sa...we pronounce it lyceum.

L.B. So, let's see what years that would be. So, you started in about 1920, and you finished grammar school in 1926, and you finished your lyce...uh, lyceum, in 1932, approximately. Is that correct? 1932, that would be a year before Hitler came.

G.H. Yah, but in our area, where we lived, we really felt it....begin to feel it in '34.

L.B. Not until '34.

G.H. Yah, I mean...

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. In other areas, you had it even since...'30.

L.B. Mmm.

G.H. In Bavaria, uh...in '28.

L.B. Mmm. Now, did you like this city that you lived in, did you like Offenbach?

G.H. Very much so.

L.B. Was it a heavily, uh, industrial city, or was it a small...

G.H. Yes, it was a population like Schenectady, about the size of Schenectady. I loved every pebble in the city.

L.B. You did?

G.H. We had a beautiful, beautiful, um....life there, it was beautiful. (Pause). It seemed, now, I don't know, but, see, not to blow my horn, I, I feel ridiculous saying so, but I was so very active, so everybody was, was my friend, I was everybody's friend, really. You became one, close...I didn't know, just everybody, don't get me wrong...

L.B. No.

G.H. But when you grow up there, and, and uh, you know, it was just a, a wonderful...we had a wonderful youth...til it all began...

L.B. So, you, you, you really were quite happy.

G.H. Very happy.

L.B. Yeah. And, uh...most of your friends would be not Jewish? Did we establish that?

G.H. I had very many, um, Jewish friends also, by all means. My age went to, to school, of course, and parents were friends.

L.B. All right, now, let's take this one at a time. Now, for example, when you went to the lycée, was there any, uh, uh....uh, quota, or anything, were Jews admitted to the lycée freely?

G.H. Never.

L.B. There was no quota? A Jew could go to the lycee, as long as he could pay? Right?

G.H. Oh, sure.

L.B. All right. Uh, was this true of the gymnas, too, as far as you know?

G.H. Oh, absolutely.

L.B. There was no problem?

G.H. Oh, no, no.

L.B. What about in the University, do you have any idea, and the professions of medicine and law?

G.H. There was a quota?

L.B. Well, not, let's not call it a quota. Was there any difficulty about entering those professions for a Jew, as far as you know?

G.H. No, I don't think there was.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. If you read the material for it...

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. ...you were in.

L.B. I see. All right, now, in your family...you say you were a fairly religious family. Was your father, uh, an Orthodox man?

G.H. No.

L.B. Did he go to shul?

G.H. Friday, no...uh, my moth...my father, not very regularly, my mother went every Saturday morning.

L.B. She went every Saturday morning. Uh, in the sh...in the synagogue that she went to, was it a Conservative?

G.H. We had only one.

L.B. Only one.

G.H. Synagogue.

L.B. All right. Did the women and the men sit separately? Where did she sit, in the balcony?

G.H. Upstairs.

L.B. Oh. And, the service was conducted in what language?

G.H. Oh, Hebrew and German.

L.B. Hebrew and German. Mostly which? Do you remember which language predominated?

G.H. Umm, well more Hebrew, the same as you go here. You go to a Reform service, you have more English than Hebrew.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. You go to a Conservative, you have more Hebrew than English.

L.B. All right.

G.H. So this was the same over there.

L.B. All right. And your mother, uh, did the, uh, blessing of the candles every Friday night? Now, uh, your father, then, did not wear a beard, or a skullcap?

G.H. No, no.

L.B. Nothing of this sort?

G.H. No.

L.B. All right. And, uh, your, did your mother keep kosher? Did... *And she kept it*



G.H. Kosher home, yah.

L.B. She kept a kosher home?

G.H. Mm hm.

L.B. An...but, and your father didn't object to any of these things, he just did not, umm...attend services very regularly?

G.H. That's all.

L.B. Yeah. Did he go on the High Holy Days?

G.H. Oh, definately. My father also belonged to, uh, what would be a lodge here.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. Yeah.

L.B. What kind of a lodge?

G.H. A men's, uh...uh, gee, I know so little about, could it be...well, like the Mason, maybe, or, or, a lodge, consisted only of Jewish people.

L.B. Was it a social organization?

G.H. Uh, yah.

L.B. It was...

G.H. Yah...social, now wait a minute, they, they, they, uh, had certain functions too.

L.B. I mean, for example, was it political, was it for study?

G.H. No, no, no, no.

L.B. Or was it social, or business?

1313 G.H. It was really, I'll tell you, it, we...I'm afraid I'll lead you into something else. This was, it was called Bruderschaft.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. You know, bruder is "a brother".

L.B. Yes, yes.

1314 G.H. Now, for instance, uh.....within the Bruderschaft, they had a chedera...

L.B. Yes.

G.H. You know what a chedera is?

L.B. Mm hm, it's a friend, a comrade.

G.H. Right.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. So, they...uh...functioned, in case of severe sicknesses, where help was needed, really.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Or, you know, we didn't, I'm sorry to lead to this, I don't know if it interests you.

L.B. No, it is, it does.

G.H. But, we didn't have anything, uh, like a funeral home.

L.B. Right.

G.H. So, if someone had passed away, this Bruderschaft, this ched...chedera, uh, prepared the person.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. You know.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. And took care of things like this.

L.B. Now, this was just for those people who belonged to this organization, then, was there more than one of this kind? It's a self-help organization, actually?

G.H. Right, right.

L.B. For Jews.

G.H. Right. There was one...

L.B. So that a Jew could get a Jewish burial, for example?

G.H. Right, right.

L.B. Right?

G.H. Mm hm, mm hm.

L.B. All right, now, uh, did all the Jews in Offenbach belong to this?

G.H. No, no.

L.B. All right. What kind of Jew belonged?

G.H. What kind of Jews did belong?

L.B. Yes.

G.H. Well, you have to be asked for it, you could not say, "I want to become a member." You had to be asked by the elderly, you know...

L.B. Yes.

G.H. ...to become a member. And, I suppose, you were asked, um, according... of the type of human being you were.

L.B. Mm hm. Would you say most of them were middle class Jews, were they mostly businessmen?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. They were?

G.H. Middle-class, businessmen, yah.

L.B. Were there any, uh, professors in it?

G.H. Yah, yah, it was actually a good mixture.

L.B. Were there any working-class people in it?

G.H. Well, I'm sorry to say, there was more of a distinction between the working class and...I'm ashamed to say...

L.B. No, uh, you know, this is a fact of life.

G.H. Yeah, but that's the unfortunate facts.

L.B. Yeah, that's not, uh, unfortunate, but, that's why we're, this is something that...

G.H. There were teachers...

L.B. ...you see, Kurt didn't even mention that there was such an organization, so women, you...

G.H. My father-in-law didn't belong...

L.B. Aaaah.

G.H. ...to it, to my knowledge. And yet, he was a very well-known businessman in town.

L.B. That's right.

G.H. Uh, but, he wasn't.....too, I mean, by all means, he was aware of being Jewish, and he lived, lived as a Jew, as a matter of fact, he lived as a very good Jew...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. ...in his heart. But he was not one to attend services.

L.B. Mm hm. Well, neither did your father...

G.H. He just, uh...

L.B. ...but he apparently felt the need to belong to the Bruderschaft.

G.H. Yah.

L.B. Right?

G.H. As a matter of fact, my mother belonged to the same type of an organization for women.

L.B. Was it connected with this same, was it like the ladies' auxiliary?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. For the Bruderschaft? What was their name?

G.H. Yeah, only it was in a much smaller, uh, way, uh, they didn't have 200 members like the Sisterhood, or 400, uh, like the Auxiliary for the Home of the Aged, of which I'm treasurer, I know the amount of people. It was a much smaller group.

L.B. Well, how many men were in the Bruderschaft?

G.H. I don't, I don't think more than, uh, 40, 50, and I'll tell you why. The daughters of the men who belonged, they had, once a year, a very big dinner, the dinner...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And the daughters...of the men...had the honor...to serve.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. But it was never a very, very large congregation.

L.B. So that's how you know about how many members there were...

G.H. Yeah, that's what I go by.

L.B. ...because you served?

G.H. I actu...almost see them sitting, in a way, you know.

L.B. Right, right.

G.H. In a fashion.

L.B. Now what did the women do? Did they have a, a function, too, like, uh, for example...

G.H. They had a chedera, too.

L.B. They did?

G.H. When a woman died, naturally, women attended.

L.B. Ohhh, so one, the Bruderschaft was for the burial of Jewish men, and then, what was the women's organization called?

G.H. I ca...I c...uh, it was also really, Chedera Kaddishe, if I'm correct, Kaddishe, I don't know.

L.B. All right. So, and they attended, then, to the, the sick, and the, uh, the care...

G.H. Helplessly sick.

L.B. And the helpless, all right. Now, di...if someone, who was not a member, was sick, did they go out and tend to them?

G.H. By all means, oh, by all means, yes. Oh, sure.

L.B. So it was, even though only, it had only 40 to 50 members, are you saying it helped other Jews who were not members?

G.H. Oh definitely.

L.B. Well, how did they find out about these Jews...who were sick and needed help?

G.H. They would call on them, if a family in need...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. ...would call on the Bruderschaft, or, at, uh, let's call it, the Women in Auxilliary, I don't know if there was a name for that or not.

L.B. Yeah, yeah.

G.H. Oh yah. Do you know, as a matter of fact, um...I'm a little jumpy, from one thing to the other. You could...

L.B. No, this is very interesting, I never heard of this before.

G.H. Yah, you could actually only become a member if someone, unfortunately, was no longer here, or, due to illness...

L.B. So they had a limited number of members?

G.H. Yah, yah, yah.

L.B. And you could only, uh, join, uh, first somebody had to ask you, and secondly, only to replace someone who had died?

G.H. If someone died, correct, yeah.

L.B. And it, although it was composed of, from 40 to 50 businessmen, teachers, essentially...

G.H. Eh, yeah, yeah...

L.B. ...professional...

G.H. No, not absolutely...

L.B. ...middle-class professionals?

G.H. Pardon?

L.B. Middle class professionals.

G.H. Yah, yah, yah.

L.B. Were there doctors in there?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. There were doctors?

G.H. Yah, I don't remember so clear, but I'm sure, I mean, no, you can actually say, there was...um...look, no, there were...all of...uh, people from all, uh...

L.B. Walks.

G.H. Walks of life, by all means.

L.B. But no working class people?

G.H. Hm?

L.B. No working class people?

G.H. Yes, I suppose, too, I suppose so, oh yeah, I think so. No, I would, uh...

L.B. You're sure? Because it doesn't matter.

G.H. No, I, thinking back...

L.B. It's just that I would like to know.

G.H. No, thinking back, um...

L.B. What would, what would, uh, someone who worked in a factory would be asked to join?

G.H. They might not have even been interested in it.

L.B. No, but the point is, were they members? This, I'm not judging them, I just want to know what, uh, how it worked, it's very interesting.

G.H. I really would assume, yes, they were.

L.B. They were. So that...suppose, um, for example, uh, the neighborhood that you lived in, where your apartment was, was, what sort of a neighborhood was it, was it what you would call a nice neighborhood, a suburban neighborhood?

G.H. Yah...no, a, a good middle class neighborhood.

L.B. A good middle class neighborhood.

G.H. Yeah.

L.B. Were the businesses also mixed in with the homes? Or was it all residential?

G.H. Uh, more residential.

L.B. Were there any stores around?

G.H. No.

L.B. No stores?

G.H. No.

L.B. All right. Now, did the people who worked in the factories, and in the stores, did they live in your neighborhood, or did they tend to live in another neighborhood?

G.H. No, I would say it was a good mixture.

L.B. There was a mixture?

G.H. Absolutely.

L.B. Because even in a city like Schenectady, you find some, you find uh..... you tend to find certain, uh, groups of people living in Niskayuna. O.K.? Uh, maybe more professional people, or more business people, whereas, in certain parts of Schenectady you're going to find almost wholly working class people.

G.H. Mm hm.

L.B. Right?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. And then you'll find, uh, the white collar people living in another area.

G.H. Yeah.

L.B. Or you might find Italians living in one section.

G.H. Yah. Well, uh, no, you didn't have this here. You did have, maybe, I want to point out...only one...section, where you had some one-family homes. This was a wealthier, uh...uh, maybe, wealthier people than middle class. But in general, all over, um...it was good mixture.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Yeah, that, I think I'm correct by saying so.

L.B. All right. Was there any neighborhood that might be classed as a slum? Where the very, very poor lived...in Offenbach?

G.H. Well, there was an older part of the city, and um...maybe there were.... uh...I hate to use this expression, but maybe they were a little poorer, yah; maybe they couldn't afford...a living...

L.B. Well, don't, you know, don't be afraid to say what was, you know...

G.H. ...in a, in a larger apartment.

L.B. Right, right.

G.H. It was all according to needs and circumstances, of course, you know.

L.B. Look, uh, when my father was growing up, now he grew up in, in Russia...

G.H. Yah.

L.B. He was only allowed to play with 5 boys in his town.

G.H. By his parents?

L.B. By his father. And, uh, they were all either businessmen, um, or the sons businesspeople, or, I think one was the rabbi's son. All right. Now, was there any such restriction placed on you?

G.H. No.

L.B. Was there a kind of selection that took place, so that your friends tended to come from certain kinds of families?

G.H. Tended to come?

L.B. Yeah, in other words...

G.H. I mean, did come?

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. Yeah, no, I...

L.B. As a rule, as a rule, your friends...

G.H. Yeah, anybody, anybody.

L.B. Anybody?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. Now, how, what was your social...

G.H. Now, I, I wouldn't say it was a selected, uh...you...looked...

L.B. Not that I, I went out and chose them...

G.H. No, of course not.

L.B. ...with this one or that one...

G.H. No, no, of c...no. Uh, whoever...you find to be a good guy, you just were friendly with, that's all.

L.B. Yeah, O.K.

G.H. Regardless of the father's, uh...uh...

L.B. Occupation.

G.H. Occupation. No, this...I don't know this side of it at all, absolutely not.

L.B. Now in, in your home, you spoke German?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. Is that correct?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. Your parents spoke German to each other?

G.H. Right.

L.B. Were they born in Offenbach?

G.H. Yeah, yeah.

L.B. They were?

G.H. No, my father was...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And his family was in 3 generations, there...in Offenbach. And my mother came from Nuremburg.

L.B. Mhm.

G.H. Bavaria.

L.B. Right. So, and so she was German also?

G.H. Oh yes.

L.B. She was German-born.

G.H. Yes, yeah.

L.B. So they spoke German in the home? Um, and your mother went to shul every Saturday. Did, uh...was there much conversation in, within the family, amongst the members of the family? Wha...did you talk a lot, say, at dinnertime, did you talk about things?

G.H. Yes, yeah.

L.B. What kinds of things did you talk about? Do you remember?

G.H. Well, according to what had happened during the day.

L.B. Do you know whether your father was interested in politics?

G.H. No, very much in music.

L.B. He was interested in music?

G.H. No, politics, he did belong, as a matter of fact, to a, a political organization, which was called 'Schwarz Rote Golde, like Black, Red, and Gold.

L.B. Black, Red, Gold.

G.H. Yah.

L.B. Now what did that mean?

G.H. Uh, um....uh, oh, isn't that terri...I shouldn't have started it, but, I mean, they were, they, it was actually an inactive, uh, uh, organization, really, it was...I think it was based on the war veterans from the First World War.

L.B. I see.

G.H. Mmmhm. Uh, Lu, I'm sorry to interrupt you. Are we all through with schooling, because I didn't go on in school, you know.

L.B. No, you tell me whatever more there is about schooling, yes.

G.H. After I fini...no, I, you, we talk about everyday life there.

L.B. Yeah, yeah.

G.H. But after I, uh, uh...you can call it a graduation, too, you know.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. I went, I applied...for, it's maybe interesting, for a sports school, for phys ed school.

L.B. Aaah.

G.H. But due to being Jewish, I was...postponed, I wasn't refused, but I didn't get an acceptance either. Without bragging, the qualifications, I would have had, but it was due to being Jewish I was stalled, to enter, to enter.

L.B. Now, was the school in Offenbach?

G.H. No, no.

L.B. Where was it?

G.H. In Stuttgart.

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. Which part of Germany this is, exactly, I can't even tell you.

L.B. Well, all right, we can look it up.

G.H. And, um...in Munich. And both, uh...

L.B. Turned you down?

G.H. Uh, turned me, uh...down, they turned me down but in better words, as I say it, I mean, I wasn't, but this was in...the early '30s, you know.

L.B. Oh, it was already in the '30s.

G.H. Well, no, it was, let me see, before, what did we figure?

L.B. We figured, uh, you, about '32.

G.H. '32, I was out of school.

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. And I was then what? 16?

L.B. Mmm, '14, no, 18.

G.H. 18.

L.B. Mmm.

G.H. 18, yeah, naturally.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. So, I was, uh, no opening...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Classes are all fi...the classes are all filled up, this type of thing.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. So then I applied...for...Kindergartenrin Seminar, which is a nursery school...type of school.

L.B. To teach it.

G.H. To learn, to become a nursery school teacher.

L.B. Mm hm, yes.

G.H. A nursery, in Germany, is in kindergarten.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Nursery doesn't exist.

L.B. Right.

G.H. So, pre-school is kindergarten.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. So this was a 2-years...uh, course.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. I couldn't get into this immediately either, but...most likely due to the same reasons, so for 6 months, we had a very known art school in Offenbach-on-Mein, it's well-known. I wasn't at all gifted in any kind of arts, but... I had to do something, I couldn't, uh, you know... And so, what I did there was, um, I went there only for 6 months because I knew, after this I could enter this Kindergartenrin Seminar. So, I graduated from there, and I had a city job. See, the kindergartens were...uh...sponsored by the city. It's like school.

L.B. You, you went to the Kindergarten, uh, uh, school, for 2 years?

G.H. Yah, and I, and I got my, um...

L.B. And you graduated.

G.H. I graduated, and I had my, um...

L.B. Certificate.

G.H. Certificate.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And...

L.B. And then you got a job in the city kindergarten?

G.H. Yah. And it lasted for, not even 2 weeks.

L.B. Oh.

G.H. And then I couldn't, no longer, as a Jew, hold this...job.

L.B. So after that really, uh, happy, as you describe it, and wonderful childhood and youth, uh...it must have, it would seem to me, if it were me, it would come as a terrible blow.

G.H. Of course it...

L.B. Is that true, or am I exaggerating?

G.H. Of course, no, of course it was a, a blow....but, uh, you know, when you live with this for a few years, and it really gets...worse, and not better, you almost expect it to happen.

L.B. So it wasn't something unexpected?

G.H. No.

L.B. Now, uh, during this time, were you and Kurt...courting?

G.H. Well, Kurt left Germany...actually, in 1927 or '28.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. He was a friend of my brother, and so, you know...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Um, I mean that...I don't know, so that's how it developed, I don't know...

L.B. (Laughs). That's a good way.

G.H. And Kurt...no, what I mean, say, and, uh, when he left school, I'm sure he told you, he...his future was really planned against his...wishes. He might have told you, an uncle of...see, our home town was a center of leather goods, as a matter of fact, internationally known. You can find leather bags, or, or valises, or any kind of leather goods, in this country, and you will find, "Made in Offenbach", "Made in Germany" or "Made in Offenbach". It had always been a very, very...uh...had always been very known for its leather goods, leather goods, almost everybody was in, uh, in the leather line, you know, from tannery to manufacturing, everything.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. So, Kurt's uncle...uh, had one of the larger factories, and Kurt was meant for this...business. He would have preferred to...go into medicine, sounds a little corny, but it's really so. But you know how families...

L.B. It's not corny, it's true, yeah.

G.H. How families...

L.B. He told us that when his father said to do something, then he did it, he didn't question him.

G.H. Yah, yah, that's the way it was. So this, any larger company, leather goods company, in Offenbach, uh, did, had international business. And, most of those companies, they were represented in, in foreign countries. So this particular f...firm...had an office in England, had an office in France, and Kurt was planned to represent the company in those 2 countries.

L.B. You mean, they planned for him?

G.H. They planned for him.

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. So I, I, I don't want to repeat myself, what Kurt most likely told you.

L.B. No, no.

G.H. When he left school, he went to school in England...

L.B. Right.

G.H. ...and in France, to learn the language, because he was meant to... represent the company in those countries. So, he left in '27 or '28, and only came to Germany, on visits or on business, or so, you know...

L.B. So you didn't see too much of him during that time?

G.H. No, actually not.

L.B. Mmm. So when did you and he decide that maybe you were interested in each other?

G.H. Ummm, when? What year, you mean?

L.B. Well, was it after you, the lycée?

G.H. Well, we married in '35, and I think we were engaged, maybe a year or two, so, about '32.

L.B. It was after the lycée.

G.H. I would say, after, yah. I was maybe 19, 20 or so.

L.B. Mmm. (Pause). Now let's see, um...

G.H. I thought maybe I should, uh...

L.B. Well, the part about not being admitted to the schools, uh, is interesting, but it, it happened so late, see it was already in the '30s. The, the question would be whether earlier, let's say, 10 years earlier, did gir...

Jewish girls, would they have had a hard time getting into those same schools?

G.H. No, I'm sure not. If they had the qualifications.

L.B. Yes, I understand, yeah. So that was a function of the growing Hitler era?

G.H. Definitely, oh definitely.

L.B. Now in your...I'm sorry.

G.H. No, not at all, no. No, during my 2 years at this Kindergarten...

L.B. Yes.

G.H. It became worse, so by the time I was out of school, it had gotten so, became so, that I just could not keep my job. And I remember my superior really happened to like me as a, as a, not only a student, we became friendly, she wasn't so...very, very much older, maybe an age difference of 8, 10 years, you know.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. And, um, she placed me, I mean I, I, she really had the best for me in mind, but then the State said, set in, and...

L.B. So, she was not a Jew?

G.H. No.

L.B. Were, uh, how about the other...

525 (Tape ends)

L.B. Are you working? Are you working? (Tape off). Now, uh, we were talking about your Kindergarten school, where you went to learn to be a kindergarten



L.B.cont. teacher. What I, uh, started to ask you was, di...were there many other Jewish girls studying there, at that time? At the, what years were you there, now? It would be from about '32 to '34.

G.H. '34.

L.B. So it...

G.H. Seems to me it was longer, because, um, see, afterwards, it, it, actually it was.....I was guided not to hold my job...My mother became rather ill, and we could no longer keep our, uh, girl, whom we had for some...20 years.

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. So I had to be home and.....you know, take care of the house and...

L.B. So, this was...

G.H. My mother was unable to...started to suffer asthma, and stuff like this. So it was almost essential for me to be home.

L.B. Now when was this? After you finished the lycée?

G.H. That's what I'm just trying, yah.

L.B. And before you went to the Kindergarten School?

G.H. No.

L.B. While?

G.H. While, uh, well, at the very, very tail end. I mean, she didn't become so terribly sick all of a sudden, but it started and it got worse. And then, at, uh...so it, even if I could have kept the job, this was besides the point, the fact is that I was not, um, I was unemployed due to the fact I was of Jewish...religion.

L.B. Yes. Well...

G.H. Naturally.

L.B. ...you weren't the only one.

G.H. As it worked out, of course, as it worked out...uh, I was very headed at home.

L.B. Now, you say, you let this woman go?

G.H. We had to.

L.B. Why?

G.H. She couldn't work for Jewish people anymore.

L.B. All right. That was part of the law too.

G.H. Certainly.

L.B. Now, when was that law?

G.H. Well, you see, if I only, um...it must have been early '30s.

L.B. Mmm. Did you, we discussed this with Kurt, now I, I wondered if you could tell, or would tell, something about... Did you notice a change in your friends as this, uh, as the change in times took place?

G.H. They suffered as much as...I did.

L.B. Your non-Jewish friends?

G.H. Our friends, our neighbors.

L.B. How did they suffer? What do you mean?

G.H. They felt, they felt terrible, they, they, they were sick about it, they were embarrassed, they cried, they were, they were heartbroken that this had happened. They were of help, as much as they could do....in every, in every way.

L.B. Now, was your father able to maintain his business?

G.H. For a while. (Long pause). And, um...but, you know, he had his business maybe 50 years, no, 40 years, *it took him time*. He was so known, and, uh...uh.....I don't think...he lost...customers, to a great extent, because he was Jewish, I don't even think so. But, you know, it all developed, uh...He couldn't get the merchandise, for instance, as plentiful...as he needed, it, so naturally, a customer finds this out, too. You know, I mean, this, this, something like this goes around.

L.B. Right, right. Well, wasn't there a time when he was no longer permitted to own a business?

G.H. Oh yah, but this was, then, a little later.

L.B. When was that?

G.H. It didn't pay, either, any more, because, uh...business went down due to...not being able to get the merchandise, I repeat myself right now, as well as...many people, out of fear, could no longer be a, as faithful a customer as they used to be. It all tied in, it's really hard to define, you know.

L.B. Were, uh, were your parents able to maintain their apartment, or did they have to move?

G.H. Um....what really happened...it was a very large apartment, and this was divided...in...the early '30s, also, it seems everything, but...

L.B. That's right.

G.H. ...of course, it didn't happen overnight. It was, uh, converted into 2 apartments.

L.B. By whom?

G.H. By the landlord, who was, again, forced by a higher authority to do so.

L.B. Now, he was not a Jew? The landlord?

G.H. Yes, he was.

L.B. He was a Jew? And he was forced to divide the larger apartments into smaller ones. So, who moved in? Another Jewish family?

G.H. Yeah, as a matter of fact, uh, they were mostly, uh....Jewish tenants, yah. And I'm thinking of 2...small families; in the meantime their children, naturally, they're older, too, you know, and...some of, uh, in other cities, lived...for different reasons. Um...they came in, to Offenbach, from smaller cities, where it was much worse, than, than in a little larger city, if you call Offenbach a larger city.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. Let's say, places like Scotia, or, uh, Schoharie...just to name a smaller...

L.B. Yes, yes.

G.H. And they moved, then, into the larger city. You got...easier lost in a little bigger city....

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. But, everybody knew you...

L.B. Uh, so, uh, but these people didn't think of leaving Germany, at that time?

G.H. Well, Lu, I think...most of them, really, did not think it comes...to this stage, that you have to.

L.B. Mm hm. So they were hoping that it would blow over?

91 G.H. And, of course, many hoping to go...um, at the same token, many of us had hoped to be able to leave; there were very, very many who couldn't leave, who didn't have anybody. We did-n't have anybody. Uh, , you had to have a sponser, to take you out. I hate to talk only about ourselves, now...

L.B. Well, I want you to.

G.H. Yeah, our, our advantage was...that Kurt had lived in those foreign countries, he had residence there, so it was, in a way, easier for him, very easy to go back...even commute back. And for me, after we married, Belgium was the only...country where I got a 3-months, um, uh...

L.B. Visa?

92 G.H. ! *Carte d'identité* , which means visa, to stay, yah.

L.B. Yeah. Uh, did you ever think of, uh, uh, going to Palestine, you and Kurt?

93 G.H. Uh, in...'33, as a matter of fact, there was a Macabeeada, which is a Jewish Olympic, Olympic Games.

L.B. Mm.

G.H. Macabeeada.

L.B. Oh, like the Macabean Games.

G.H. Like the Macabean...

L.B. Right.

G.H. And, I had a possibility, then, to go, I would have loved to go.

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. But, uh, I don't say, to stay, but I, I think I would have liked to. Kurt never thought of it, well, I suppose this was the reason I didn't go.

L.B. So you were, uh, you could have participated in these games? As what? As a swimmer?

G.H. Sure, yah.

L.B. Mmm. And, so you didn't, because you were married at the time?

G.H. I wasn't married, but...to...be married soon...

L.B. You were engaged.

G.H. Yeah.

L.B. So you did consider going, to Palestine?

G.H. Well, I would have wanted to, but I couldn't even consider, I mean, Kurt would not have, uh...

L.B. But, y...uh, uh, as a couple, you did not consider going there to live? To get out of Germany...and go there to live?

G.H. No, no, no. Now this cousin, who has just left...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. ...she's a, a year and half older than I am. She married a few months after us, and they immigrated, ~~to Palestine~~, to Palestine.

L.B. Palestine. What year was that? Do you remember?

G.H. Uh... '3... '36.

L.B. Di...did they find it difficult to go, or was it fairly easy at that time?

G.H. To immigrate to Palestine?

L.B. Yes.

G.H. No, you could.

L.B. Yeah, Now, of the, of your Jewish friends, about how many did you have at that time in your life, do you know? In the, in the early '30s.

G.H. Yah, I can...you mean girls?

L.B. Yes.

G.H. Oh, I would roughly say, 10, 15.

L.B. All right, now, did any of them leave, or did they talk about leaving Germany?

G.H. Oh, yes.

L.B. They did?

G.H. You had to, Lu. You had to think about it.

L.B. Did any of them actually leave?

G.H. Yeah.

L.B. They did?

G.H. Most of them, uh...really, most of them came to here.

L.B. They came to the United States?

G.H. Yeah, South Africa, too, uh, South America, too, at the time. Yeah, it was, it was....it was a little easier to get to South America, if you had someone there, than in here. It wasn't based on a quota, which was here, here in the United States.

L.B. Mm hm, mm hm.

G.H. And, uh, you needed...the sponsor, need to give less of a guarantee to be responsible than it was....in the United States. Your sponsor here is responsible for you, to the country, til you become a citizen.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. It's a little gamble, too, for anybody to...

L.B. That's right, that's right. Som, um, what about your parents? Did they think about leaving?

G.H. Yeah, they would have liked to, but, unfortunately, they couldn't.

L.B. They could not.

G.H. No. My...brother...left Germany in '38.

L.B. Where did he go?

G.H. To this country.

L.B. He came here. Who was his sponsor?

G.H. Who his sponsor was? His wife's side.

L.B. Mm.

G.H. We...now, the Wolf family...

L.B. Yes.

G.H. ...had no one here.

L.B. Mm...

G.H. And then, my sister and brother-in-law, they came...also in, my brother maybe in '37, and my, my sister maybe '38, some...they were, they were both here in '38.

L.B. Now how, how did they get here? Who sponsored them?

G.H. My brother-in-law, as a matter of fact, to whom I had talked, his father.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Uh...through business, knew people here.

L.B. Mm hm, mm hm.

G.H. Through business acquaintance, let's put it this way.

L.B. Yeah, so they sponsored your sister and her husband?

G.H. And brother-in-law.

L.B. Now, once they were over, there was no chance for them to sponsor your parents?

G.H. My parents, no, because they came in the midst of Depression.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And they were penniless.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And, uh, you had to have a financial background, also, to a certain amount, to bring something over, just in case whom you brought over does not work, from what would they, they would be, um...uh...a...a welfare, um...

L.B. Mm hm, mm hm.

G.H. I can't explain, express it any better...

L.B. Mm hm, mm hm.

G.H. So, in other words, if you sponsored us, you had to be sure, you had to prove to be able to support us, could we not af...

L.B. Support yourself.

G.H. Support ourself.

L.B. Mm. So, and so, when you all came over, you were not yet in a position to do that?

G.H. Isn't that awful, 3 children. Now, we weren't there, we came in '41, but it just was not... However, they borrowed money, to buy...a visa...for them to get out over Shanghai, but unfortunately, it turned out...later, after the money was paid, they was all false papers, you know...

L.B. Yes. So it was lost money.

G.H. And then time, unfortunately, caught up, and we never could get them out.

L.B. Mmm. Now you say, when you were young, you had a big family in Germany. Is that correct?

G.H. My brother ha...my, my father...is one of, uh, 3, actually, only...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. My mother was one of...there were 5 children.

L.B. Mm hm. And they all lived in Offenbach?

G.H. No. My father's family, yah, they're all dead. My mother's 3 brothers were, all 3, in different city, one near Munich, one in Berlin, and one in a smaller town, Kassel.

L.B. Mm hm.

144 G.H. And a sister in...Kurini...*Furingen*

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Part of Ger...you know, a state in Germany.

L.B. Yeah, yeah. Now, did you visit with these, uh, uncles, let's say, and their families?

G.H. Very close family relationship.

L.B. It was? And uh...

G.H. If they, if they didn't visit we had letters from...every week, from everybody, and my mother, in return, certainly wrote to...very, very close relationship.

L.B. Mm hm. But with the, with the family living in Offenbach, did you visit back and forth with them?

G.H. They, they, oh yah, very much so.

L.B. Did you share meals and holidays together?

G.H. Oh yah, very, very much so.

L.B. You did.

G.H. Very close family relations.

L.B. Were any of your cousins able to get out?

G.H. Uhh...

L.B. You mentioned one...

G.H. Most of them, most of them.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. I saw, while I was interned, I saw a cousin...he never made it...

L.B. In the same camp?

G.H. Well, he was...a man, of course, but his camp was very nearby my camp. But, he never made it...out. He, his camp, then, was....uh, transferred, shipped, to another area, and they...unfortunately, didn't survive.

L.B. Mm. Well, Kurt told us the story, that you were in Belgium...uh, am I correct? And you stayed in Belgium, and then the Germans invaded Belgium. Were you interned in Belgium? Or did you, by that time, had you gone to France?

G.H. Well, you see, when Belgium was invaded, from early in the morning, whenever, about 4:00 or 5:00 in the morning, it was constantly, over the radio, for...foreigner, for non-citizens to report, let's call it, the Armory.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. But only the male of a family. So Kurt went, naturally, and from then on he was interned. I was still free.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. So I went...to 2...girlfriends, I mean, we were friends...

L.B. Yes.

G.H. And their husbands were where Kurt was. And they had 2, one had 1 child; and, her name was Gretel, too, had 2 children. So, not having any, I closed the door behind me and went to them, because those two happened to live in the same apartment building.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. So I stayed with them...a few days, and then, with the help of a Belgian citizen, with whom we lived in a house, and he was a city employee.

L.B. Was he a Jew?

G.H. No.

L.B. Uh huh.

G.H. So he brought us over the Belgian-French border.

L.B. Mm hm. So you were in France, without any papers, and without Kurt? Now, what happens now?

G.H. He, in the meantime, was in France, too, which, uh, was unknown to me.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. They, the men were all shipped by cargo, by train, into France. And we... fled, because the Germans came...

L.B. Yes.

G.H. ...deeper in.

L.B. So, uh, what happened to you in France? Could you, uh, could you tell that?

G.H. Well...um.....it's really s...you know, in a way, I'm glad I don't remember those things so well anymore.

L.B. All right, now...

G.H. Uh...

L.B. You don't have to, if you...

G.H. Oh, no, no, not that it bothers me, but it's just....left, left me...

242? the first, so he, um, this Monsieur Pavanage, brought us into France. And then we, we, I don't even know anymore how we advanced, maybe, uh...I really, you know, it's a good question, I don't know anymore, must have been by, by truck, by bus, you weren't very choosy, whoever could bring you a few miles ahead, you went with, you know, and I remember the first...

L.B. Were you heading, which direction were you heading?

G.H. In France.

L.B. I know, but in France which direction?

G.H. Oh, um, which direction?

L.B. Yeah, were you heading for the coast, were you heading south? Were you...

G.H. Not south.

L.B. No.

G.H. Uh we were heading, actually it was the north of France, certainly, we were in the Normandy.

L.B. You were...yeah.

154 G.H. Sure. And the first night, we s...we were in Dunkirk, and this was the big, uh, this was like a nightmare. And, we were...you know, it sounds like we c...we walked, we had no luggage or anything, we had the children, each of us had one in her hands, ~~Edie~~ had 2, Edie had 1, so each of us had one child. And then we had this...terrible, um... ~~air raids~~ shot down, and laid flat, we, we, on a child, each of us had a child on... And, you know, from then on, we really fell into the hands of police, so...but not, not, they took care of us, they took, kind of took over. So we lived in, uh...lived, we were brought to the, uh, police station, in Rouen, that's the north of France.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And we were in the police station for about 2, 3 days, and then we were... we came to Dijon, which was not too far. And there, I was separated from the 2 because I had no children. However...I was very, very much in the beginning of a pregnancy.

L.B. Mm.

279 G.H. So I used, I missed my...once, you know, I

L.B. I

G.H. So anyhow...and, um....Kurt did not know that I was pregnant.

L.B. No.

G.H. So, I used, uh...every excuse, you know, and I was checked by 2...I suppose they were doctors...French, uh, they were in, in French uniforms, and, I just wanted to avoid to be separated from them. And, I...they, uh, checked, uh, examined me, but it was too early to really be sure.

L.B. Yes, mm hm.

G.H. So I was separated from them. Later on, as it turned out...I was then tran...I, I, then I...I came to, uh, to a, another, like in a school...uh, they brought me to a school with very many other women, they came from all over, single people, old, young, any age. And Edith, and Gretel, the two, my two friends, uh...they were kept there, and unfortunately too long, and then, in the meantime, uh, the Germans came closer. And they were, and nothing happened to them, they were brought back to Brussels, to Belgium. I found this out, a couple years later, you know. And I was brought, with many hundred women, deeper into France, towards Spain.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And was interned there. And then, after 3, or 3½ months, being in there, a little longer, I was certainly pregnant.

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. And then I was liberated, due to the fact that I was pregnant.

L.B. Well, what did liberated mean, then?

G.H. I was out of camp, I was...on my own.

L.B. Now, during all this time, did you know where Kurt was at all?

G.H. No. Then...I didn't know, but he found out...where I was, and through the Red Cross, I heard from him. He found out because there was, at this time, only one woman camp, but there ~~were~~ were many men...camps.

L.B. Mm hm. So when you were liberated, what did you do?

323 G.H. Well...and, while I was in camp, my roommate, under ~~Straw~~ Straw, we became friendly, she was the girlfriend of a very-known author, in Germany.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And they lived together in France, she was not Jewish.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. He was Jewish.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And...as a matter of fact, he was not Jewish, I'm sorry, he wrote against Hitler, so he had to...flee, from Germany. And, being known...he had a name, they moved to France.

L.B. Mm hm.

335 G.H. Her name was Edie, too. You think there are only 3 names, Gretel, and Edith.

L.B. (Laughs). No.

G.H. So we became friendly, and....and she claimed poor health, she wasn't all well, but this sick either. And, uh...due to this she was liberated.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. So, we said goodbye, and she said, "Hopefully you'll be liberated soon, too, and if you don't have anywhere to go..." and she gave me her address.

L.B. Uh huh.

G.H. And I ended up there, fortunately, and then Kurt escaped, as you know, and we lived 11 months with her, and Tom, my oldest son, was born there.

Did I talk too fast, too much, too...

L.B. No, it's a...sometimes you wonder how these things happen, and how one survives...

337 G.H. I suppose there is this word, what's used here, "Barrack"?

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. And I think that's what...

L.B. Fated.

G.H. Hmm?

L.B. Fated.

G.H. Oh, definitely. Because, why should I meet, right next to me...there were, uh, 70, roughly 70 people in one barrack.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Why should this one, next to me, be so nice? We hit it off imme...I mean, we had so much in common, really, you know.

L.B. Yes, yeah.

G.H. But, um....we, we really became good friends.

L.B. Mm.

G.H. And when she left, and, we could have been someone who had no place to go either.

L.B. Right. (Pause). So there's no answer, hm? Now, um...I'm going to take you back, if you don't mind?

G.H. Of course, I, I'm sorry if I interrupted you.

L.B. No. No, no, no. There's no order...you know...

G.H. No, but you know...

L.B. And if we cover, uh, we'll cover...and I don't want to keep you too long...

G.H. No, you don't, but, but if you, if you want to know more...

L.B. My watch stopped.

G.H. ...if, more, want to do some other @time...it's up to you...

L.B. No, no, I would like to know...you said there were a lot of books in your house. (Yeah, she wants something to drink. Some...wait...)

G.H. Would you join me in a little whiskey, or som...(Tape off) ...I get off the subject, too...

L.B. Well, we both do, then that's the way we get the story.

G.H. Yeah, but you see, yeah, this, uh...

L.B. Tell me, you said there were books in your house.

G.H. Yah.

L.B. Did your family do a lot of reading?

G.H. No, average, maybe. (Pause). No, my mother liked poetry, really, as a matter of fact, something...very dear to her, she left with a neighbor, and after many years, this book came to me.

L.B. Oh, how nice.

G.H. I have it here, in German, naturally.

L.B. Yeah.

383? K.H.?

G.H. No it's all right...

K.H. If it's too much, then don't drink it...

L.B. (Laughs).

K.H. I lost my head.

G.H. Yeah.

L.B. So...

G.H. I'm really not a drinker, but...

L.B. Why not, I think you deserve it. (Laughter).

G.H. No, no, I...

L.B. Um...so there was not too much book reading?

G.H. Uh...

L.B. Was there newspaper reading?

G.H. Oh yes, definitely.

L.B. All right, now, what newspaper was there in the house? Do you know?

401? G.H. Well, of course the one which...was in the city, there were 2, a morning paper and an evening paper. They also had a Frankfurt ~~Zeitung~~, which...

L.B. Now who read that?

G.H. Who what?

L.B. Who read it?

G.H. We all did.

L.B. You all did?

G.H. Well my father, maybe businesswise, was more interested in certain things...uh, which did not interest me. Don't forget, too, I was so much younger, you see.

L.B. Yeah, I know.

411? G.H. You know. And, um, there were maga...magazines, which we had regularly, such as, we had here the Time Magazine, the Life Magazine. Uh, my brother-in-law was in a big publishing house, as a matter of fact, you know, this was his...  
421? occupation. So, uh, I think the reading consisted more of the ~~book~~ things, rather than...as a whole...

L.B. Could your father read Hebrew?

G.H. Oh, I'm sure.

L.B. He could read the prayers. Could your mother?

G.H. I'm sure my mother could.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. My mother came from a much more religious home...than my father did.

L.B. Mm.

G.H. (Long pause). Yah.

L.B. Now, was your father interested, uh, in politics, before...

G.H. In what? In...politics?

L.B. Politics, in the sense of following events, as they occurred in Germany?

G.H. I don't think so, I, I really don't...

L.B. Now, you lived between, at the end of the War, 1918, you were about 4 years old, so you don't remember very much. And you started school in 1916, and you were s...uh, no, no, in 19-...

G.H. No, later... '20 maybe...

L.B. I'm sorry, 1920.

G.H. All right.

L.B. All right. And, um...when did the Depression hit Germany?

G.H. I don't remember...

L.B. There was a terrible inflation, there was a...

G.H. I know, but I, I don't remember that.



L.B. You don't, none of this made any impact on...

G.H. Uh, no, only one, no, only one thing.

L.B. There were revolu...there was a revolution in Germany, or something like...

G.H. I, I don't remember this at all, except for one thing, that, um, um, I had a girl, we had, who...was with us...

L.B. Yes, yeah.

G.H. She picked me up from school one afternoon, it's the only thing I remember, and I wore a loden coat, a lod...a loden cape, a ~~S~~cape...

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. And um...we went to a little, a little, a tiny little village, where farmers, uh, to get some bread...and vegetable, that's the only thing I remember, and why this loden ca...uh, cape, sticks out in my mind, uh, I had to hold it so no one could see what, how much we have, or got, or what.

L.B. Now this was, uh, how old were you then? Do you remember?

G.H. I must have been very, very young, maybe...

L.B. Because Kurt remembers the, uh, inflation, he remembers...

G.H. He's 7 years older than I am, this could make a....

L.B. Aaah, yeah.

G.H. I really don't remember anything. I don't remember, um...look, we weren't wealthy people, don't misunderstand...

L.B. No, no, no.

G.H. Nor do I remember ever any shortage, I mean, there was nothing, uh, no...uh...there was no shortage on food, but, as I said, we weren't...it wasn't, in, uh.....(Conversation with K.H., not relevant). So, you know, Lu, we weren't wealthy, don't misunderstand, but there was...

L.B. Enough.

G.H. Very comfortable, let's put it this way.

L.B. So, as far as you reme...you don't remember the inflation bothering your father at all? It didn't affect you?

G.H. Not at all, no, not at all.

L.B. You went to school, everything, as far as you were concerned, it was a perfectly normal, happy life?

G.H. Absolutely, absolutely.

L.B. Now, that's not unusual.

G.H. We travelled to little, uh, resorts, I mean, you know, spent vacations there, summers and winters. But not, not Switzerland, within Germany, within means.

L.B. Mm hm. Now, when you were growing up, you see, um, Kurt's family had one point of view. Uh, in your family, was there consciousness of being Jewish? In the family, itself?

G.H. Well we were very, we...

L.B. Before, before Hitler? Now think. Not after, or during, but before?

G.H. We were Jewish conscient...conscious, uh?

L.B. Yes.

G.H. Definitely. But, just like other people are conscious of being a, a Catholic...or Protestant. That's what we were born, that's what we were, we weren't ashamed of being Jewish.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. I wasn't.

L.B. Did y...

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(tape ends)

L.B. ...before Hitler came to power, or before, uh, 1930, did you, while you were in the lycée, um, and before you applied for this, uh, athletic school, then you felt it?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. But, while you were going to the Lycée, did you feel anything?

G.H. Never, never.

L.B. Did you feel it was disadvantageous to be a Jew, that you were...

G.H. Not at all.

L.B. Was there any anti-Semitism?

G.H. I have no bad memories whatsoever. Lu, if you could only imagine what was going on in our house, from all my Gentiles, friends, from my, uh, what do you call it, train...uh, coach...

L.B. Yes.

G.H. They were literally, not literally, they were sitting with us in the room crying...

L.B. No, but this is already when it happened.

G.H. Yeah, this is already...

L.B. I'm talking about before.

G.H. Before, never, I never felt...in any way, left out, as a matter of fact, I was included, in, in, in everything, where others, in, in the same way like others, if that's what you mean.

L.B. Right, yes.

G.H. Oh, absolutely...absolutely.

L.B. Was there ever any question that you might, uh, not marry a Jewish boy?

G.H. No, I could've, no...no.

L.B. Because many Jewish people did marry non-Jews.

G.H. No, not many, oh no, no.

L.B. No, not that you knew?

G.H. Oh no, it was a big sin.

L.B. It was a big sin?

121 G.H. Do you know, as I told you, my mother came from Bavaria, and this, uh, a, a few miles from Nuremburg, it was called Fuerth, where Kissinger comes from, Fuerth<sup>1</sup>, Fuerth, I don't know how you, uh, pronounce it, F-u-, with...

L.B. An umlat.

G.H. An umlat, -r-t-h, Furth, Fert, pronounced in German, that's where he comes from. And, uh....this was a, uh.....uh, uh, a more Orthodox area, than the area I grew up in.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. The whole community was much more observing.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And, of c...and then, of course, of...we visited my grandparents very often. And, across the street from my parents house, one day I see people, I was little, I was...I saw the people, whom I knew, too, sitting low, very low. You could see from my grand...parents' house into their apartment, almost, you know. And I'll never forget this, I asked my mother, "Why are they all sitting low?" So she explained to me, which I didn't understand, at this time, but it was repeated quite often, in the family. Uh, one of their children, neighbors' children, married out of the religion, and they were sitting shiva.

L.B. Ahhh, this was in Furth?

G.H. In Furth. But, uh, it was not, by far not, uh.....today it's a common thing.

L.B. Yeah, but I'm talking about when you were growing up.

G.H. Yeah, I could've ma...

L.B. Wou...would your par...suppo...if you had married a non-Jew, it was, uh, unthinkable?

G.H. Oh, I couldn't have done it for my...parents, no. I was once in love, I was on a ski, uh, vacation, with school.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Our, my school had, um...really a barrack, but, as schools have in, in Tyrol, you know.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And I fell deeply in love with a ski instructor...really, Oh God...(in laughs)...I was ready to commit suicide. No, I could have never done it.

L.B. Because you felt it would have...really been terrible for your parents?

G.H. Ohh, yah.

L.B. Did they feel the same way, that there was no disadvantage to being a Jew? I'm talking about...before. They were, they were perfectly comfortable, living...

G.H. My father, for instance, had, one night a week, in a...like a winekellar...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And he met his cronies, uh, over a glass of wine. You think I come from a drinking family, maybe?

L.B. Nooo.

G.H. (Mumbles something). No, I mean, they were all gentiles. (Long pause). And my sister and brother, as much as I remember, they had as many gentile, non-Jewish friends, as Jewish friends, more so.

L.B. Was this true, uh, would you, uh, would you think, of most of the city of Offenbach?

G.H. Yah.

L.B. Mmm. Jews tend to marry Jews?

G.H. Oh, definitely.

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. Yah.

L.B. Did you get any Jewish education, at all?

G.H. Yah, this was compulsory.

L.B. Where? Compulsory by whom?

G.H. Oh, we had religion within the school day.

L.B. Oh, you did?

G.H. Oh yes.

L.B. Now, uh, in grammar school?

G.H. Uh, this I really don't recall. We had, uh, no, I don't think so. But we had, for instance, every Saturday afternoon, a youth service...and, we had to go. And, uh...

L.B. This was part of the public school...curriculum? Or was it something your parents made you do?

G.H. No, this was, no, this was not. But we had within the public curriculum, was religious instruction. While the Catholics had catechism...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And the Protestants had, uh, their, um, religious education, so did we.

L.B. So a Jew would come in to instruct you?

G.H. Oh yes.

L.B. And what did you learn there, during that time?

G.H. Jewish history.

L.B. You learned Jewish history. Did you learn to spe...to read Hebrew?

G.H. No, this was separate.

L.B. No...this was separate. Did, uh, and, did you, at any time, ever, have that kind of an education?

G.H. Yes.

L.B. Oh, where did you get that?

G.H. After school, in the afternoon, we had, Wednesday afternoons, we had Hebrew lessons.

L.B. In your home, or...

G.H. No, no, no, in the synagogue.

L.B. In the synagogue.

G.H. Sure, as we have...

L.B. Yes.

G.H. ...classrooms.

L.B. Now, was that boys and girls, or just girls? When you went.

G.H. I think boys and girls. Of course, the, the boys had a much more intensive education, to become Bar Mitzvah, naturally.

L.B. Yes...mmm.

G.H. But, uh, I think, uh, we were together, and they had, in addition, Hebrew lessons....to be prepared for Bar Mitzvah.

L.B. Right, so you learned, there you learned to read some Hebrew?

G.H. Yeah.

L.B. And you learned Jewish History in the public school?

G.H. Oh, yah, this was compulsory.

L.B. And then, Saturday afternoon, you went, you attended a youth service?

Where would this be? In the synagogue...

G.H. Synagogue.

L.B. ...also?

G.H. And they had a Torah service, everything.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Not every week, to the Torah service, but, um.....Simchas Torah was a very, very big event...the children walked around, you know, much more than here.

L.B. Uh, if I can get back to politics, uh, apparently, um, we...were you interested in political events, at all? So your life turned around sports and your friends...

G.H. Correct.

L.B. And your family.

G.H. Correct.

L.B. And school.

G.H. Right.

L.B. Did your parents ever talk about the Russians, at all? Do you know? Not that you remember.

G.H. No.

L.B. Well, I think, Gretel, that we have, um...covered just about everything. Did you ever hear, I, I, this is, um...you led an interesting life. Did, did you know what a pogrom was? In your youth, in your youth.

G.H. Oh, I knew, I knew what it was.

L.B. You did?

G.H. But we, we didn't have any. Well, in a way...

L.B. How did you know? Where did you hear about a pogrom?

G.H. Because we had people, uh, Jewish people coming from Poland into Germany.

L.B. Oh, now when was this?

G.H. And, uh, one of, um, a Polish family, who had to leave, or did leave, settled in Offenbach; and, the daughter was really my, one of my very best friends.

L.B. Now, uh, do you remember approximately when this happened? What year?

G.H. Oh we, we, we went to school, all the way through school together, so they could have come, uh, maybe, after World War I.

L.B. Yes. What language did she speak? Do you remember?

G.H. Well, they did speak German, but, but a Jewish German, you know, it was more, uh...

L.B. Mm hm, yeah.

G.H. ...a pronounced dialect.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Now, of course, my girlfriend, Fanny, I mean, from the family, she spoke, um...well she grew up in Germany, she spoke...uh, German. So did her parents, but, uh, the way I speak English is the way they spoke.

L.B. Mm hm. Now, was there any feeling about these Jews who came into Germany from Poland?

G.H. Yah, I'm sorry to say, there was.

L.B. There was?

G.H. Yes, unfortunately.

L.B. Now, what kind of feeling was there?

G.H. They were not as well accepted, as we were accepted here in this country, this I can assure you. And I'm ashamed to say so, but...I have met here, uh, a few people...in a very nice way we have discussed how much more fortunate we were, than their parents were, when they came to Germany.

L.B. You're talking about non-German Jews, the, either Russian or Polish Jews, or Hungarians, or whatever?

G.H. I'm very sorry to say.

L.B. Now, was it the Jewish community that did not care for them? Do you know that?

G.H. This I really couldn't, I, I don't...I think that, the German Jews felt superior, it hurts me to say, but I, I'm, I know that's the way it was.

L.B. Mmm. Did your parents share this feeling? Do you know?

G.H. Oh, oh no, not...uh, which, against them?

L.B. Yes.

G.H. No, this I'm happy to say. Uh, not, they were...uh....really very happy that Fanny, Fanny would say, uh, that we were such good friends, they know her parents...well, and yet, they didn't socialize.

L.B. They did not?

G.H. They had no objection...

L.B. Yeah.

G.H. ...but they were not in their crowd.

L.B. Uh huh, well, who was their crowd?

G.H. Who was their crowd?

L.B. Yeah, the Polish, uh, family's crowd.

G.H. Others who came from there.

L.B. Ah, so they tended to group amongst themselves.

G.H. Yet they attended the ser...the same, uh, synagogue, of course. The children, uh, certainly did as we did.

L.B. Was there a distinction made by the children?

G.H. No, I think by parents.

L.B. By the parents.

G.H. I mean, children do, more or less, what the, what the parents, in those days, told you to do.

L.B. Yes, yeah, well that's why I'm saying. Now, uh, would the German Jewish children feel, uh, have bad feelings about the Polish Jewish children...in general?

G.H. Uh...I don't think that, that they, uh, transmitted to them what they have heard at home.

L.B. Mmm.

G.H. Does this make sense?

L.B. Mm hm. So it was diluted by the time it got down to the children?

G.H. Yeah.

L.B. Is this correct?

G.H. Yeah, yeah, definitely.

L.B. But in, but amongst the older people, it was quite strong?

G.H. Yeah.

L.B. Now, did these Polish Jews dress differently?

G.H. No.

L.B. They did not? Do you remember what kind of work they did?

G.H. Yeah, they were more in the working, uhhh, laboring, uh, laborers, you know.

L.B. Yes.

G.H. And, you know, I don't, I really don't feel good talking about it, it hurts me to say it. You know, you have a shoemaker....and, um, I mean, they had to start from the beginning. And fortunately...uh, for those who had a trade, tailor...

L.B. Mm hm. (Pause). But, uh, at the same time, they were not ejected. They were not thrown out of the community?

G.H. No, no, no, not at all, not at all.

L.B. Mmm.

G.H. They were also given, by all means, the same right like the German Jews had, but they were not accepted in society, more or less.

L.B. Yes, yes, mm hm.

G.H. German Jews are not, you don't have to be proud, to be a German Jew, believe me.

L.B. I, I guess they're humans, after all, my father couldn't even play with the other Russian Jewish boys, if they didn't come from a certain class.

G.H. Yeah, well, sure, you mentioned this before.

L.B. Yeah, so that you wouldn't feel uncomfortable, it's the truth.

IV. G.H.:

L.B. So, it was almost as much class, as it was nationality, and language. You see, in other words, they, not, they not only came from another country, they not only spoke a different kind of German, but they were also of a lower economic and social class.

G.H. That's right.

L.B. So, all these things, would you say, entered in? Do you know, do you have any idea, what it was that was, you know, the...the, the thing that made...

G.H. Well, you know....I can say this, but, you see, I think the only place in the world is America, where you have 500 different nationalities. In Germany it was something rare, to hear somebody speaking an improper German.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. It was....uh, it was just an, almost unacceptable. While here...well, you listen to me, even if I don't speak, uh...what, no, in general, you know. I have a...no, really. But due to the fact that we hear so many accents here...

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. ...From all over the world.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Well, in Germany, you ~~just~~, you didn't. So, one, who spoke with a broken, in a br...in a broken German, you felt, oh, it was so much more noticeable, because.....it was not a common thing.

L.B. Mm.

G.H. (Long pause). Um, I told you, quite a while...at the beginning, that a bunch of girls gathered...uh, in this home, next week in this one's home, we had cookies and...soda. And, do you know....one group...didn't want me to belong to them anymore, because Fanny was my girlfriend. Would you believe that?

L.B. Now, these were Jewish girls?

G.H. They were all Jewish girls, yah. Frankly, the Jewish girls bored me; but due to the fact that I was so active in sport, thrown together and got to know, fortunately, uh, they were very, very wonderful...I only knew wonderful wonderful Germans there, my contemporaries.

L.B. Mm. But the Jewish girls bored you?

G.H. They were, they did.

L.B. All right, this is, that's what I was trying to get at before. What did they do, or not do, that bored you?

G.H. Uh, to begin with, I think, they were made from home...from home, better, that they are better than their next-door neighbor.

L.B. Whoever the neighbor was...

G.H. Yah.

L.B. ...whether it was a <sup>c</sup>Jew or a German?

G.H. Yah. Unless their father was, uh, uh, the fir...a very, very known surgeon, you know, this type of thing.

L.B. Yeah. All right.

G.H. And then, for instance, uh...not many, it was not, naturally, not as common, then, to go to a University, it was...also very expensive, I have to say this. So they were sent to Switzerland, to a finishing school, this type of things. It wasn't that I disliked, I didn't care for, they, they bored me. You know, and they were, they were overprotected, from home, which I wasn't,

G.H.cont. at all. I was loved, very much loved by my parents, I can assure you. But, they let me be me, and they let me do what I wanted to do. As a matter of fact, they went along. I also wasn't, and Kurt would bear me out, I...lost a little res...uh, some Jewish families, um...put me also on a lower level, because I belonged to the Turnvereine ~~Turnvereine~~.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Do I make myself clear?

L.B. Yeah, very...very.

G.H. That's a fact.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. But it didn't make my life unhappy, I can assure you.

L.B. (laughs).

G.H. No, it's true. Because it was unimportant to me.

L.B. What were their, um...measuring, uh, yardsticks, those families? What would have to be...

G.H. For their daughter to marry the neck surgeon in town. (Laughter). No, this type of thing. I can't exp...(Laughter).

L.B. Very good. So that's what made them boring, that's what made them boring, is that it?

G.H. Of course, of course.

L.B. Yeah, this was all they were interested in, status, then, is that what you're saying?

G.H. To maintain the status, they...wanted to be, yah. We have status here, too, now, but, um... Listen, it's most unfortunate what has happened, I don't think anybody deserved this type of an experience in life, deserve, I don't know....maybe it was meant to experience, because, I think they lost their... we Germans, maybe, lost our...our ~~ground~~ at times, really. I have a very, very, very dear, good friend, no longer here in Schenectady...and she, and a few other girls, we went for a little, uh, couple days away, a few years, many years ago.

L.B. Now were these German friends, or...

G.H. No, no, I'm talk...this was here in this country.

L.B. Oh, mm hm.

251 G.H. ? Bill? was a year, so I go back 26 years.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. And, um, we were away for 2 or 3 days; and one afternoon I was together with this, uh, we were all friends, but Esther and I, we were really very close. And, um...we took a, we were up on a sundeck, this was in Rye, New York.

And, um....we discussed this, what we just dis...uh, had said before. When they came from Poland, her parents...the horrible life they had to experience in Germany. And so we discussed...how much...it just isn't here in this country.

L.B. So her parents, your friend's parents, came from Poland, to Germany...

G.H. Through Germany.

L.B. Through Germany?

G.H. And they weren't tolerated at all.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Terrible, terrible.

L.B. And she still remembered it?

G.H. Of course, she must have been, well, she was my age....maybe a couple years older....of course. So, I mean, she wasn't condemning us in any way...

L.B. No, no, but it was something that happened.

G.H. But...we were talking about the, the reception, or the way, the way we had a chance to establish, establish ourselves here, compared to her parents' time, impossible.

L.B. Mm hm. In Germany.

G.H. In Germany, as a jumping point, uh, to go on. Yes.

L.B. Now, is there anything that you think you might want to add, that we haven't covered?

G.H. Well, in...which direction?

L.B. Any, anything...

G.H. Well, I...

L.B. We're talking about the experience, this is what we're focusing on, the experience of Jews, and Jewish families, uh, either before the War, or in the time between the First and Second War.

248 G.H. Well, you know, you see, I do think, it depends a little in which area  
299 of Germany you live. My best friend, Gretel Mayerhoff, I don't know if you  
know her. She's a friend of'. And she lived in Bavaria, she was  
born, and raised, in Bavaria. Now, she felt, so much earlier than we felt it.  
She also was active in Turnvereine, I think this brought us so close together,  
you know, having had the same experience. And where she lived, there was, uh,  
I think...uh, a...the people living in her smaller city, which was smaller than,  
it was near Nuremberg, but smaller than our home town. And, um...she said there  
wasn't.....uh, she didn't think there was one family, no, they had a few  
friends, too, but the, the ma...by far the majority of people hated, but deep  
down, hated the Jews. There was a hate...her grandparents would remember, her  
great-grandparents would remember the, the...in a different degree, but a  
hatred always existed there. So she felt it much, much um, earlier, than I  
did. Now she had to leave the Turnvereine, coming back to this organization...  
about 3, 4 years earlier than I had to leave.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. (Pause). It depends a little on the, individual, also. Now she could take  
it better than her brother, who was 2 years younger.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. When he was a little boy, he felt it so, that he didn't want to go to  
school. He was a problem, and in those years, a problem of this kind was almost  
unknown, right?

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. Today we have to cope, we hear too much of it, it's entirely different  
world, children...have more problems today, I suppose, than...we had. But he  
was a.....it, it seems only...he was born, with fear, deep-seated.

L.B. And she was a Bavarian?

G.H. She was Bavarian.

L.B. Mm.

G.H. Well, naturally, as it is known, it, uh, almost originated, well, in a  
way, you know...

L.B. It did.

G.H. But, my...as a whole, Lu, my...our lives in our home town has been...uh,  
it sounds odd, but I have very pleasant memories. Like when my cousin, I told  
you, just left...and we were, for 2 weeks, day and night together. I mean, the  
things which we reminisced, hard to believe it ever happened.

L.B. Mm hm.

G.H. That it could have happened.

L.B. You mean the good things or the bad?

G.H. Oh, the, the, the good, I mean, naturally we, we discussed everything  
but it was surprising that it could happen, what did happen, because every,  
every...was so close and good together.

L.B. Everything was so good, yeah. (Pause). You know, I think that's a good  
place to end.

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(Tape ends)