

**UKHMF TESTIMONY TRANSCRIPT
– HOWARD KENDALL**

[Testimony: 2hrs 11mins 30.” Artefacts and additional answers: 10’ 15”]

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10:00:00:00

Howard

Howard Kendall, born 5th of February 1926, came to England by Kindertransport, and later joined the British army.

[fade to black and back up]

10:00:11:12

Interviewer

So let's start then Howard and talk about your early life, your siblings and your family, where you were born and what kind of home you lived in?

10:00:19:23

Howard

Well, I was born in Vienna. A country which even today, although all it's done for me, I love to a great extent because I like the culture of the, er, country. I must say at the outset that I am a great lover of classical music, which always drives me back whenever, whenever I get the opportunity.

10:00:48:08

I had a fairly happy life. The only sort of thing was that my father unfortunately died when I was, er, very young but I had the fortune that my mother's brother who was single - he was living with us - and he more or less took the place of, my father, and my brother who is 7 years older than me, so I had 2 men in the house, and I was about 12 or 13 at the time really.

10:01:20:22

Interviewer

And your father died when you were 5 didn't he? Were you 5 when your father died?

10:01:25:09

Howard [*interrupts Interviewer*]

My moth, mother, mother, father died when I was about 5, yeah.

10:01:30:00

Interviewer

What was the matter with him?

10:01:31:16

Howard

He had cancer.

10:01:32:08

Interviewer

Cancer, Ok.

10:01:34:08

Howard

He had cancer. He was, it wasn't a very happy divorce by the way as well, before

they got divorced as well. And so I don't think, my mother didn't push things - as you can imagine - didn't push too, didn't push too far.

10:01:48:04

Interviewer

I understand. But nevertheless you grew up in a family environment because your uncle was there.

10:01:54:13

Howard

Yes, he was there. Happy home. Music was always heard, and we didn't have a lot of money but enough money anyway. And I used to go and my mother use to take me back into the countryside for holidays, and going to Salzburg and places like that, into the mountains which I still, which I still really like.

10:02:23:06

Interviewer

And what was it like growing up in Vienna? Were you part of a big Jewish community, or were you non-believers?

10:02:29:07

Howard

No. We were almost non-believers, I think we attended about one religious festival a year, I think with one Yom Kippur. I think it sort of reminds me of when people, here sort of go to Christmas Eve to the church service, they go about once a year and then suddenly become good Christians really by attending church once a year; but so no, we didn't really celebrate the Jewish religion. But basically, I think, it almost goes automatically that most of our friends I'd imagine were Jewish. But I never really - certainly at that age - wasn't really aware of it.

10:03:16:04

Interviewer

Ok but you were part of a big Jewish community of a sort?

10:03:18:19

Howard

I was part of a Jewish community, I had, we always were sort of together really and, I had a grandmother who was sort of,er, on the deaf side and she used to have this trumpet side and used to, my mother used to say, "Answer, go and see, say hello to grandmother to her hearing aid." [*Imitates blowing*] you know and use to blow in there and I was a naughty boy.

10:03:51:11

Interviewer

[*Laughs*] We're going to talk about that in a minute because I know you were naughty. So Howard tell me about your brother Robert?

[cut for sound]

10:03:58:04

Howard

My brother yes, as I say was 7 years old and of course when you've got a brother that's 7 years older than yourself, he's always [*deeper voice*] your brother, your big brother you see, and especially if there's not a father in the house, so becomes a big brother. And of course when 7 years the difference then came, he started having girlfriends and so on. And we had a happy relationship obviously at that sort of age, although in my story later on he went over to America, and for many years we didn't see each other; but I'd like to talk about my brother's life if I may later, later on.

10:04:43:23

Interviewer

[*with interjections from Howard*]

Absolutely. We're going to come to him much later on so thank you. But you both gave each other the huge honour of naming your sons after each other, so he has a son called Howard,

10:04:55:02

Howard

He's got a son called Howard,

10:04:55:22

Interviewer

And your son,

10:04:56:13

Howard

And my son is downstairs now eating food no doubt, as you would, er, er

10:05:02:17

Interviewer

And he's Robert but called Bob?

10:05:03:20

Howard [*interrupting Interviewer*]

He is yes. Yes generally speaking he's known as Bob mind you.

10:05:08:00

Interviewer

Yes, but what an honour for both of you to have done that for each other.

10:05:10:16

Howard [*interrupting Interviewer*]

Well I think, I think my mother would have liked that idea, bless her.

10:05:14:07

Interviewer

Absolutely. So you clearly had a very loving family despite the fact that you'd lost your father, but can you talk to me a little bit more about your uncle, because as you said he was the male presence in your household, but he was single wasn't he?

10:05:28:22

Howard

Yes, well that's an interesting story, you may interesting find, but because he was running the household more or less, and of course the chief of the, the boss of the firm sort of thing, he was our income really, and of course my mother's income if you like. The household's income really. But on the other hand, er, I think he wanted to get married perhaps from time to time, and my mother being the householder, knowing he was the bread and butter, never really encouraged him too much to get married you see. Now, he had, he had, one of these watches, like with a chain, which I remember. And when he used to find a young lady who things became serious, he used to sort of change the presents, he used to give the lady a ring and the lady would give my uncle a watch you see, and that was that. Until my mother thought: well, no, I don't like that idea that they're likely to get married really. And the sad thing was that I think on two or three occasions, I had to return - and then he gave me this watch with a chain on but when the engagement used to break off I had to give the watch back because he had to give the ring back and everything and that happened at least twice that I can remember. Or two or three times.

He was a lovely man. He was a wonderful man. He was in the, he was in the Austrian army in the First World War. He got injured in the First World War, and I don't know if it's the appropriate moment to mention this, but for fighting for his country he then got killed by the Nazis. And that was, that was his punishment, that was, that was what they thought about him. Fighting for his country. He in fact died at Łódź in the ghetto at Łódź. So maybe I'm jumping the gun there. But he, he certainly lived with us. And the other thing about my brother is my mother also very close to him, and when the children, and when I say the children, my brother and myself came out of Austria my mother always felt that she didn't want to leave my brother you see. She could have perhaps got out of Austria. But she says, "I couldn't really leave my brother" sort of thing.

10:08:27:16

And as we had an import export business, on chemicals, my mother foolishly thought, oh maybe I don't know, she thought that the Germans because there was an import-export business which was bringing foreign currency in, that they wouldn't do anything, they would allow even Jewish people to carry on their business because they were bringing in a foreign currency; but of course it didn't, it didn't happen like that. It didn't happen like that.

10:08:59:24

Interviewer

Before the war broke out did you have an opportunity to leave Austria?

10:09:06:05

Howard

Before the war?

10:09:06:24

Interviewer

Yes.

10:09:10:16

Howard

We er, we had one opportunity, we had one opportunity, where they gathered together a number of er, er, children - a family - and then found out that the Germans found out that we were likely to go, and because they found out, the whole thing had to be cancelled. So that wasn't, that wasn't really, wasn't really a possibility. There was a chance, there was a chance of, but it would have been more or less a sort of escape really. Er, er,

10:09:49:18

Interviewer

Ok that's fine thank you very much. Thank you for telling me that.

10:09:52:03

Howard [*interrupting Interviewer*]

I mean, I don't want to go back to the story of the, of *The Sound of Music* where the whole thing is ridiculous because when at the end of music, they go all over the mountains, they go straight into Germany, don't they, and by the geography of it and when I tell people who have seen *The Sound of Music* - the film and they're totally disenchanted because they think they've been, they've been saved but in fact they're going from the frying pan into the fire. But that, maybe that's a different part of the story.

10:10:23:21

Interviewer

[*with interjections from Howard*]

Yes, well we've got so much to cover haven't we? So, so we're going to pick up on one thing that you said a moment ago, Howard, which was music as being such a huge part of your up bringing tell me why that is?

10:10:37:13

Howard

I don't know my uncle used to have a bath and you heard nothing but Mozart. You heard nothing but Mozart and when I was about 7 years old, my,my,my, and being a particularly bad boy which was not unusual, mother gave me a good slap across the back of my legs, I think it was the back of the legs because the other part of the body - I wouldn't know. And she said to me; "Look at you. Look at me." - I can see her now. I can take you to the point in Vienna where this happened - "Look at you now." she said, "Look at you." She said, "When he was your age Mozart had already composed two Symphonies'." So that gives you some idea the way Austrian mothers gauge their children they think every offspring should be a Mozart or Haydn or a Beethoven really.

10:11:35:07

Interviewer

But she encouraged you a lot didn't she to play music? What did she do?

10:11:41:04

Howard

She bought a violin. She, my mother bought me a violin. There was, there was a

poor old beggar standing outside - it was a bad time for unemployment - and he was standing in the corner of the street and playing for a few pennies and *groshen* as it used to be, and my mother said; "Well maybe he can teach you this." And so my mother went to this guy, and she says, she says; "My son's just starting to play the violin. Would you, would you like to teach my son? You see. And he thought about it and thought well maybe he can make a bit of money. So anyway she bought me this very cheap violin, you know, because everybody had to play something. So I think I had about two or three lessons, I wouldn't practice, I was always playing football, and eventually, she, er, he went to her - I can remember the day now - in fact, she wasn't very well on that day. And he said, "Madam, I must say I am sorry I cannot stay here, it's too difficult to teach your son. I go back and play in the street." So he gave in. He gave in his job of teaching me the violin, and I think that was the end of my musical career at that time although, as my story will go, in fact it goes further than what you have here.

10:13:25:06

Natasha [*with interjections from Howard*]

Ok. Thank you very much, that's a lovely story, it sounds like you were quite a spirited little boy. So let's talk about the situation in Austria right now. Because although you were a little boy and you were having lots of fun and you were playing football and getting out of your violin lessons, the political situation was really ramping up and you were a little Jewish boy in a very dangerous world.

10:13:49:19

Howard

Right. We've always been aware; I've always been interested in current affairs and even at my age of 12- and 13-year-old I used to read newspapers. In fact I remember very clearly when George V died and, and all the funerals and all that. I used to look at newspapers at my age, I don't know maybe it was unusual, but I've always been interested in current affairs. But there was always this drift of what's happening in Germany. Because we always heard from Germany how the Jews were being persecuted. This came through, I mean, Austria, Austria was only a small country but of course it had an enormous, I mean we knew about this, so I think most people knew about it. It had an, the illegal, the Nazi party at that time was illegal. It was an illegal party Nazi party really was. And everybody was aware that there were loads of illegal Nazis about. Then realised they were there. And yet there were rumblings in the distance, thunder in the distance that what was happening in Germany was getting closer and closer and closer. I think we had some distant relation in Germany, I can't tell exactly who they, who they were, and they pointed out, they pointed out what was beginning to happen in Germany.

[cut for sound]

10:15:24:14

And then in 1938, Schuschnigg who was the Chancellor of Austria at that time, was ordered by Hitler to get to Berchtesgaden. You know the, Hitler's mountain place in the Bavarian Alps. And he was ordered to go there, and he was, he was told by Hitler that they, Austria is part of Germany, always will be and all this sort of thing and should become part of Germany. And Schuschnigg apparently obviously political and he went back to the people of Austria - I remember this very clearly - he went

back to Austria, he tried to get the church behind him as well and they had this referendum, had this referendum by the population: do you want to stay independent, or do you want to be part of Germany? And they fixed a date, they fixed a date at the end of March. That date never came before, because, before this referendum could be held the Germans invaded Austria. That referendum could never, was never held. The population never had the, the population never had the opportunity to say yes or no.

10:17:01:18

Interviewer

And Howard at this point, when the Germans annexed Austria, you were 12 years old.

10:17:06:05

Howard

I was.

10:17:06:24

Interviewer

But let's just go back a couple of years, because in 1937 when you were 11, you were sent to a little boarding school outside Vienna and that becomes relevant in a minute. Why were you sent to boarding school do you remember?

10:17:19:01

Howard

Sorry?

10:17:19:16

Interviewer

You were sent to boarding school. Do you remember why?

10:17:22:05

Howard

Because I was such a little sod. I'm sure you can't put that on but,

10:17:28:08

Interviewer

It doesn't say here that you're you a little sod, but I'll take your word for it.

10:17:31:17

Howard

I was not a very, I was not a very good boy can I put it. My mother could no longer cope with me and had to, had to send me to, had to send me to boarding school. But I can go on from there then.

10:17:44:21

Interviewer

So you're at a boarding school on the 13th March 1938.

10:17:48:19

Howard

I was indeed.

10:17:50:04

Interviewer

Austria was annexed by Germany.

10:17:52:07

Howard

On the 13th of March was what they referred to, sorry,

10:17:55:24

Interviewer

Go ahead.

10:17:56:19

Howard

As the Anschluss. That was the name in German, that was the Anschluss when the Germans annexed or invaded, they came with tanks, and soldiers and so on but I mean there was nothing to hold, to hold them up anyway. Nor was there any, a lot of opposition because, let's be honest there was quite a long, a good size of population who were pro-German already at that time. And that came the point that the people who were illegal members of the Nazi party suddenly came to the fore. These people suddenly came to the fore and overnight people who were the milkman suddenly became a captain in the German army because they were able to throw away, they were able to throw away their disguise and suddenly say look what we are and immediately set about, set about the Jews. And even people in the countryside, for a number of years - and this was well known - where they used to wear lederhosen and the white socks, if they use to walk around with white socks, the fact that there were men, women I suppose, who wore white socks you might as well have put a swastika on them if you wore white socks. Which was interesting, it was just a sign.

10:19:29:16

Interviewer

It was a part of their uniform in a sense, wasn't it? But so it affected you greatly, because the next day your schooling life changed enormously. What happened?

10:19:38:09

Howard

Life changed. On that night of the, when they marched in there was a great, er, er torch light procession and a lot of people celebrated that the Germans were coming really because as I said a lot of them weren't anti-German at all. And on the following morning there was a knock at my door, and it was I can't remember if it was that head teacher, the director. He says, "Right pack your bags." He says, "Go back to Vienna." This was about 40, 50 miles outside Vienna. "Go and pack your bags get back, back to Vienna." He says, "We don't want Jews here. No Jews here. We don't want any Jews in this, in this place at all."

10:20:26:20

Interviewer

Do you remember how that felt? Because you were only twelve years old at that time.

10:20:29:07

Howard

No I don't. I can't tell you how it felt. I, I, I, well to a certain extent I thought it was more because, I mean I quite liked the boarding school, but it was a wonderful, unexpected opportunity to get back to mother. Which was in sort of, in a roundabout way wasn't the right way of thinking was it really? But I certainly had to pack the bags, they put me on the train, and I think there was about three Jewish children and we had to, and, and, and get on the train. Mother hardly expected, I don't know if they let mother know that we were coming but they literally told us to get out on the following morning.

10:21:15:10

Interviewer

Do you remember your mother's reaction when you knocked on the door?

10:21:20:01

Howard

No.

10:21:20:18

Interviewer

No, ok. So, despite being ejected from one school, you still had to – legally - go to school so what happened?

10:21:29:24

Howard

Well you had to go, you had to go to school in Vienna. And then at that time there were, er, still general schools where they were mixed, the Christian and whatever, Jewish children, but we were also separated in there. Immediately separated in that school in Vienna. They had to put us into, it was, we were separated in the school in Vienna. And I remember there the teachers sort of saying to the other children, "Well don't worry we're soon going to get rid of him because, we don't want - pardon me - we don't want any children here either. So any Jewish children here either." So we were, and of course the other thing is, we did get a lot of bullying there really, there was a fair amount of bullying as we came, as we came out of the school really. Which was, which was very difficult.

10:22:29:0

Interviewer

Can you tell me a bit more about that, because it was a very unpleasant experience wasn't it when you were leaving the school every day?

10:22:37:20

Howard

Well, yeah, it was I mean, we tried to either hide or we tried to come either early,

come later or something like that while most of the children had gone or something like that. There was always one way or another, where we tried to, or very we often we tried under the protection of some adults really, if we could find the parents. Obviously if the parents fetched us from school, then of course we didn't, we didn't get that bullying.

10:23:12:07

Interviewer

But otherwise what would happen?

10:23:15:08

Howard

Well they'd beat us about, they'd kick us and shout, "Now Juden" you know Jewish, Juden you know, you there, dirty..." and all sorts of horrible names they used to. I mean it was already indoctrinated in them. And they were encouraged. They were encouraged to do it.

10:23:34:07

Interviewer

Do you remember how that felt at the age of twelve to have your school friends, who were your school friends, turn on you and call you a dirty Jew?

10:23:45:00

Howard

No they weren't school friends because we'd only just gone into the school.

10:23:48:00

Interviewer

You'd just moved to that school. But nevertheless they were your classmates.

10:23:52:14

Howard

Yeah, but they were nothing. As far as I remember. I can't remember, they were nothing. They were, we were really too frightened to bother about that. We were frightened. There was no doubt about it. We were frightened every time we came out of school, you know, are the parents going to be out or have we got to make our own way home, or whatever. We just never knew, I mean the other side is really very often doing the time, the Nazis would fetch some of the adults and drag them away. we didn't even know if they were still at home. I mean my uncle, well that's a different story.

10:24:30:21

Interviewer

Ok. So then we're talking about the lead up to the war. At this point you're now twelve to thirteen, and you've told me before that you were very interested in current affairs and newspapers, so how aware were you about what was happening in Europe and about Hitler?

10:24:50:12

Howard

Hitler made, Hitler made, every time Hitler spoke, Jewish people used to dread when Hitler used to make a speech, because they always got onto the, always got onto the Jewish people. I mean it was sort of indoctrinate really all the rest of the population. The Jewish were to blame for everything. You hate the Jews, you, it's the Jewish everything here you see, because to a certain extent they were also blaming the Jews for the peace treaty after the First World War at Versailles. They were blaming the Jews for the way they got a rough deal but that's again a different story, but they got a rough deal during the Versailles peace treaty. But it was, they made it then that the Germans from Hitler then started making all sorts of rules then.

10:25:43:23

As you say, er, there was this period then in March - they came in March - and then immediately, immediately they started then having a go at the Jews really, on a much, One thing I have got to say is that a large number of Jews committed suicide. I'm not sure of the figure but there is a figure I've once seen. I think it was something between 6 and 700 Jews within a few months in Vienna committed suicide. Because they could see the way things were going and the way they were being treated, and I mean there was people immediately, doctors, people who were musicians in the, playing in the Vienna Philharmonic, all sorts of professional people who were no longer, who were no longer able to practice. Suddenly for being, I saw that. I saw that, I saw that, I wasn't able to sit in the park, on the park seat, I wasn't, I saw that I wasn't able to go to go to the cinema, I saw that I wasn't able to ride a bicycle. All these things what curtailed. And all these things came step by step, by step, day by day they made things worse. And this is the period which you're referring to, at the period you're referring to from, when they first marched into as things went on through 1939 then. So, sorry the rest of 1938. Through the rest of 1938.

10:27:33:11

Interviewer

So you said by increments life got decidedly worse. But do you remember how that felt as a young boy? Did you just accept it as part of growing up or were you cross? Did you feel angry with the Nazis? What did you think? How did you respond?

10:27:54:24

Howard

Isolated. Completely isolated. I used to go home, I think when we used to go to school and close the door, the front door and that was it. That's where is supposed to have been the safety of my home. Which wasn't really safety at all, but I thought it was. It not always turned out to be so. But I think that was the main thing, that I felt isolated. And after, and to get together with my friends, with say other Jewish friends, you know, two or three which I know were Jewish friends, we tried to meet when we could, but their parents wouldn't let them out either they, the parents wanted to look after the children. And every, every, every speech, every speech, every speech there was something else. But it really, very, very, very frightening time, or Hitler speech you know of what's going to happen to you next and I don't know if you're coming to the point where Hitler then made the point that the Jews hand in the goods, maybe you, maybe,

10:29:10:18

Interviewer

[with interjections from Interviewer]

That was my next question because in one of those speeches,

10:29:11:24

Howard

In one of these speeches then the next thing, the next thing that came then, the Jews must give up all, all, all their possessions. Jews must give up all their possessions. By possessions they talked about pictures, silver, gold, anything, anything they had really, you had to, and if you, if you didn't hand it in and the Germans came into your apartment, and they found it in there, off you go to the concentration camp. We were frightened to do it. I mean it was all done by fright; you know. My uncle still continued in the office there you know because as I said my, they still continued with the business because my Moth, they still thought the bringing in of foreign currency because it hadn't got to that point.

10:30:14:24

Interviewer

At Kristallnacht you were 12.

10:30:16:22

Howard

Yes. Well Kristallnacht, Kristallnacht of course came, and you know the reason for Kristallnacht - the translation being the night of the broken glass? Where the then the Germans went about and smashed everything, every Jewish window every Jewish shop window, and really the reason for it was that apparently a Jewish man killed one of the, a Jewish man killed one of the German employees at the er, er embassy in Paris.

10:31:00:20

Interviewer

That was the excuse wasn't it?

10:31:03:12

Howard

That was, that was the excuse because of the Jews. Well they were absolutely, that was, that's what they brought out and the Germans went absolutely berserk, pinned it on that that was what they were waiting for. Anyway for something like that. It may have been true I'm not saying it wasn't but in any case I mean the reaction was absolutely unbelievable. And they dragged, they immediately started dragging people out of homes and, everything else that happens. Now my brother who remember was seven years old he, my mother had this wonderful idea of, get to the underground and stay in the underground, and the underground was going around and around. Stay in the underground as long as you can. And fortunately it went all night so until I think after about 36 hours, the thing had calmed down a little bit after the initial alarm and the way they were acting. My brother came up again. He got away with it. They didn't, they didn't catch him. The Nazi's didn't catch him. But there were hundreds, hundreds and thousands and thousands of people who were sent to Dachau, various concentration camps. I don't know if you've heard of Dachau? Mauthausen and so on. Sent to concentration camps really.

10:32:26:19

Natasha

Where were you that night?

10:32:30:11

Howard

In bed. [*Laughs*]

10:32:31:23

Interviewer

So you don't remember it specifically?

10:32:32:10

Howard

No, I can't.

10:32:35:02

Interviewer

[*with interjections from Howard*]

But it was important because Robert was seven years older than you, he was at danger, and he was at risk.

10:32:37:17

Howard

He went, I mean there was, there was alarm in the household anyway. There was alarm, you know there was certain alarm and he, you certainly heard about people disappearing you know, "where is Herr Jacob?" Or "oh he is no longer in the flat." They just used to say, just "no longer in the flat". Just, one minute somebody used to be in the apartment the next and they just used to say, right Nazis used to come in; "Pack your bags off you go to Gestapo headquarters." But just to finish with these goods then, which we had certain things which my mother were able to hide. And which I am pleased to say are now in my possession.

10:33:29:08

Interviewer

What are they?

10:33:30:11

Howard

There's some pictures, and one or two things, one or two nice paintings. And so that's another story which, which,

10:33:37:15

Interviewer

But that was very risky of her wasn't it?

10:33:39:15

Howard

which were very, my mother had a very risky period as you've probably seen in my, in your notes really. But, I have some wonderful, anyway I'm jumping the gun.

10:33:52:19

Interviewer

I'm sure those are very precious pieces to you.

10:33:55:18

Howard

My, my, but anyway the thing was this, some heavy stuff really, my mother always suffered with a bad back and what happened again, talk about, they had to carry the, the stuff to Gestapo headquarters. They had to carry because she had a bad back we had to carry thing to Gestapo, I had to carry it because I was a bit stronger a 13, 14-year-old than my mother with a bad back. And for the privilege of handing in these things to the bloody Germans, er, you had to, I think I remember having to queue for about two hours before, before they would take it, before they would take it. But you had to hand something in because they knew all the Jewish people, I mean not all Jewish people had fantastic goods, but everybody had a little bit of something. A little bit of something.

10:34:48:06

Interviewer

At this point Robert was 19 and he left Austria, didn't he, for Britain?

10:34:53:04

Howard

Yes. He, Britain, er, the British government opened a, a the British government opened a camp - a transit camp - near Dover. Called the Kitchener Camp, I suppose named after Lord Kitchener who was one of the generals of the First World War. And it was Kitchener Camp and they allowed, they allowed refugees to come into the country, now I think we're now talking about sort of 1930, we're talking about 1939, around about that time, on a transit basis. The British government didn't allow them to stay permanently. This was a camp which opened on a transit basis that you had to have a visa or something to go, to somewhere else. You know go to America and the Americans they were always have worked on a visa basis really.

10:35:56:01

Interviewer

But it was an opportunity for him to reach some form of safety?

10:36:00:09

Howard

It was, it was an opportunity for him. The interesting point, just I'd like to point out to you Natasha is that, that camp the, you can compare it to what's happening nowadays. The British government just says here's the land, here's some wood, here's some bricks, here's some whatever cement, get your camp built. Get your camp built. And there was people who were doctors, professors, you name it, who were digging, digging trenches, digging trenches and whatever, to build, to build their

own camp. And living in this camp and, in a sort of Nissan hut if you like.

10:36:44:10

Interviewer

Nevertheless the alternative could have been far worse, couldn't it?

10:36:47:09

Howard [*talking over Interviewer*]

Absolutely. Absolutely.

10:36:47:09

Interviewer

So I'm sure Robert felt a great deal of relief to have arrived at the Kitchener Camp.

10:36:52:11

Howard

And he stayed in, he stayed in that camp. He stayed in that camp. He stayed in that camp.

10:37:00:03

Interviewer

You stayed behind.

10:37:02:11

Howard

I stayed behind.

10:37:03:08

Interviewer

You were too young.

10:37:05:24

Howard

I was, I was too young so at the moment there was no get out. There was no getaway, we used to queue, there was a [*German word*] was called a cultural authority in Vienna for Jews. Used to, used to have big queues for perhaps half a mile long where Jewish people used to queue every day to see if some country was issuing any visas for them to get out. Just stand, people stand there all day long. Are there any visas coming in from China? Are there any visas coming in from Brazil? wherever with the hope, with a hope that the, a forlorn, forlorn hope. And there was certainly, and of course in the meantime I had to go to school, and then they open the Jewish schools. That was then they opened, maybe I'm jumping the gun?

10:38:01:11

Interviewer

No, go ahead.

10:38:03:00

Howard [*with interjection from Interviewer*]

No they, they opened the Jewish schools. Well, in fact, well I don't know what sort of school they were we didn't learn anything, because half the time there was never any teachers because the teachers they used to, one morning they were there the next minute they'd dragged them away. To some camp. There was never, there was never enough staff really to, to house them. And again the non-Jewish kids were encouraged to stand outside and waiting to give us, beat us up. I mean they really, that was even worse than the first schools really. Because that was game by then. That was game really by that time, yes sorry.

10:38:52:22

Interviewer

No, I can imagine what a terrible experience that must have been like. So at this point your mother was desperate to get you to safety wasn't she?

10:39:00:21

Howard

My brother was absolutely, my mother was absolutely - She could see the war coming, there was more and more, there was more and more, Nazi troops being seen in Vienna, there was more and more tanks, and you could see there was going to something, the Germans were going to do something really. That they were going to do something really.

10:39:29:10

Interviewer

Can you describe her state of mind?

[Cut for card change]

10:39:31:02

Howard

She was really quite, quite desperate. Of course she'd lost by then she's lost, her son, her favourite son, always been her favourite son. Always was her favourite son. Never changed. And she was worried about my uncle because, her brother, because it became more and more obvious that they're not going to let them keep the business, that the Germans – Nazis - were going to take just take the business. Nobody, all that happened you were really, that you eventually it would happen is two or three Nazis came and say get out. You know, we're taking over your business. Finished.

10:40:12:18

Interviewer

What happened to him eventually?

10:40:14:22

Howard

Sorry?

10:40:15:11

Interviewer

Your uncle, what happened to him?

10:40:17:15

Howard

He was [*coughs*] pardon me, he was killed at the Łódź.

10:40:21:09

Interviewer

But can you tell me what happened. He was taken away one day or what, do you know the story of what happened to him?

10:40:26:12

Howard

No. My mother doesn't know what happened to him, nobody. I happened to find out through app, somebody apparently there were some records kept at Łódź in Poland of people who died there, and we came across there that his name appeared. Otherwise we think he might have died at Auschwitz. We always thought he died at Auschwitz, but he didn't. It turned out that he died at Łódź. And of course there people just died of starvation there. I mean there they didn't even shoot them they just didn't feed people. They just, used to die in the street, leave them in the street.

10:41:04:03

Interviewer

That must be so difficult for you to imagine because he'd shown your family so much kindness?

10:41:09:11

Howard

Oh he was wonderful. He was, and, and then this is why one of the things I'm doing these things because I think I owe it to him and to my family and everybody really.

[cut for sound]

10:41:24:11

Interviewer

we were just talking about your mother and her desperate panic to get you to safety.

10:41:29:01

Howard

She was absolutely, did everything. And then out of the blue we heard about that the government, thinking of introducing, allowing ten thousand children to come, to come to England. Er, and of course there was a mad scramble, scramble to get this, but they had to come somewhere, we couldn't just, I mean the problem was, the problem was how do you get to England? Have you got any relations? You had to go somewhere. You can't just, you know, you had to be taken in by somebody.

10:42:11:16

Interviewer

You needed a sponsor didn't you?

10:42:13:07

Howard

You had to be, had to be sponsored. They also had to pay £50. Which was the money they had to pay, had to £50 for taking the child in, the princely sum, I was worth £50 at that day, I am now worth £55, er, er

10:42:32:08

Interviewer

What did your mother do to try and find you a sponsor?

10:42:38:16

Howard

We thought about all sorts of things. How, what would she do? And then she came up - didn't she - with this brilliant idea. Of advertising me in the press. And what I said I wouldn't say to you before and this is, this is important. Because I will say this, that this advert in the press meant that my mother had given me life twice. Once when I was born and once when she placed that advert in the paper. Because if I hadn't, if that advert wouldn't have been placed in the paper and we hadn't had a response to it, I probably would never survived. I would have just been one of the 6 million that vanished.

10:43:32:06

Interviewer

What did the advert say?

10:43:35:04

Howard

The advert said, that would somebody take a young Jewish boy, ex boy scout looking for, looking for a home. I have a copy, I've given a copy, it's very, very small. I mean it was absolutely ridiculous how anybody in that paper even picked this up because I was advertised, the advert was about a 2cm, 3cm advert and above me somebody was looking for, I think, a spare room somewhere and somebody else below me, somebody wanted to, wanted to sell a beaver coat. And I'm sure if you're, you're interested I've got a copy of this advert, which, which I can leave. And that, and that advert, that advert really, that advert really er, er, er, saved my life.

10:44:39:16

Interviewer

Howard, now that you're a father you can only imagine the pain that your mother must have gone through to put that advert in the paper asking someone to take you. How difficult that must have been, and how desperate she was to find you some sanctuary.

10:44:55:10

Howard

Actually, the name was in my uncle's name. She put the advert in my, my uncle's name. But as you say how difficult, nothing to how difficult - and I'll come to that later on - how difficult it was to say goodbye at the station. But that will come in a minute perhaps.

10:45:15:02

Interviewer

Well you did get a sponsor,

10:45:16:21

Howard

Sorry?

10:45:17:05

Interviewer

You did get a sponsor. A number of people replied.

10:45:18:09

Howard [*interrupting Interviewer*]

We got, we got a sponsor, we got a sponsor, and we got one, yes, in this little advert and one, a guy from Nottingham. Who was a bank manager in a big bank with a big branch - branch in Nottingham - and another one from Hull on the East coast. Now I don't know how my mother decided which way, but I think she decided that this was a bank manager. I can only assume she must have thought well he's a bank manager, maybe nice Jewish man really. Maybe was, maybe he's got a few samples knocking around or something like that, and she decided that she would go for this guy. And he paid his £50 and the deal was done eventually under very numerous things. Let me just say that this business about the children transport. It didn't go through all that easy through Parliament. There was quite a, quite a bit of opposition in parliament to take, to take on these 10,000 children but Mr, I forget now the guy's name, he's only just died he was 104.

10:46:38:13

Interviewer

105 yes.

10:46:40:13

Howard [*with interjections from the Interviewer*]

105. He did a lot for the Czech children. He did a lot for the Czech children. And for the Austrian children. The, what do you call it? It'll come to me – church did quite a lot as well. So, it went through I there was one of Jewish people in the government, a chap called Mr Hore-Belisha which comes by the way from the Hore-Belisha bake, beacons. If you not know that Mr Hore-Belisha was the Minister of Transport at the time and so anyway the deal was done, and then the day came for me to, to come away.

10:47:29:16

It was the 21st of June 1939. From German, from Vienna station, and of all the things which I remember really and the notes I've made, is something I'll never forget what we, what happened at the station on that day. Mothers saying goodbye to the children. It was absolutely heartbreaking. I mean I was 12 or 13 at the time and let me say this to you and you may think well that's a funny remark to make. At 13, 14 never having been in Austria and sort of having been cooped up if you like, what I explain, you know to me thinking back I must have thought it was a bit of an adventure. Do you understand that? I don't, I don't think I really, don't think I really

quite realized - now thinking about - it but I'm sure I must have realised you know how, you know, you know, I couldn't realise, well what where I'm going now. Wonderful. I'm going on a ship, I'm going on a boat it must have been wonderful at, at first. Right.

10:48:46:07

But to go back to the station again. There was so many tears. So many crying so many children. The Kindertransport, I think they were basically children about 5 to I think the oldest were about, if I remember 14 -15. Something like that. But the rule was no adults. The children transferred. No, no, no adults permitted. Not at all. We were allowed a small amount of money, supposedly to have bought a sandwich or drink for the long journey. Remember it was a long journey in those days from Vienna to Hook von Holland [*excuse me*] and then across to Harwich. And I think they allowed us a, a a small amount of money and what happened? Of course the Germans knew we'd been allowed that money and they came through the train, and took that amount of money from the kids, the Nazis all knew that we'd been given if you like I don't know maybe £2 or £3 in money nowadays and he came and, and, and pinched it and nicked it, nicked it off us. I mean, and to me the one thing, the one thing I had was my prized stamp collection. I loved stamps. I learned more from collecting stamps in geography than I've ever done at school. I thought geography really was my favourite subject really and I had this wonderful stamp collection. This Nazi went through my luggage and pinched, and I presume he had a little boy, little girl at home, and thought I'll just nick this stamp collection while I'm about it. It was my real pride and joy, which I'd been collected practically all my life. And I had the facilities of collecting stamps because we had that import-export business and therefore was getting correspondence from all over Europe - I remember this - so it was easy, it was easy to do.

10:51:00:15

Interviewer

How was it saying goodbye to your mother?

10:51:04:19

Howard

I don't think I saw; my mother went out. I think my mother went out the day, for the day and I think she went out the day before. I don't think she came back on that day I went. She didn't, she didn't, she didn't come back. And of course I didn't know on that day that I wouldn't see her for nearly another 5 years. But I did see her, but that's another story, as you know.

10:51:34:03

Interviewer

I read somewhere that you said that leaving that day was one of the saddest days of your life. Do you still feel that?

10:51:40:24

Howard

I think, I think it was the, I think it was the, the most – how should I express it - hurting days of little children crying for their mothers and fathers, being loaded on a strange, on a strange, they were taken away from, suddenly loaded on a great big, train, train carriage. You know it was, it just was unbelievable really. And certainly at

my age I appreciated that at the time.

10:52:22:02

Interviewer

So there was, it was a conflicting experience for you because obviously you were deeply sad and anxious about what was happening, and saying goodbye to everything that you knew, but you also said there was a kind of sense of adventure for a young boy?

10:52:36:05

Howard

There was yes, absolutely.

10:52:38:16

Interviewer

[with interjections from Howard]

Do, do you remember knowing the age span of some of the youngest people on that train - the youngest children? Do you remember anybody else in your carriage and how they were? You don't remember the journey? You know you went via Hook of Holland. But you don't remember anything? Apart from the Nazi taking your stamp collection and the money?

10:52:57:20

Howard

Yes I don't remember, I know that when we got to the Dutch border I think the Red Cross brought us some, brought us some drinks I remember that the Red Cross brought us some drinks, but I can't remember, I mean I think that there was a few hundred kids on the train, there weren't all that many more trains after I came out because remember it was the 21st of June 1939 when I came out and the war broke out on the 3rd of September of that year. And in fact there were 2 trains which were already, which were loaded, filled and which the German's stopped and wouldn't let, wouldn't let out. The children were already on the trains, and they took them off again. I don't know the reason why.

10:53:44:17

Interviewer

So you have a bit of a hazy memory of, of your journey?

10:53:48:21

Howard

I have practically no idea at all of that journey whatsoever.

10:53:53:00

Interviewer

Why do you think that is?

10:53:54:19

Howard

I don't know. I don't know. I remember kids crying. I remember, I remember there was a lot of noise. It's a complete, it's a complete blank to me that journey. It's a

complete, it's a complete blank to me that journey. I just, I just don't know. I mean as you can tell I remember a lot of things but, I could just not, I just could not remember what, what happened on the journey and the journey, was about, must have been about a good 30 hours or something like that, you know. I just don't remember not until, in fact not, I can't even remember getting on the, on the ship, at the Hook. It was just like I don't know, it's just something I just can't remember. I remember, I remember how upset I was at the station, and as I said to you a minute ago, I'm not aware, aware of it but, thinking back there must have been a certain amount of feeling of, of adventure sort of thing really. I think it would have been natural really or human.

10:55:24:09

Interviewer

I quite agree, but I also imagine that it's very difficult to remember something like that when it's so traumatic. You know, so maybe that might be part of the reason why you've got a hazy memory of that part. But it doesn't matter because you remember so many other things and then sadly you were met by a relative and your story got even more complicated and even more difficult for you.

10:55:47:05

Howard

Yes.

10:55:48:06

Interviewer

Do you mind telling me about that?

10:55:49:11

Howard

Um, no, not at all. I was met, I was met in London by somebody. I, again I'm not quite clear who the person was - this was at Liverpool station - Liverpool Street Station- who then escorted me to or took me up to St Pancras. And the, and the bank manager – my sponsor was taking me to, was meant, meeting me at the station in, in Nottingham.

10:56:35:21

I was very impressed by - at first - because when I, with him, because I found out obviously he had a well-paid job. He had a violet; it was like a violet-coloured Sunbeam Talbot car. It was a bit sickly mind you, but it was certainly a very expensive car, open top and I mean to me, you know, for somebody have a car, you know that was big, that was big. So at first I was quite impressed. Anyway he greeted me and, er, he then took me, he then took me to where I was supposed to live. I then found out that his place where I was to live was in Nottingham in a part of Sherwood where he was a lodger. It wasn't his, it wasn't his own property. He was, he was a lodger. And if I remember rightly there was a lady and a gentleman who were running that, this lady and her brother were running this, this house. They were the owners, and he was a lodger in that house.

Nothing was sort of happening until after a very few days, we were told that he was leaving there and he was going to buy his, his own house. And as mother, my mother knew I was coming into a strange country and people being strange he gave me, she gave me, she gave me a certain forewarning of what people were. He, I

stayed, nothing very much happened there, I had to go to school again in England – I'll come back to that at some length of my school days. So while I was in England I immediately had to go, had to go to school, because that was the law although you know at that age I hadn't reached 14, so I had to go to school and then it was time to move and we moved to this house, and this when the trouble started. And I was aware of it, and good job I was aware of it. And stopped it. Fortunately, fortunately, er, my brother at that stage of course was still, was still in this country. And he got in touch with the police.

10:59:38:09

Interviewer

So, just for clarification, it's very difficult to talk about obviously but it turned out that,

10:59:43:02

Howard

I don't, I don't mind.

10:59:45:02

Interviewer

but he was a paedophile basically?

10:59:45:19

Howard

He was a paedophile. Absolutely. He was. He was a paedophile and I, obviously my brother was at this camp at Kitchener Camp and as I say he was 7 years, I mean he was, by that time he was nearly 20. So you know big age difference. So the next thing I knew is the police fetched me away from there.

11:00:09:24

Interviewer

But before the police came you must have felt so vulnerable because you were far away from anybody - apart from being in a strange country - you were very vulnerable.

11:00:19:13

Howard

Well, how can I be any other. I mean you can't, I mean I hardly speak, hardly speak the language. I hardly speak the language. Difficult to communicate with anybody. Beginning to pick up a few English words, really. But it happened, it happened all happened very quickly.

11:00:45:02

Interviewer

What happened to him in the end? And how do you feel about him?

11:00:51:19

Howard

I think he only got a warning and I never heard from him again.

11:00:56:24

Interviewer

How do you feel towards him?

11:01:00:13

Howard

Nothing. Absolutely nothing. If I think about myself, if I think about it, I think well he got me out at least. At least I'm here. At the price I had to pay at the time, but it was a, it was a, was a price to pay as it turned out to be doesn't it? It had to pay; it was I had to pay a price to be. So the police, so what happened then the police says; "Well what are we going to do with you? We better, go down to your brother for stay at Kitchener Camp. Stay at Kitchener Camp for a, for a couple of days while we, while we sort you out," you see.

11:01:52:06

So I went down to Kitchener Camp, and I was very young there because all the people down there as I explained to you they were all doctors and all the people that came out and at least I had somewhere with a roof over my head. And also these refugees built believe it or not they built their own cinema by that time, and I remember an American singer called Paul Robson in a film called something of the River, whatever the film was. Anyway I saw this film, the film about 20 times over again. My brother didn't know what to do with myself, he was working building the, building the camp, really. And I sat in this cinema and this cinema was running all day and I kept looking at this film over and over again. Anyway I stayed there, I stayed there I think about 2 days until, until the police got me back again.

11:02:52:05

Interviewer

But you were allowed to eat as much ice cream as you liked weren't you? So there was a little bit of compensation.

11:02:56:23

Howard

Well that's right yes. They put me in this cinema, so they put me in this cinema you see, and they say, "Now don't move from here" he says, he says; "We'll find you a new home but don't..." he says; "You can eat as much ice cream here as you want you don't have to pay for it." He says, "You can eat it until you're sick," which I'm sure I must have been. Nearly really but you don't have to pay for it. But,

11:03:20:05

Interviewer

But, Howard, I mean I think about how you must have felt as such a kind of young, young man really. You'd been through so much. And you, in a strange country, the man who had given you refuge turned out actually to be a perpetrator as well. And that must have been so much to get your head around, to try and absorb what was actually happening to you,

11:03:42;18

Howard

I had to.

11:03:43:16

Interviewer

and you still didn't know where you were going to go and where you would have sanctuary.

11:03:46:12

Howard

No. No, no, no. I didn't, I didn't know where I was going to sleep at night until the police fetched me. Until police fetched me out. I mean I got to a, to a stage where whatever is going to happen to me is going to happen. You just got to, I think for the first time at around about that time if I think er, and I don't think you will find it in your notes at that time I was beginning really feel, feel homesick. I really felt really low. I felt really, really low. And there was unfortunate, unfortunately there was, there was an operetta which I heard on the radio which was called *The Dancing Years* by Ivor Novello - you've probably heard of Ivor Novello - which was in Vienna, and it was all about refugees, and I cried buckets, I know that because it was all, it was all about, it was all about refugees, see. It told the story about that. So I did, I do remember that but anyway that's, that's beside the point.

11:04:56:17

Interviewer

Is it difficult to remember that time?

11:04:59:10

Howard

Sorry?

11:04:59:22

Interviewer

Is it difficult to remember that time?

11:05:02:21

Howard

Yeah it's, it was a difficult time. It really was Natasha. It was really, it was a difficult time. It got, it got you know and obviously, you know mother, never heard from mother. Brother was away. Language difficulty. Life was a little bit, but people, generally people were, I was away I managed, I managed to slip away from the Germans. I was, I managed to be away. And I also of course then had the hope that sooner or later the family would be reunited that would be the hope. Which again came a point I'll talk about later on.

11:05:49:06

Interviewer

And how welcome did you feel in this country? You have, as you say you didn't speak much of the language, you had a very thick German accent,

11:05:57:24

Howard

Mixed. Mixed. I found that I can remember one, one particular occasion. Somebody asked me to go to, there was a little party going to a swimming pool just outside

Nottingham, near Newstead Abbey and there was a swimming pool around there there, around there and these, a lot of kids were on to me because I couldn't speak the language and they were being a little bit nasty to me. They were, sort of, you know I was telling him what I've seen about the Germans, and I was, you know, trying to find, you know, I was something different, wasn't I. I'll come to that bit, I mean, half the kids thought I came from the moon. I mean coming from Austria I might as well have come from the moon in those days. And so, um, um, and these kids were pulling my leg in this swimming pool, I got so fed up with them that er, about two or three of them I pushed into the pool with all their clothes on. And they didn't ask me to go with them again for er, so so that was er. I was in bad books then er, but when you say, er, with a thirteen-year-old they didn't quite know what was happening.

11:07:16:05

Interviewer

They didn't quite know what to make of you did they really?

11:07:17:21

Howard [*interjecting*]

No, no, no.

11:07:19:10

Interviewer

I've got a story here that you were, um, they were, you were teased a little bit cause you were a little bit larger than you-, it's all the ice cream was it?

11:07:26:11

Howard

Well come on. Don't you, don't be impolite. I was fat.

11:07:34:17

Interviewer

You were a little bit chubby.

11:07:35:12

Howard

I was a little bit chubby, yes. Yes. Well that, that goes back to, we're now getting to school days so -

11:07:41:06

Interviewer

Yeah, so this is back at school.

11:07:42:16

Howard

We, we went to school there was three things of course. First of all anyway I went, I had to go to school, right, being a bit on the fat side kids alone was a bit un, unkind to other kids that are on, on the fat side. They're always trying to make the mickey don't they really, that's number one. Then of course I couldn't speak English. 'He'll

say ja ja ja don't laugh at him, if he only says ja ja ja don't laugh at him," that was number two. Number three he came from Austria, Austria what the hell is Austria in nineteen thirty-eight, who knew about, I mean, that's as I say they, might as well of been on the moon than coming from Austria, they didn't really, that's, Europe was a small place then, I mean not like one hour and a half now where you get to Vienna in an hour and a half or whenever. And the last thing of all, my mother somewhere somehow along the line - believe it or not - she must have seen in an English magazine that every English boy wears knickerbockers trousers. Do you know what I mean? [*indistinct*], Every English boy wears knickerbocker trousers. So every pair of trousers I wore at a early stage are these knickerbockers you know where they clip, which the golfer, s er, if you go golfing, which the golfers wear and, and so I had four things, four, four things, four things against me.

11:09:17:24

Interviewer

Oh dear. I can't bear it.

11:09:19:16

Howard

So I [*Laughs*] really, it was four, five -, but there was one particular lad called Peter Mauthausen who I remember now really. His parents had a pram factory in the, in Nottingham and they were extremely kind to me, and they made me, you know, made me feel, they made me feel at home. But there's a couple by the way I must say who -

11:09:43:13

Interviewer

Well, I just wanted to ask you so after you, um, replaced, well hang on, once the, the police have come for you in Nottingham -

11:09:54:12

Howard

Yeah.

11:09:54:18

Interviewer

-they then placed you somewhere else, didn't they, so tell, tell me about that, the couple that you were with then?

11:09:58:14

Howard

A nice, a nice Jewish couple, um, in their sixties, in their sixties. The lady was the, the lady was one of the first managing directors that existed in this country I reckon. She, she owned a, or she was the managing director of a lace factory you might see the building on the Nottingham castle, there's round building [*he makes a circling gesture*] which is like Rediffusion used to be under there and she, she was certainly -, the man, her husband, was a, a bit of a lay about really I think she used to give him the money so that he was her husband but they were kind to me. Let it make it quite clear, they were very very, they were very very kind to me. They fed me, but they,

they never, they never, I don't think they didn't have any children by the way and really didn't quite, weren't quite aware what, er um, what, how to, I'm getting onto fifteen now and I am getting a bit older, you know, I was beginning to, to know what girls were looking like so, oh, you know, then I mean they, the thought that I might go out with a girl that's not Jewish would have been completely taboo so - anyway they were very nice, not a word against them really. And while I was there and, and there was this incident - I don't know if you've got it - where I was arrested as a spy?

11:11:46:01

Interviewer

Tell me.

11:11:46:15

Howard

Now, I don't think there's been many refugees really that have been arrested as a spy as well, but it was immediately after Dunkirk - which was nineteen forty - immediately after Dunkirk our troops were coming back from the continent and there were so many troops were, so many troops were coming back that the government couldn't cope with all the - many got killed as you know - but they weren't enough barracks and so on so, so they asked, so they asked the um the population to, to, er, find homes in, in in houses. And the, the couple I was staying with they decided to do so and there was one guy who came back from Dunkirk who was a doctor. Now he was a, a captain in the Medical Corps. He, he'd come back from Dunkirk. Now imagine the situation. Now you must do, the Germans had just overrun Belgium, just over run um Holland, and most, most of the continent. In this country everybody was expect-, expecting the Germans to land here any day now. They thought there was okay, they thought that, you know, there was no hope for us having, having sort of come, you know, this, this far the Germans just across the channel and then of course that superiority at that time in the air. And this guy who came this medic officer he was very dark chap, very Jewish looking, dark chap, and, and looked very Jewish. And he, he came and he says, look, he says I'm in Nottingham now and this is how used to have, somebody used to be at university with, he says I want to see this guy, this friend of mine, and he says he used to live in Nottingham I wonder if I can look for him, let's find doctor Zuckerman I think was his name, and there's a, there's a part of Nottingham called The Park where everybody looked the same, every house looks the same and remembered it's war time, blackouts and so on, you know, no lights allowed, get locked up if you put a light on the, a match or anything like that. And we started looking for this doctor Zuckerman in the middle of this park in the afternoon I kept walking, knock at the door, do you know Mr Zuckerman, no sorry never heard of him in on and, until eventually it was getting really dark and we just saw one house and it had just about a little bit of light which we thought well that's illegal, you shouldn't have any lights so we knocked at the door, knocked the door, and we said, "excuse do you know of a doctor Zuckerman?" and they said no never heard of him but immediately we realised there was a bit of a party going on. And in those days you had to have a party, the party had to be at six o'clock, or earlier really, because you don't used to have parties at midnight, sort of thing, because there's-, it just didn't happen. So, so there's me remember knocking the door, don't speak the English, don't speak the English, the little boy speak Eng,

there's this guy by the way he had, he'd taken off his captain uniform, he was now in civies - looking very, looking very very Jewish - and he said, "oh come in he says well come on come in have a drink, yes come and a drink with me, he says we're just having a bit of a party" and I said well no, no, no we must get home and "no come on," I went you know, so we said alright well we're talked into it in the end, think... whatever I can't remember. Well I think we stayed about twenty minutes half an hour and we says well come on we must go now. "You're not going." "What do you mean you're not going." Says, "You're not going." So he grabbed-, so there was about half a dozen, they grabbed, one grabbed hold of me and then another one grabbed the, the, the good doctor and we had one in each bedroom and tied us, tied us to the beds beds, bedstead and imagine, you see, as I explained to you they literally thought the Germans were coming the following day because they were at the, at the door, they were at Dunkirk, they were across the channel really, the thought... they were going to invade any, any, any day now really, really. Um, so they just sort of they tied us to the bedstead, I was in one bedroom he was the other bedroom. Anyway, they rang up what they call a Black Maria, anybody heard what black, it's a police, a police van they used to have these Black Maria, so after about an hour or so this police van arrived and loaded us into, into this police van. [Laughs] And took us to police headquarters and, and locked us, locked us in the, locked us in the, in, in, in, in, in the prison until after a few hours and you know we, we sort of explained things and we gave them references and of course his army, this army captain had all his, all his army paper and the position was made clear [Laughs] but, you know, I often wonder how many, how many Jewish refugees from the Holocaust have ever been arrested as, as spies as well. Anyway that's another story for you.

11:17:31:07

Interviewer

That's an extraordinary story. You have lots of extraordinary stories.

11:17:34:12

Howard Kendall

[Laughs]

11:17:35:10

Interviewer

So um but there is still so much to talk to you about, so let's just touch now on Robert. He was in America at this point. Is that right?

11:17:43:13

Howard

My brother's gone-, my brother went to America on the, I can tell you on the third of January nineteen, nineteen forty.

11:17:53:16

Interviewer

So he was in America. Your mother was still in Austria?

11:17:58:03

Howard

Yeah, war had started.

11:17:59:17

Interviewer

And you didn't, you couldn't hear from her? You didn't have any contact with them.

11:18:01:19

Howard

Nothing, nothing, nothing.

11:18:03:06

Interviewer

For five years.

11:18:04:02

Howard

Nothing -, well nearly. I think nineteen forty-four, yeah four.

11:18:07:21

Interviewer

And your uncle had been taken away?

11:18:09:18

Howard

No, my uncle at that time was still, was still with mother.

11:18:12:22

Interviewer

Okay.

11:18:13:07

Howard

He was, was still, he was still, it was still, still with mother. I can't, I do not know the actual day, I don't know when he went, when he'd been taken away, but I think at a fairly, at a fairly early er, at a fairly early age.

11:18:30:10

Interviewer

Okay, so now we are in nineteen forty-three and you're seventeen.

11:18:34:19

Howard

Yeah.

11:18:35:09

Interviewer

Yeah? And you were desperate to know what was happening with your mother.

11:18:39:23

Howard

I did indeed.

11:18:41:10

Interviewer

So what decision did you make?

11:18:44:15

Howard

Well I had to -, by that time I had to, the people I was staying with the lady was telling you she, she was now managing directing this lace place, so I did some work for her. My job was counting holes in hair nets, that was, that was my, I got paid a very very very interesting job of, of counting hole in hair net, so many holes per inch really that was, was my and if it, if it wasn't right then I had to report it you see. But I,er,er - yes I, I worked, I worked for the, for that department what used to be called the plain net department but of course things were beginning, things were very bad at that time, the, the Russians -, the Germans were overrunning the Russians and things were, things were really not good at all at that stage. But I really wanted always to go on, and see, and see my mother, I always wanted to find is she alive because you heard so many, I mean at that time we weren't even, we weren't aware of the, the gas chambers or that, we didn't know, good job we didn't, didn't really, we weren't aware of these things.

11:20:05:20

And er, I was too young to go in the army at that time. They wouldn't let me in the army officially until I was eighteen. Ah, so I found an alternative and what did I do there was one get out, I joined the Home Guard. Now the Home Guard if you, if you don't know here that was a sort of a army, a civic army which they, they, which quickly got together to, to - how shall I say - they didn't have enough guns here or anything. They were very often toy, toy armaments and thinking guns [*sic*] and things like that and so I, I joined, I, I joined the, er I joined the Home Guard really. So at least that was, that for, that was for a while. There was of course the point about joining my brother. Are you aware that I wanted to, I was going to join my brother?

11:21:16:14

Interviewer

I did, yeah. I, I am aware of that.

11:21:18:09

Howard

You're, you're I was going to join my brother but could not join because the Americans had come into the war.

11:21:26:19

Interviewer

That's right. Yeah. Um so you wanted to go on the front line, basically, so that you could find your mother?

11:21:32:08

Howard [*interrupting Interviewer*]

I wanted to -, yeah, well not too far at the front but [*Laughs*]

11:21:35:12

Interviewer

No, okay like tenth row back.

11:21:37:20

Howard

Yeah.

11:21:38:09

Interviewer

You were very, very desperate to find out what had happened?

11:21:40:08

Howard

I was, I was really desperate to find, I was very desperate to find my mum.

11:21:44:12

Interviewer

But you have so many different stories to tell that - very briefly - can you touch on um the story about there was one officer who had different ideas for you and wanted to send you to Japan didn't he?

11:21:54:18

Howard

Yeah, that's a good story.

11:21:56:18

Interviewer

Is it? Can you make it short?

11:21:58:12

Howard

Can I make it short? [*Laughs*]

11:21:59:08

Interviewer

Because there's so many things I want to ask you about. [*Laughs*]

11:22:02:09

Howard

Yeah I, I, well let me just say it's for some reason, for some reason he had it in for me. That's the only way I can put it. And he was determined, he was determined that I was going to, to the far east. The war was beginning to do well, was getting towards an end and the War Office kept calling out for Germans speakers, for Germany speakers who would come and get over there and help with the disarmament of the

Germans. And this guy -, and these information were filtered through to the different commands in the Army. Please at the War Office here in London to report people with German speaking personnel who were in, who were in the army. And erm, this guy wouldn't put my name forward so in the end, in the end I had put things my, my own way which was -, I went absent without leave which is a very, very, as you'd imagine, I very serious offense in war time. I thought there's no bloody way I was going to, to Singapore or anywhere like that I was –

11:23:17:20

Interviewer

Even further from your mother. That wasn't the point of it at all was it?

11:23:20:17

Howard

[Laughs] I was, I was going to find my mother in, in, in, in Europe you see. There's no, there's no way I'm -, so um I packed up my bags, I had to and that's what you had to do with all your kit and then got on and I came to London, came to London. Went to the War Office, I can assure you and at that time I was a private soldier, the lowest rank of them. I can assure you that the War Office had never seen a private soldier in their life, I think there was nobody I don't think under the rank of major as a matter of fact I think there must have w, wondered which army I belong to.

[Chuckles]

[cut for card change]

11:24:08:16

Interviewer

So you got your way, and you ended up in Europe?

11:24:12:02

Howard

I went yes but no before, not before I had the major, I saw the major at the War Office eventually, because they insisted while I was at the war office and my girlfriend at the time was in Nottingham at the time, well now I've already committed an offence I might as well go back to Nottingham and have a weekend in Nottingham and get punished all together really. So I went, I went back to Nottingham and had a weekend then in Nottingham and then I reported to my unit and said, "Well here I am come and get me, but I've had a nice weekend." I've seen the War Office.

11:24:47:23

Interviewer

You have seen the War Office you had a lovely time with your girlfriend. What was your punishment?

11:24:51:02

Howard

What?

11:24:51:14

Interviewer

What was your punishment for going AWOL? Do you remember?

11:24:52:21

Howard

I think, I think I peeled enough potatoes for the whole of the British army yes. And I think seven days in, in whatever was, yeah.

11:25:02:10

Interviewer

You're not supposed to make us laugh - you know that don't you?

11:25:06:05

Howard

Pardon?

11:25:06:17

Interviewer

You're making us laugh. You're not supposed to make us laugh. *[Laughs]*

11:25:09:00

Howard

Well you've, you've got to see, if you don't see the funny thing of things because, I mean it was one of these things how, I mean looking back – how dare I, how dare I go to the War Office *[Laughs]* It's fantastic to, I mean, I must have been mad. I mean to have got on a train, I got a pass from the army, I got a pass, go to the War Office, I don't think I dared to, but I'm a lot older now.

11:25:41:13

Interviewer

So where did you go next?

11:25:44:02

Howard

Sorry?

11:25:44:22

Natasha

Where did you go next? You ended up in Europe didn't you?

11:25:47:03

Interviewer

Yeah. I went up, I went up in Europe. I immediately got, I immediately got promotion and the funny thing was, once I'd taken my punishment - as they use to say, take your punishment - and then immediately got promotion. All in one foul swoop. Because with my rank, with my rank I had to have to carry some sort of rank. I mean I was only private soldier at that time so at least they made me a sergeant which

gave me, which gave me some sort of authority really. And they immediately posted me, immediately posted me to Germany. Practically, it took me from a colonel, I was stationed at Cromer at the time when that happened, you know when I went off to the war office the colonel which I said I couldn't get on with, he was so mad because it was a question of private soldier one colonel nil. Because he really, really lost out but he deserved it. And within a week I was in Germany and starting doing my work there.

11:26:57:03

There was different jobs for me to do. I was in a particular unit - I won't bore you with the technical things - it was called the flack disarmament. Which was due to the fact that the German air force didn't match against the English air force. They were different, the air force in Germany came under the army and the other way around, so anyway I did some work for them, I did, I did some interpreting for various people. I attended a number of war crime trials, not as an interpreter except on one occasion. No on two occasions. On two occasions. And yeah. Yeah and the war crime trials used to be operated by what use to be then KCs - King's Counsellors - because you still had the king on the throne. And they had the right of sentencing people to death really and I mean like in one particular case where we saw a German soldier, where we was one of the British soldiers jumping out of the plane and the German took a pot shot while he was coming down in the end killed him. He was, he was, he was coming, he would have saved, he would have safely saved, he came by parachute but the, the, but this bloke got sentenced to death, he didn't live much longer this German either.

11:28:36:13

And the other thing I was sort of had a good job of listening, listening in, listening in to, people talking really. But I think that you know if I heard anything in conversation, you know if I meant, or if groups of people which I sort of listened in was it worth, amongst the Germans - but I think there was one important point I think I had, I've got to come back to, I'm not sure, and that is

11:29:08:17

I had to change, I had to change my name. Because my original name was Heinz Knedel. Now if I had been, if I'd been, coming into the British army with that name and I would have been taken prisoner of war I wouldn't have lived another five minutes would I? The Germans would have immediately known that I wasn't English, so the first thing I had to do before I joined the British army was change my name. So that they didn't know really where I came from. So that, that was one of the important things, before they, before they, before they allowed me to work with the Germans.

11:29:51:17

Interviewer

And that's when you became Howard?

11:29:54:10

Howard

Pardon?

11:29:55:03

Interviewer

That's when you became Howard?

11:29:55:17

Howard

That's when I became Howard.

11:29:57:00

Interviewer

Ok. So it was during this time when you were in Germany that you were able to find out about your mother is that right?

11:30:02:20

Howard

Yes.

11:30:03:09

Interviewer

How had she passed the time? How had she sought refuge? How did she escaped from the Nazis?

11:30:11:18

Howard

She hid in a, she hid in a garden hut in Vienna. She hid there for about, about two years I understand. You know, I was with my mother for quite a while after the war. There's so many things that I forget of what she said, and all the tales she told me, because apart from the Germans of course the Russians were the first troops moving into Vienna and they did some terrible things as well. When they moved in. But I'm jumping my gun at the moment. She was in there for about two years I think, and she use to tell, and because my brother, you ask me about my uncle Hans, he'd been taken away by then. Nobody ever knew what happened to him until I found out some years ago. She was on her own and that meant that she had the liberty of just looking after herself. She had no responsibility; she didn't have me as a responsibility. The children were away, my brother was in, was in America. So she only had herself. And she used to go out, use to tell me she used to go out at night with a scarf on the skin, and she had one or two people that could she really reliable, who could she really reliable who use to bring her food and so on. And she was in, she hid there for nearly two years.

11:31:38:24

Interviewer

[with interjections from Howard]

And that was in a grave digger's hut? In a cemetery?

11:31:40:20

Howard

There's a massive in Vienna, they've got a massive cemetery, which you wouldn't believe it, but everybody in Vienna is buried in the same mass cemetery. It's massive. It's sectioned, it's got a Jewish section and, and so on, and, and, and she, she was in there. Until she had to come out, until another lady, another lady, gave her a home. But this was then this was really on a business basis because she, she

then had certain things which she saved like some Meissen porcelain or something like that and she used to pay them in, in goods. And there was a funny episode - if I can have time to tell you. While she stayed with this Hungarian lady - have you got the story? Perhaps, do you want me to tell you? - this Hungarian baroness and my mother always thought the Germans would fetch her, she always thought that, that was the day. Mother says - she told me a number of times - she had her case packed everything, and a knock at the door, it's Gestapo, German secret police. My mother thought well that's it she'd survived most of the war but that was it. And this Hungarian baroness who had given my mother, shelter - at a price - opened the door and Gestapo and my mother was just going in, and what happened was the German was that there were German the German police found out, they found out that his good Hungarian baroness which was in a big apartment was, was hiring the place as a brothel. It was, it was a brothel. And there she was hiring, hiring rooms for German soldiers and they, and they, the Germans came to warn her that it's illegal for German, German soldiers to use these brothels and so my mother never, that was the closest she ever came from the Germans, but she really thought that was the end.

11:34:03:11

Interviewer

It must be hard for you to imagine those two years for her. And it, I find it painful to imagine her. She'd lost her husband. Her two sons were in different parts of the world; and you said she had the liberty of looking after herself, but she must have been terribly lonely and terribly worried. It must be hard to think about that.

11:34:24:24

Howard

She was, she's, and she was not a very, she was quite a nervous person really. She was quite a nervous person. I brought a photo of her with me when you want to have a look at it sometime, with a dog by the way, never without, she was never without the dog and she was quite a nervous person, but she seemed to survive it in the full strength we don't know how she did it. And she was so nervous if I can just add it that she was telling me, maybe I digress a little. When she went to America, and she was sitting outside my brother's house, and she heard - outside - motorbikes. She used to run into the other room because she thought the sound of the motorbikes were some more Germans coming. And they were, in fact she was in America.

11:35:19:05

Interviewer

Do you remember when you were reunited with her?

11:35:22;14

Howard

Oh yes, I mean. I mean wasn't it, yes sorry,

11:35:27:09

Interviewer

Tell me.

11:35:28:03

Howard

I mean wasn't it a marvellous thing of the army to transfer me, transfer me from Germany, I mean they're not usually big organisations are not well known for using their common sense were they? But they, I must, I've had somebody really looking after me and looking after her, to, to transfer me from Austria from Germany and said look, you're doing this job as translator here in, in Germany, and you might as well be in, in Vienna and see if you can look after your mother and it was a horrible winter really, the winter of 1946 - 947, was one of the hardest winters in Europe and I think if it wouldn't have been for me I don't know what she would have done, would have managed to bring her food, used to smuggle out of the army, from I think, I use to get her food and she used to, used to manage so.

11:36:27:16

Interviewer

Do you remember the first time you saw each other after five years?

11:36:30:01

Howard

Oh yes. I mean yes.

11:36:31:15

Interviewer

What happened?

11:36:32:22

Howard

Well I mean what happened. I mean the only thing, I mean the only thing which I you see, my mother couldn't understand. I mean there were so many Nazis got away with it, so many Nazis and she used to say; "Look there's all these Nazis are responsible for killing the Jews" she said; "What are they doing here? Why isn't somebody arresting them?" Well we know why they weren't arresting them because the Russians and the Americans were fighting over these people, who were going to get these people to work for them? This was a very funny war between the Russians and the Americans already at that time. And my mother used to say, "You can't do that." And I remember on one occasion she used to say, "Come on we'll go to somebody" Because we used to carry [?] she says; "Go and shoot them, shoot them let's go, let's go and shoot them." And "Mother, I'm in the British army!" you know, "shoot them!" you know, she couldn't understand that you know, bless her you know she was in many respects she was quiet but what she went through and as I say when when the Russians came through unfortunately the Russians came into Vienna, they liberated, they were the Mongolians. The first, the first Russians that came into, that came into Vienna were Mongolians. Not with tanks but horse, horse and cart. That's how they came in Vienna with horse and cart.

11:38:06:23

Interviewer

Um, Howard there is a lot of stuff I still want to ask you, kind of a broader

perspective.

11:38:12:18

Howard

Yes ok.

11:38:14:06

Interviewer

Um, but just that, just I'm going to ask you that question one more time about how you saw your mum for the first time. Do you remember how you, how you were reunited?

11:38:22:06

Howard

Well she you know, she could not believe that I was the young boy who went into the army, because she always thought, because the older boy your told is always the best boy, and she thought my brother would be the in the army and I wouldn't because I'd be, I'd be the youngest you see, and she just could not believe that I when I arrived I was the one, that I was the one in the army really. And she was so, so and she was telling all the people around, you know, "Look at my son, look what you went through" and she used to and I felt, used to felt a bit embarrassed because there's me sort of young man you know with a pipe trying to make a good impression, she used to hang on to my arm, with a, you know 65 year old lady, you know what's this guy doing with a 65 year old sort of thing. No, she really so proud my broth,

11:39:19:22

Natasha

She was obviously terribly proud of you of what, who you had become.

11:39:21:14

Howard [*talking over Natasha*]

It must have been, and, but I'm afraid, well it, I'll go into a long story then because it's really not quite the end of it because later in life she got very much disappointment again. But I'll ask you to, perhaps you'll ask me later on about it?

11:39:47:16

Natasha

No tell me now. What was that about?

11:39:49:18

Howard

Well she, eventually she went to America. I, I stayed, I stayed in, in Vienna. I finished my army career. I finished my army career in, in Austria and came back to, came back to England. And it was always her dream to get the family together again. I mean it, we knew it wasn't we going to be, it was a dream not to get the uncle back again because by that time we knew he'd, he'd gone. But she always thought you know at least you know we'd get him, but it wasn't, it wasn't, it wasn't going to happen. My brother by that time seven years older, what was about, what was it 25-26 and married and already had a, had a boy at that time. I had a girlfriend and got

engaged, when I got, when I got back to England, really, later to be my wife. And it just, it just didn't happen, and she could, it was so sad that in all the, all the years, in all the years really she must have suffered in all the years, waited for the war to finish that it never, it never happened and what's even more unfortunate she really didn't get on very well with my brother's wife. They were not very pleasant, no not, just well I'll say just what I say, she just didn't get on with her. They didn't get on with her.

11:41:19:09

Interviewer

So have you ever been reunited as a family together then? Did you ever gather again?

11:41:26:03

Howard

Yes, er, we were once together at Niagara falls. We were once together, my brother lived at Buffalo, New York at that time. He lived in Buffalo, New York and we, my mother she was there. I arrived there. My mother who had a good sense of humour she saw me arriving. And she saw the, I was terribly hard up at the time and she saw my suitcase and she saw with a string around about the suitcase because the lock wasn't working in the suitcase, and she said to me, you know, kisses, kisses, kisses, but "Is that your suitcase?" I said, "Yes" hmm "Christopher Columbus came with better luggage than you did." [*Laughs*] So that's what my mother think that Columbus came with better luggage than when I arrived in America. Yes, we came we had short, we went over in America my first wife - my first wife died you know - and she always wanted us to go over there and join my brother. My brother was settled in America. There was no way my brother was going to get out of America. He was the all-American boy by that time. Now I took my first wife over there, and there was a problem you see because she, she had a family here, and the problem, the problem arose then, does she leave her, does she, does she leave her family in England to go and join my family in America? Isn't that, I mean that's, that was an insurmountable problem. As you see, I stayed in England but that was a long, quite a long going on battle to see if I would go over there but she was disappointed that my, my, I think I would have had to get divorced really to, to go back to America.

11:43:36:20

Interviewer

How much, did you share with your mum of what had happened? Do you remember there being big sessions where you'd discussed what had happened to both of you and your different experiences during the war?

11:43:55:11

Howard

No. I can't really, I can't really think about it, the only just think when my, you know how awful I felt when my brother got dragged out and told, you know, see in the middle of the night to scrub the street for the graffiti, you know. How terrible I felt, is that the sort of thing you meant? You know and all these things. And then the other thing which was of interest really, she had, she had a friend obviously she was single, I mean she was, I will say so although myself, she was a very good -looking lady, and she had quite a lot of boyfriends and one particular, one particular

boyfriend, was, I think he had a bit of a title. I don't know if that impressed her, I don't know. But they went out, you know, knew each other for quite a number of years but within a month after the Germans came, he dropped her like a hot potato because she was Jewish. He wasn't Jewish, and how could I be, how could I be Jewish, how could I be seen with a Jewish woman. And I think that was terrible really because you know she really was quite fond of the guy. And he just dropped her like that.

11:45:22:09

Interviewer

So we've have been through most of the key parts of your life. I feel that we could probably talk for another week and still not exhaust all your amazing stories. You've got such extraordinary memory, and so many varied stories, so thank you for all the stories that you've shared so far. Um, I guess what I would like to do now is talk a little bit about Beth Shalom, about the commitment that you make to helping projects like this and in the way that you share your testimony. And whether or not you feel like we have learnt any lessons from that period of history and I'd also if you can like you tell me about what happened to Robert?

11:46:07:17

Howard

Robert committed suicide. My brother committed suicide in October of last year, just over a year ago. My brother was the American Dream. He went from a manager at Singer sewing machines - who he worked for - shop manager, district manager, area manager, vice-president of the company. The real, the real American, the real American dream and he was going to get me an affidavit to get over there, but it was too late but he, it was the American dream. His wife was good for him, I suppose they were in America. If light the, if you climb the ladder in America your wife has got to climb with you. There's no doubt about it and we've seen, and we've seen that because if you get interviewed the wife gets interviewed as well. But unfortunately as time went on that when he retired, he retired in Florida, they had a, and then she got slowly Alzheimers. He was doing very well when he was 90 and I think after he was 90 years old her Alzheimers became worse and worse and worse and he would have, he wouldn't have anybody in the house to, to help. He, his son who lived in, er, Cape Cod, his daughter in Nashville Tennessee. And he couldn't stand it any longer - he had a bad fall by the way, he had a bad fall himself which I think made life difficult for him while walking - and I think in the circumstances what with him being poorly and I think with the, with the, you know with him with the situation as it was with her, it, you know he used to tell me I mean she used to do silly things like putting washing down the toilet and putting tooth, instead of putting powder on the face she used to put toothpaste on the face and it was you know all sorts of things anyway, and I got a telephone call today that he, he killed her, he killed her and then he killed himself. And very, very and very, very, very, very sad and I don't think I will ever quite get over it because, it's the past really which somehow won't go away. It just won't go away. And his son was over here not so long ago. His son got married again and, he's, he knows how I feel, he knows how I feel - and his daughter. There's only one thing I will not forgive him, and he would not admit to the children that he was Jewish. And I will tell you why, because when he went over to America, he was told don't broadcast that you're Jewish - excuse me - It doesn't do you any good. You won't get a, it'll be more difficult to get a job, and of course in those, in those days Jews and blacks you know they didn't used to have them on golf courses

and places like that. But somehow he got into this rhythm that he would, that he wasn't Jewish, and unfortunately he let it get on and I, he knows, he knows that I never quite and he, he says;;well that he knew how I felt and he knew that we're not brought up religiously but we knew what our religion was and I think it was not right really to let the children know really, what his, what his past was.

11:50:44:10

Interviewer

How did they find out? Or maybe they don't know properly?

11:50:50:00

Howard

I told; I told them. I told his, I told his son.

11:50:55:05

Interviewer

After he died?

11:50:56:22

Howard

No, no. I told him but they never, they never discussed it with him. They didn't want to discuss the subject, the subject was never, the subject was never discussed.

11:51:09:14

Interviewer

How heart-breaking for him that he lived with so much turmoil.

11:51:15:11

Howard

I don't know. I don't know was it? Was it really that? Why, I mean, there was nothing in saying well look especially in America, look we're refugees we've come over here, what does it matter in America? I mean, ok, if when he first came over maybe for a year but to go through his life. There was no reason I can't, I can't quite, I can't quite understand why he had to go right through his life to the end, that he never, he never really, he never really told the kids that he was Jewish.

11:51:55:08

Interviewer

So that leads me to ask you, Howard, about how honest you've been with your family and how open you were with them as they grew up about your past?

11:52:07:22

Howard

Oh absolutely, absolutely. They all know about my first wife who died, my first wife died about 30 years ago, she had cancer, unfortunately she was I think 40-48 or something like that. Oh they all, I mean they all know the story, you know. They were all supportive, and they, they think what I'm doing and my wife, you know, my lads, that of course is my wife from my first wife I brought Bob who is here, they are absolutely supportive. And he does, he does a day every week as a volunteer at

Laxton. He does, he does a day at Laxton. Very, very, very supportive and I mean nothing to do with the Jewish religion. I mean, very, very pro if you like because of my, of my attitude sort of thing and then maybe, maybe swayed on certain, on certain things when it comes to it. But marvellous.

11:53:18:06

Interviewer

How important do you think it is for people like you to share their stories? And to record them in the way that we're doing today?

11:53:25:15

Howard

I think it's important. I think it's essential. I mean, I mean the fact, the fact remains that, I mean I'm not here for all that much longer. Although I don't intend to go, but it's got the stories got to be told. And it shouldn't, it shouldn't, it shouldn't be forgotten, and I think what, this Holocaust idea is really what the government introduced really is marvellous. I'm concerned, I'm concerned that it isn't over-heavy in London and not enough in the, it doesn't go into the provinces. I'm a little, I'm a little bit anxious about that. Er, I know most of the Jewish people live in London and I know everything normally like the Kindertransport events and so on, it's all happening in London and so on. But never, nevertheless there are big population of Jews in Manchester, Leeds and so on,

11:54:31:10

Interviewer

But Howard I think the important thing to note is it's not just for the Jewish population. The memorial and the museum that's going to be built is for all of us to learn about what happened. It's for the generations to come to understand what happened to people like you and, um, to make sure that it doesn't happen again.

11:54:53:07

Howard

Well that's right.

11:54:54:13

Interviewer

So, so tell me about how that feels? How important you feel it is to be part of a project to engage people to understand what happened all those years ago?

11:55:07:24

Howard

I'm very lucky. I'm very lucky to have had the opportunity to be able to do that. Aren't I? I'm very lucky to have the opportunity that maybe in, in twenty years' time they'll say, "oh listen, listen to him, let's hear what happened to him".

11:55:25:15

Interviewer

I think we're the lucky ones actually. It's not you who's lucky. We're lucky to have the opportunity to listen to you.

11:55:27:19

Howard [*talking over Natasha*]

We're the lucky ones really. No I really, I really do I mean I think it's absolutely essential really, absolutely essential. And I think it's been ignored for too long. There's too many, too many countries that still ignore it. Too many - even America. Even America. Because when I talk to my nephew in America I think we're now doing a lot more in this country than they do in America. You know when he hears what we're doing here.

11:56:00:22

Interviewer

So if you had a message to speak to your nephew's great, great, great, great grandchildren, with everything that you have been through Howard, what message would you deliver?

11:56:20:10

Howard

Oh well you've put me on the spot haven't you really? My message really is be honest to yourself and make sure that what has happened is not, is not forgotten. And do everything in your power to ensure, whatever you can, that this doesn't, this does go on, and it doesn't, doesn't get lost under the carpet somewhere. It may not always be easy. You may not always find that people are sympathetic towards it. You know they may say, oh you know the Holocaust and sort of thing a long time ago, and you know we've got something else now come up which is more important. But not so. I think that, I think the Holocaust, I think is so, so standing on its own really, because I think how it shouldn't be forgotten forever. For whatever, whatever can be. What else, what else, what else can they do? What else can they do but just go from one generation to the next. That's how, that's the way it's got to go, from one generation to the next.

11:57:45:14

Interviewer

And when you look at the news now and you see the refugee crisis and you see the wars that are starting, do you feel like it's a different reason that we're going to war, or do you feel like there are some lessons that we still haven't learnt? Are there some themes that we haven't addressed, or not? There's no right answer, I'm just asking for your thoughts.

11:58:15:00

Howard

I think, I think it's difficult, I, [*Long pause*] I really, I really think that the, I don't know, I don't know how to put it without it, I think human beings have been so intolerable to each other. I think they have; they don't have time for your next door. I don't think, I don't think they care. I think the care has gone a lot out of, out of, out of people really. I think they; I don't think, Human, human beings don't mean the same, don't mean the same thing that it that used to be. It's, it's become, my brother's last words to me, and he rang me up ten minutes before he killed himself. He says, he says to me: "Howard it's become a terrible world." You know that's what, that's what he said

to me. I didn't know he was going to do that then. I thought it was just a normal call. I didn't know he was going to do that. But I think that's the only way I can put it that I don't know how you feel about this, perhaps I'm throwing the ball back into your court on this? I think we've got to try and live with each other. We've got to. We've got to but how do we do it? How do we get the politicians to do it? How do we get the right people? I don't think we've got the right people in this country. Without being political. I don't think, I don't think we've got the right people here at the moment. You know I think, You when I talk to the kids at, at Laxton, they sort of, and I talk at some length and you say to them, you've got to you know, I drill into them, because you know you get, get Asian kids and black kids and you know I says, you know shake hands with him you've got to be neighbours as you've all got enough, you've got to but how do you get it into adults? And, I mean you say there's things, things happening in Syria that can't happen in Ireland. It's a ridiculous situation really. You know we talk about things I know nobody's being beheaded in Ireland, but I mean don't we have some awful cases in Ireland? How far away from us?

12:01:27:05

Interviewer

How do you feel towards the Nazis now? With perspective in your life looking back at the experiences you had as a young man?

12:01:37:11

Howard

The Nazis? Well of course you know you've heard me say, it all, it stems back really to a certain, to a certain extent back to the Versailles Treaty. I think if you hear people, er, if you, if you talk to people long enough and say the same thing for long enough eventually they will, they will listen. They will listen. They're beginning to listen unfortunately now in France. I don't know if you heard about the latest French elections really. The latest French elections are not good as far, as far as we're concerned really. Again it's been drilled into, into, into them really. But as far, as far as the Nazi's...I make the point, I make the point, and this is important, and I say this to the kids. Now I talk about the Germans, and I talk about the Nazis. Don't get them mixed up. Because I says, don't talk about, the Germans are a different generation, they don't know what's happened ok, but I says; the Nazis you know that's a different thing. And when I, when I'm in, when I'm in Vienna and when I'm in Salzburg or somewhere and I see a man about my age, I can't help but going by them and often say to my wife, "look at him. I wonder what he was doing during the war?" It's a, it's a silly thing I do but something I really do I just say you know this Nazi, "what were you doing during the war?" And, and the fact, and the fact is that these Nazis all saying they were under orders, under orders, is not an excuse. I know, I know you can, you can only do, you should only do so many things as a human being which you, which you are asked to do. Even if you're Nazis, really you shouldn't be able to stand by and do some of the things which they did. Aren't they really? I mean they, excuses; oh well we were under orders to do it. These Nazis. You were, you were under the orders to do it.

12:04:08:22

Interviewer

I've got two more questions for you. One of them is a bit about Beth Shalom. It's an extraordinary exhibition isn't it?

12:04:17:17

Howard

It is.

12:04:18:12

Interviewer

Are you one of the people - the educators - when the children come out at the other end? How do you get involved with Beth Shalom? Is that where you talk?

12:04:28:13

Howard

I go and talk to them. I go and,

12:04:31:14

Interviewer

So is it after they've been on the journey? When they come out then you speak to them? And how do they respond?

12:04:37:04

Howard

No, no, I don't.

12:04:38:03

Interviewer

No. Ok.

12:04:39:24

Howard

No I just, I just speak to them in the,

12:04:41:15

Interviewer

In the classroom?

12:04:42:13

Howard

in the classrooms.

12:04:43:05

Interviewer

I see. Ok. And how do you find the younger generation deal with the experiences that you share?

12:04:51:17

Howard

Very good. I think it's very, very worthwhile. You should see the stuff I've got at home, where they've sent me things really from schools and so on. And say you

know, how you know; “thank you very much and it was so interesting.” And you could see it wasn’t just the teachers that made them. I think they really did it; I think they; I’ve got stuff you know quite a few letters and things really. Some of them, some of the teachers I’ve given, they don’t say thank you, it’s more really the kids that say thank you. The teachers don’t always say thank you. But we know,

12:05:29:06

Interviewer

And why do you think it’s important to share your story, at school?

12:05:36:09

Howard

What at?

12:05:37:00

Interviewer

Why do you do it? Why do you go and talk to the children?

12:05:41:14

Howard

Well it’s the same as why am I having this, why am I having this, the same thing, I’m still here at the moment. They can, sometimes they even ask me for an autograph, and I feel very, very important you know, I mean you know they bring this book; “Sir, would you mind signing this autograph?” and I say yes that will be alright £20 and they’ll soon you know. No it’s, it’s exactly the same thing really, you know and so somehow they show respect. They show you a certain amount of respect. And I think when the, when the teachers came, come back and you feel really that, feel that they’ve been part of a story, better than just having seen it in a room or perhaps, read in a book that they’ve had personal contact and I think that’s the, that’s the important thing, the personal, the personal contact with somebody who’s been there, who’s seen it, who’s seen it all. Well not all but quite a lot of it.

12:06:52:16

Interviewer

I would just like to give you one more opportunity in preparing for this discussion I’m sure you thought of some of the things you might want to say to me, and I wonder if there’s anything that I’ve missed or that you wanted to say that I haven’t given you a chance to say?

12:07:09:04

Howard

Well we’ve gone, we’ve gone through most, we’ve gone through the most of the story. I appreciate very much that you get involved er, and I know that we’re aware of the other contributions you personally make to this, which is particularly important really, as not that many do it and we, we’re all aware of it and I think so should you be. I really sort of feel that, I don’t know what to say. Just to hope that you will continue with this good work really. It’s, it’s wonderful what you’re doing really it’s because, when you ask these questions, you can ask a question and, in one way, like a cold question and you think then you get a cold answer and the way, the way you ask me you feel, you feel as you are really interested. You really, you feel really

that when I say to you, you know; how did, how did the people at the kids at the train that you almost feel how these kids on the train felt. And I feel, I feel the same that as you are asking the question I know how you feel.

12:08:36:18

Interviewer

Thank you. I didn't mean you to compliment me just then. I'm very grateful that you did.

12:08:38:16

Howard

No I don't, I'm not complimenting, I'm not, I'm giving you the facts, I'm not complimenting. I'm just giving you the facts that, that makes me, I'm getting, I'm always being asked questions really and you know normally I mean next month on Holocaust day they usually two or three places that only get questions but there's one thing of asking a question and one thing else, it makes all the difference because I feel you're asking the question and you really interested and it's not just a question.

12:09:12:05

Interviewer

No it really isn't and I'm sure everybody in this room and everybody listening downstairs and all the people who will be able to hear your story in years to come will just say the same as me which is, I think you're an amazing man. Full of admiration for everything that you have been through, and the fact that you're generous enough, and strong enough, to share your story will make a difference to so many people and that's what's important.

12:09:38:09

Howard

I hope it does, I hope it does. I, you know there's not much else you can do. I just feel I owe it to my mother. I owe it to my uncle. I really owe it to the millions of people that died. I think. I really, it's somewhere like, do you know I feel like paying a debt. Do you understand this? I mean, some of us have gone through feel, feel fortunate no, not fortunate guilty that I've got through it, that they weren't, that they weren't at Auschwitz. There are some people, in fact there have been 2 or 3 people which you read from time to time who killed themselves because they felt the guilt that they weren't at Auschwitz. Can you understand that? That they weren't at Auschwitz? So really, that's the way, that's the way I feel. I hope my son will feel the same, the same way, really. I try and educate him as well as I can. It's a bit late in the day. I try to get him onto classical music but he's a waste of time. He likes pop but I can't alter that.

12:10:56:02

Interviewer

Oh he's not still after the Spice Girls is he?

12:10:59:08

Howard

I can't, I can't alter that. But he's a nice lad and I've got a very nice wife as well.

12:11:05:15

Interviewer

I'm sure you have.

12:11:07:06

Howard

who's been very and I haven't been very well all that well lately and she looks after me. I've had a very, very lovely first wife as well and I was fortunate in that respect as well and all I can say to you, all together I've been a lucky man in spite, in spite of all the things that have happened.

12:11:25:22

Interviewer

Yes. Well thank you so much for talking to me about it today.

END OF INTERVIEW

ARTEFACTS

ARTEFACT 1: scan of a photograph of Howard at the age of about 4 with his father and elder brother

12:11:32:05

Howard

This [...] is a photograph of, my father, and my brother and myself when I was about four years old I think. It'll be [...] 1930-1931.

ARTEFACT 2: scan of the advert his mother placed in *The Times* on 8 February 1939

12:11:49:16

Howard

Well this is the famous advert which my mother - God bless her - advertised me in *The Times*, on the 8th of February 1939 [...] it asked for a boy to be given a home in England. [...] I think this advert literally saved my life. I think if it hadn't been in there I don't think I'd be here to talk about it.

ARTEFACT 3: scan of a photograph of Howard and Rosemary, his first wife probably in 1944

12:12:17:12

Howard

this is a photograph of my wife, my first wife Rosemary which is, was Bob's mum, and myself. I'd just joined the army then and er [...] I would imagine it was about 1944 something like that. [...] happy days and we were obviously enjoying life. [...] it's a photograph full of memories [...] She's the lady that I went absent without leave after I'd been to London, and had the weekend off, I thought while I get punished I might as well get punished for the lot.

ARTEFACT 4: scan of an airgraph

12:12:54:05

Howard

This is a [...] letter of sorts. [...] airgraph they called this in those days. I think you

could get from the post office really, which when I was in the army and sent to my brother who lives in Buffalo, New York [...] some guy maybe at some fair or somewhere like that who used to sort of draw you for a few pence isn't it [...] I would have recognized myself. Police may not have done [...] And at the same time also put Winston Churchill with his big cigar. he got Churchill very, very good really er [...] this is a nice memory that my brother saved it and I've got it back again now.

ARTEFACT 5: scan of certificate signed by George VI

12:13:40:13

Howard

This is a certificate from, King George, [...] the 6th [...] To say that I served until 1944 when I joined the army. I used to go and, at night and man anti-aircraft guns which were over Nottingham. Either anti-aircraft guns or search lights really. The only trouble was that if there was nothing happening we used to play cards all night which used to cost me a fortune because I always used to lose.

ARTEFACT 6: scan of a postcard of pre-war Vienna

No commentary

ARTEFACT 7: scan of a photograph of the family shop in Vienna

No commentary

ARTEFACT 8: scan of a photograph of Howard's father, Julius Knedel, at his desk

No commentary

ARTEFACT 9: scan of a passport photograph of Howard's father, Julius Knedel, and beneath a 12-month travel pass, Vienna.

ARTEFACT 10: scan of a photograph of a baby [father?]

No commentary

ARTEFACT 11: scan of a photograph of another baby [mother?]

No commentary

ARTEFACT 12: scan of a photograph of "Grandma Kendall"

No commentary

ARTEFACT 13: scan of a photograph of an unidentified man with two unidentified children and a doll

No commentary

ARTEFACT 14: scan of a photograph of a bathing party

No commentary

ARTEFACT 15: scan of a photograph of an unidentified man and woman posing at a swimming pool

No commentary

ARTEFACT 16: scan of a photograph of "Mother with Sister and 2 Brothers"

beneath the faces is written [L to R] “Grete,” “Else,” “Kirk” “Hans”

No commentary

ARTEFACT 17: scan of a photograph of Howard’s mother with a dog. Both wearing army caps

No commentary

ARTEFACT 18: scan of a photograph of an artillery detachment

No commentary

ARTEFACT 19: scan of a photograph of Howard’s mother walking down a street

No commentary

ARTEFACT 20: scan of a photograph of Howard’s parents

No commentary

ARTEFACT 21: scan of a photograph of an unidentified woman cradling a dachshund

No commentary

ARTEFACT 22: scan of a portrait photograph of an unidentified man in a shirt and tie

No commentary

ARTEFACT 23: scan of a portrait photograph of an unidentified woman in a gown and fur stole

No commentary

ARTEFACT 24: scan of a photograph of an unidentified man and woman in full folk costume

No commentary

ARTEFACT 25: scan of a photograph of an unidentified woman in a white suit and hat

No commentary

ARTEFACT 26: scan of a photograph of two unidentified boys by a boat

No commentary

ARTEFACT 27: scan of a photograph of Howard Kendall

No commentary

ARTEFACT 28: scan of a photograph of an unidentified boy holding a newspaper

No commentary

ARTEFACT 29: scan of a photograph of Howard and his elder brother, Robert

No commentary

ARTEFACT 30: Boy Scout camp [?]

ARTEFACT 31: scan of Howard's [then called Heinz] Austrian Scout Association certificate

No commentary

ARTEFACT 32: scan of the back of Howard's Austrian Scout Association certificate

No commentary

ARTEFACT 33 scan of *The Times*, Wednesday 8th February 1939

No commentary

ARTEFACT 34: bottom of the page above showing the advertisement Howard's mother placed in the personal columns

No commentary

ARTEFACT 35: scan of a photograph of Howard in Nottingham. Mother seated.

No commentary

ARTEFACT 36: scan of Howard's application form to join the Territorial Army dated January 1944

No commentary

ARTEFACT 37: scan of back of Howard's application form to join the Territorial Army dated January 1944

No commentary

ARTEFACT 38: portrait photograph of Howard in a jacket and tie

No commentary

ARTEFACT 39: scan of a photograph of Howard lying in a field. The three stripes on his shirt indicate that he has reached the rank of sergeant.

No commentary

ARTEFACT 40: scan of a photograph of Harold in army issue shorts smoking a pipe

No commentary

ARTEFACT 41: scan of a photograph of Harold, seated outside, wearing his army issue cap

No commentary

ARTEFACT 42: scan of a photograph of Harold and his first wife, Rosemary, in England 1944

No commentary

ARTEFACT 43: scan of a photograph of Harold and two colleagues in the army [possibly taken in Germany?]

No commentary

ARTEFACT 44: Harold in uniform

No commentary

ARTEFACT 45: Harold in army uniform with his mother

No commentary

ARTEFACT 46: scan of a photograph of Harold in a turtleneck sweater

No commentary

ARTEFACT 47: scan of a photograph of man and woman seated outside a house [Harold's brother & sister-in-law in America?]

No commentary

ARTEFACT 48: scan of a photograph of three unidentified women and a man

No commentary

ARTEFACT 49: scan of a photograph of two unidentified women and a man seated at a restaurant table

No commentary

ARTEFACT 50: scan of a photograph of Harold talking to an unidentified

No commentary

ARTEFACT 51: scan of a photograph of Harold's brother, Robert, when he worked for Singer

No commentary

ARTEFACT 52: scan of a photograph of Howard's mother with a dachshund

No commentary

ARTEFACT 53: scan of a photograph of an unidentified man with a bulldog and a chihuahua

No commentary

ARTEFACT 54: scan of a photograph of Howard's mother with her grandchildren (brother, Robert's children)

No commentary

ARTEFACT 55: scan of a photograph of Howard's nephew and niece

No commentary

ARTEFACT 56: scan of a photograph of Howard's brother, Robert's family in America with his mother

No commentary

ARTEFACT 57: scan of a photograph of a First Prize tag from a dog show in America

No commentary

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Caption: FIRST POSTWAR JOB

12:18:38:20

Howard

my first job was a spaceman. Now what's a spaceman? Don't you know, who's going, don't anyone know what a spaceman is? I'm surprised. I'm surprised, your supposed to be the - spaceman is people sell advertising space. They're called spacemen. Either if you sell advertising space in say for instance like a restaurant, menus or football fixture things in the, in the pub or anywhere, anywhere where you need, you know, advertising space. So your, so I was a spaceman. So now you know what a spaceman is you see.

Caption: HOWARD'S NEXT JOB

12:19:33:19

I worked at Raleigh. Raleigh bicycle until I got the, until I got the push. Until I got the sack.

Caption: THE GROUNDS FOR HIS DISMISSAL

12:19:49:40

Howard

I told the managing director he's got no manners. Because he kept, they had glass swing doors, and he kept swinging these, these and when she goes through and he happened to be there he let the swing doors always go, he'd never hold these swing doors open and once he went through and the thing, the thing really hit me. So I told him he's got no manners and somehow, they didn't find it necessary to have my services after a few weeks.

Caption: HOWARD THEN WORKED FOR HIS LOCAL AUTHORITY

12:20:26:04

Howard

I worked for the local authority. And while working for the local authority I was very much involved in the, in the twinning of Nottingham with the city, they have, a lot of twinings in Nottingham with a number of cities in Europe. But I was particularly involved with a place in Germany called Karlsruhe. Have you heard of Karlsruhe? I was particularly Karlsruhe involved. I used to go over there, and you used to do things like for instance when you used to have all these exchanges, I used to go to the police bands across the Karlsruhe if they need an interpreter and I you used to sort of act as interpreter and generally helped to keep the twinning arrangements going. I mean twinning, it's a funny thing they're either keen on these things or they're not. The local authority are either prepared to put the money to it, in which case it goes or if they don't want to put the money to it, then it just falls through. It costs, it costs money. On the continent they are more prepared to put money to it than we do in this country. Surprised? *[Laughs]*