



Association of Jewish Refugees
SERVING HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS
AND REFUGEES NATIONWIDE
www.ajr.org.uk

Refugee Voices: The AJR Audio-Visual Testimony Archive

'Refugee Voices' is a collection of 150 filmed interviews with former refugees from Nazism now living in Britain. It was commissioned by the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) in 2003, with Dr Anthony Grenville and Dr Bea Lewkowicz directing the project. The collection consists of more than 450 hours of film and will form a very valuable resource for academics, researchers, educationalists and others with a professional interest in the field of refugee, migration and Holocaust studies. The collection has been designed precisely with the requirements of scholars and other professionals in mind.

All interviews have been fully transcribed and catalogued enabling a researcher to be able to see an interview and then to read a transcript of the words spoken in it, or vice versa. For ease of reference, both the films and the transcripts are time-coded, making it possible to locate specific passages with a minimum of effort. Accompanying the collection is a comprehensive database, containing an index of the interviews and details of the interviewees and their life stories. The interviews are being catalogued with 44 separate categories including place of birth, parents' details, manner of emigration, prisons/camps, profession etc, thus providing a wealth of information to researchers, who can easily locate information relevant to a multitude of specific areas of interest, such as Kindertransportees, domestic servants, internment on the Isle of Man, and interviewees from specific places. The majority of interviewees were born in Berlin [31] and Vienna [24].

Each interview is accompanied by still shots of photos of family members and friends, places of importance for the interviewee and of other items or documents of special significance in the interviewee's life. These filmed photographs, artefacts, and documents provide a rich source of images for educational or documentary purposes.

In addition to exploring the contribution to Britain made by the refugees, the interviews cover the wide range of experiences of survivors including an interview with a survivor smuggled to safety from Denmark to Sweden, the testimony of a woman who was 'exchanged' from Bergen Belsen to Switzerland and an interview with the last person alive today who was present at the signing of the Israeli Declaration of Independence. The archive also features interviews with survivors who have rarely spoken about their experiences.

More information about Refugee Voices is at www.refugeevoices.co.uk

© Copyright 2007 the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR)

www.ajr.org.uk +44 20 83 85 30 70

www.refugeevoices.co.uk