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A: ...live to take long enough. Anyway, a very funny interview, we seem to be jumping from...

Q: After you returned to London and founded a family, did it ever come to your mind to visit Austria? Did you try to claim some form of restitution?

A: I'll tell you something. After I was in Vienna that time, I had a cousin...she's dead now, she went back to *Deutschkreutz*. And she said that the cemetery is no more, some of the stones are in the wall or something...I never went to see that. And *die Synagoge* was a supermarket, I didn't want to see it, I didn't want to go. I made up my mind I wasn't gonna go.

Q: Did any Austrian authority approach you to invite you for a visit?

A: I had, I had...I have a pension, can't work it up...but I got this pension because my husband came from Vienna. I get...what...you reckon it out, I think it's about 600 something Euro every two months, so that...

Q: But you never heard anything from "official" Austria?

A: No.

Q: After your family was exiled from Austria, you went to Israel for a short time. Did you want to fight for the Independence of Israel?

A: For entry from displaced persons, that was the object, yes.

Q: Then you came back to England. So, all in all, how would you describe your identity?

A: Well, primarily as a Jewess, yes. Country...I feel I always had been (???)¹ to England, because they had given me shelter. I never sort of dwelt into that, to me primarily it's there for the (???)². I told you I became totally irreligious, I agree. And then, after I was married – funny this, you know – when my children were small, we kept the holidays, we kept the kosher household. As I said, my husband...he knew how I felt, yes, he understood, and he tried to get me change my views. Well, I said to him "I feel bad about one thing, as small children, I had such a beautiful childhood, there was so much to look forward to...not talking now only about the Shabbat and the holidays, and each one was a highlight, yes...and alright, we'll do it." But children, funnily enough, can look through. They can suss out if you're genuine or not. On one day, an acquaintance of ours was here, and you know, although I never talked about religion before, the discussion came to religion. I told him, he was a very religious person, and I told him how I felt, and I told him I can find no...as a child, you have ultimate faith and belief, but a belief that only a child can believe. So he said "I'd like you to go and speak to a big rabbi. He's in America "Well they had a charter those days to go back...38 years, I go by my children's age, you know, they were small. And that was also awkward, cause we went and the children were running about, and I couldn't get them to...so we asked if we could go in again, we asked the secretary, so he said yes, if we are prepared to wait. And then we saw all the people who waited. And I said yes, and anyway, we went in at about seven o'clock in the evening, because people with children had...we put them to bed, they stayed with the family. And we came back and we sat there till half past seven in the morning. Then it was our turn, and I said to him "I can't...as far as I'm concerned, God is not a good God" So he said to me "I'm very pleased that you feel like this" I looked at him and thought that's a most illogical question...answer, so he said "As long as you have a feeling, there is a connection. When you stop feeling, then there is no chance of connecting". So he said "I'd like you to do..."we were in there for about an hour, "a couple of things I'd like you to do" And I thought they were ridiculous, you know, I don't want to go into them. I thought "What I've got to lose, I'm gonna try" At first it was very funny, but it worked, I feel I had my faith back, let's say that. I mean, this was one of the things he said "If you were meant to understand the ways of God, he would have created you as such", which is...that makes sense to me, yes. Anyway, it was a very worthwhile experience, and I went to see him another few times. I used to write, I used to write, and he used to answer, you know,

¹ Wort nicht verstanden, Anm. AP

² leider nicht verstanden, Anm. AP

like queries. And my son...and my son is a rabbi in the (???)³. He is very hard to get hold of, he lives next door, and I practically have to make an appointment, because he is always out...everybody seems to have problems, you know? He's always on call, and he helps me with business. My daughter is not interested in any of it, my grandchildren are gorgeous, naturally, I'm proud of this. What else can I tell you, have you asked all your questions?

Q: Have you also noticed the growing anti-Semitism throughout Europe in the last years? Have you ever personally experienced anything?

A: I'll tell you something. I had one encounter. I fetched my daughter and my niece home from school, and there were...I can't remember this...there were two or three of them, and they started up with me. And I got the girls out of the car into the house. In the cupboard just by the door, I keep a broom for sweeping the front. I put the kids in, I took that broom and I went out, cause I thought that...(???)⁴. I think they must have seen my face, because I was so angry...they ran away. The next day, a neighbour, she's moved now, crossed the road, she started with her. But how did they start? They pulled her flowers out in the front garden. And she came and she said, "Girls, why are you pulling out my flowers?" And the only thing I was annoyed about was that I wasn't there, because I would have loved to be there. I tell you, I'm good as gold, if people behave decent, but if somebody starts, I get very...not nice. Otherwise, I don't think I had encountered anything. I know quite a lot of non-Jewish people, and I know that sounds terrible, that's not for publication: I get on well with them, I like them a lot, we like each other, but you say in English "when it comes to push and shove", if any of this happened here, I wouldn't put my hand into fire that they wouldn't dare...let's put it like that. That sounds terrible...

Q: Do you believe that the idea of creating a Jewish state after the horrors of the Holocaust was to give Jews a safe home?

A: Yes.

Q: If anti-Semitism were on the rise again in Europe, and atrocities would happen again, which of course we hope not to happen, would you believe that the present state of Israel could protect the Jews living in Europe?

A: I don't know, I haven't thought about it. I know one thing: you see, you are going into a field of much controversy, because when I...let us say...the refugee camps, Palestine refugee camps...I think myself that they are terrible, but I think when I look at the amount of space of the Arab world, and I look at the amount of space of Israel in proportion, they took in from Yemen, from Russia, from anywhere, big number, now the amount of Palestinians which were there to begin with couldn't be enough, so...Iran, Iraq, Egypt, well, you know probably geography better than me. And I think it's terrible that people use people as a political weapon, but that's only as far as my view...not very clever, but, that's my logic. I felt that if...rather than to live with them, they should have found a place for them.

Q: Do you want to give any final statement, or do you feel that I forgot to ask any specific important details?

A: Regarding what? I told you I'm not going to volunteer, I told you some things, but there are...that's maybe 30% of what I could tell you.

Q: It must be pretty exhausting to have to recollect these memories and to verbalize them...

A: There are certain memories you don't share universally, I mean...even on the tape, yes, I think that was about an hour and a half, I do always telling children if something reminds me of something, yes. But they are for family consumption. I hope you have the answers...

Q: it's not a question of collecting the answers I am looking for...

A: I mean if it answered some of your questions, but you see, well, when you type it, you can arrange it in dates, because I jumped from one...

³ Wort nicht verstanden, Anm. AP

⁴ leider nicht verstanden, Anm. AP

Q: Anyway, I don't like to conduct my interviews with a rigid structure and lead the interview partner from one point in time to the next. I know how memory works, and if you jump from one period to another, it's not a problem at all.

A: Dates are to me irrelevant, they're just periods. With me, it's pre-Hitler, Hitler, and after Hitler. I have three periods of memories.

Q: There is a question: if you say that you feel a distinction of your life in three periods, what does "Austria" or "Burgenland" mean to you in respect to those three periods?

A: Yes, the difference is, that before Hitler, Austria, *Burgenland* and *Deutschkreutz* – in fact the most people called it (???)⁵, even the non-Jewish people, not *Deutschkreutz* – I've very happy memories. I told you with my children, I wanted them to experience the same. After Hitler, too many bad memories. I wasn't quite ten when I came to England, but certain things make you grow up quick, you know, make you aware, and...I mean I could until about a year ago, I could mention everybody's name who lived there, yes. Now, after I put it down on the tape, I sort of eliminated it, a lot of it. During Hitler, as I said, I must have been a very naïve child, very stupid really...what shall I say...I wasn't afraid, I haven't been afraid. I not afraid of anybody, the only thing I very much hate is...although I haven't experienced it...is physical violence, because I think it's...animals don't go in for violence unless it's for food or if they are attacked, yes. And after coming to England...I remember I used to, I know that sounds terrible, I used to lie in bed in the hostel many times...I think that's not for consumption...and I used to be so cross "Why did my parents send me away? I should have stayed there, I would have helped them!" You know, I remember when the war with Russia came, I used to say "Dear God, please send that *Koch* there", you know, the one who was...childish feelings. But as I said, I was talking with my son one day, and we were talking about immigrants. See, because if you would have asked me 10 years or 20 years after, I remember when my son was small, we were walking down, I even remember the place. And I can't quite remember the question, but it had to do with Jews, non-Jews, and I remember saying to him "Unfortunately, it worked too much. Of all of the creations of God, each one is meant to do his" He must have been about eight or nine. Whereas, we had...there was something coming up a few years ago, maybe 12 years ago, maybe...and...I think we were talking about emigration, and I said to him like this "I can only talk about what I have experienced or my friends have experienced", I said "We are all grateful and we are all hard-working, and I hope none of us would do anything to hurt England in any way" That is my summing up, that is how I feel. Maybe a wrong sentiment, but...I feel that thoughts are not sufficient, I feel actions and deeds are...deeds are what counts. It's nice to ply thoughts, but yes, I talk too much...

Q: Thank you for the interview.

A: ...they thought it was very informative. It gave them a very good picture what life was...I mean *Deutschkreutz ist ein Dorf, ein grosses Dorf, aber ein Dorf, und die Zeiten waren anders. Ich meine, die Mentalität der Menschen war anders, heute...nowadays, the world is open to everything and everybody, yes, and the Internet and the television...unfortunately, what it is, people use good things for bad ends as well. If they wouldn't, it would be wonderful. But they do, don't they?*

(kurze Unterbrechung, Erklärungen über Arbeit der BFG)

A: My mother still spoke Hungarian, and I'll tell you something funny, although I didn't speak it, I understood it...I tell you because you were talking about Hungary. My husband and myself, we had to go to Hungary. And on the way back, we had to stop in Vienna, *mein Glück, ja*. Anyway, you've seen in the movies "flashbacks"? And we were going by taxi, and all of a sudden, the first building I see was the *Rossauer Lände*. But I didn't see it as it is, I saw it as I'd seen it as a child: all the swastikas hanging out, the SS and the SA standing in front...and I said...my husband said "Let's stay and get the next plane. Let me have a look where I lived, where I went to school" So, he left, so I said alright, where shall we go? We left to go to where he lived. We rang the bell, funny, my husband had a beard...and this woman opened the door. When she saw him, I think she saw he'd come to kill her, she was terrified. So, I said to her "Don't be afraid. My husband only wants to visit flat Nr. soandso, because he used to live there." It took me a few minutes to talk to her to get that terrified expression

⁵ Wort nicht verstanden, Anm. AP

out of her face. I'll always remember, and then we went to where he went to school, and the next morning I said "Look, you can stay here. I'm...(???)⁶"

Q: Have you ever heard something from your friend *Pauline* from Vienna?

A: She's in a convent, I suppose. I don't know which convent. (???)⁷...but I was so upset the way she spoke, I would have liked to see her. And *Pauline*, but...I can't remember who told me she was in a convent, I didn't ask which one...

Q: Are you curious about how *Deutschkreutz* looks today?

A: No, I don't want to go back.

Q: No, I mean on pictures.

A: Oh, alright, show me. Have you got one?

Q: No, it was just a question. But if you want, we can send you...

A: I would have liked to see it...but rather not. I remember our house, yes. The house was built, it was a passage like this, and the pavement was higher, and on Shabbat, people used to take the chairs out, used to...the older people used to watch the parade of the...

Q: On the street Jews and non-Jewish families were living side by side? Because in Eisenstadt, they closed the street on Shabbat...

A: How many cars do you think there were...I think there was one bus. If you look on my street, there were four Jewish families and three non-Jewish ones, so...and *Rausitzstrasse*, that was the...the *Heinrichs*, then there was another person, my grandmother, *Goldschmidt*, then the supermarket, then the veterinary, I think something to do with animals, then there was the barber, then there was a Jewish...I'm cross with myself, because I forgot their names, and I can see them in front of me. Then there was another non-Jewish family, they had four boys, they had *Vierer in allem ausser Turnen*, all of them. And they kept a dog on a chain, and one day they let him out. I don't know to what purpose they did it, and there were a few of us, really kids, and they were standing *vor unserem Geschäft*, and the dog came and everybody ran. And they ran and shut the door. They wouldn't let me in, and he bit me. Before Shabbat comes, there was a man, *Schulklopfer* we called him. He used to go to all the houses and say to tell people, and in the morning, when there was time to go for prayers, same thing "*In die Schule*", he used to say. What else can I say, I can't...he remembers more what I told them, but...I'm not at odds and ends, when you look at it in the transcript, it will be most peculiar, you know.

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⁶ leider nicht verstanden, Anm. AP

⁷ leider nicht verstanden, Anm. AP