

FAMILY WOHL

AN ORDINARY GERMAN JEWISH FAMILY IN 1928



THE FOUR WOHL SISTERS, ULLI, ILSA, EVA(MY MOTHER) AND KÄTE IN 1928



MY GRANDPARENTS, LEONHARD AND CLARA WOHL IN 1928



AUSCHWITZ BIRKENAU

75 YEARS SINCE IT WAS LIBERATED

APPROXIMATE NUMBERS OF HUMAN BEINGS MURDERED -

- Jews. 960,000
- Non-Jewish Polish people 74,000
- Roma/Sinti 21,000
- Soviet prisoners of war 15,000
- Other people. 12,000





MY MOTHER, EVA

MY AUNT, ULLI



EUROPE IN 1933



BUBLITZ, NORTH-EAST GERMANY (POPULATION OF 6,000 - 50 WERE JEWISH)



THERE WERE 67 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN GERMANY IN 1933

- How many of these were Jewish?
- What percentage of the German population?

THERE WERE 67 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN GERMANY IN 1933

There were just over 500,000 Jews in Germany before 1933 representing .7% of the entire German population

100,000 GERMAN JEWS FOUGHT IN THE GERMAN ARMY DURING WORLD WAR I, 1914-1918



12,000 German Jews were killed during the war

18,000 GERMAN JEWS WERE AWARDED THE IRON CROSS



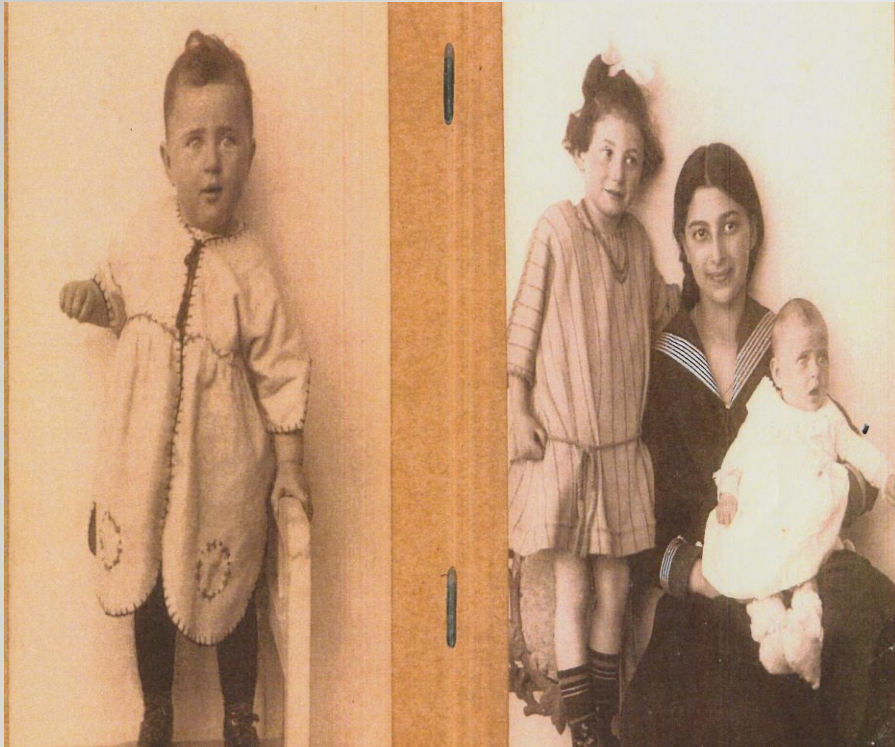
BUBLITZ – M. WOHL THE FAMILY BUSINESS



MY GRANDPARENTS MARRY, FEBRUARY 1922



EVA (1922) AND ULLI (1925) ARE BORN



‘A VERY HAPPY CHILDHOOD’



SCHOOL



'OUR FATHER SPOILED US AND OUR MOTHER BROUGHT US UP'



THE SISTERS ON THE EVE OF THE RISE OF THE NAZIS

My mother
Age 11

Käte
Age 14

Ulli
Age 8

Ilsa
Age 20



HITLER AND THE NAZIS COME TO POWER IN GERMANY, EARLY 1933



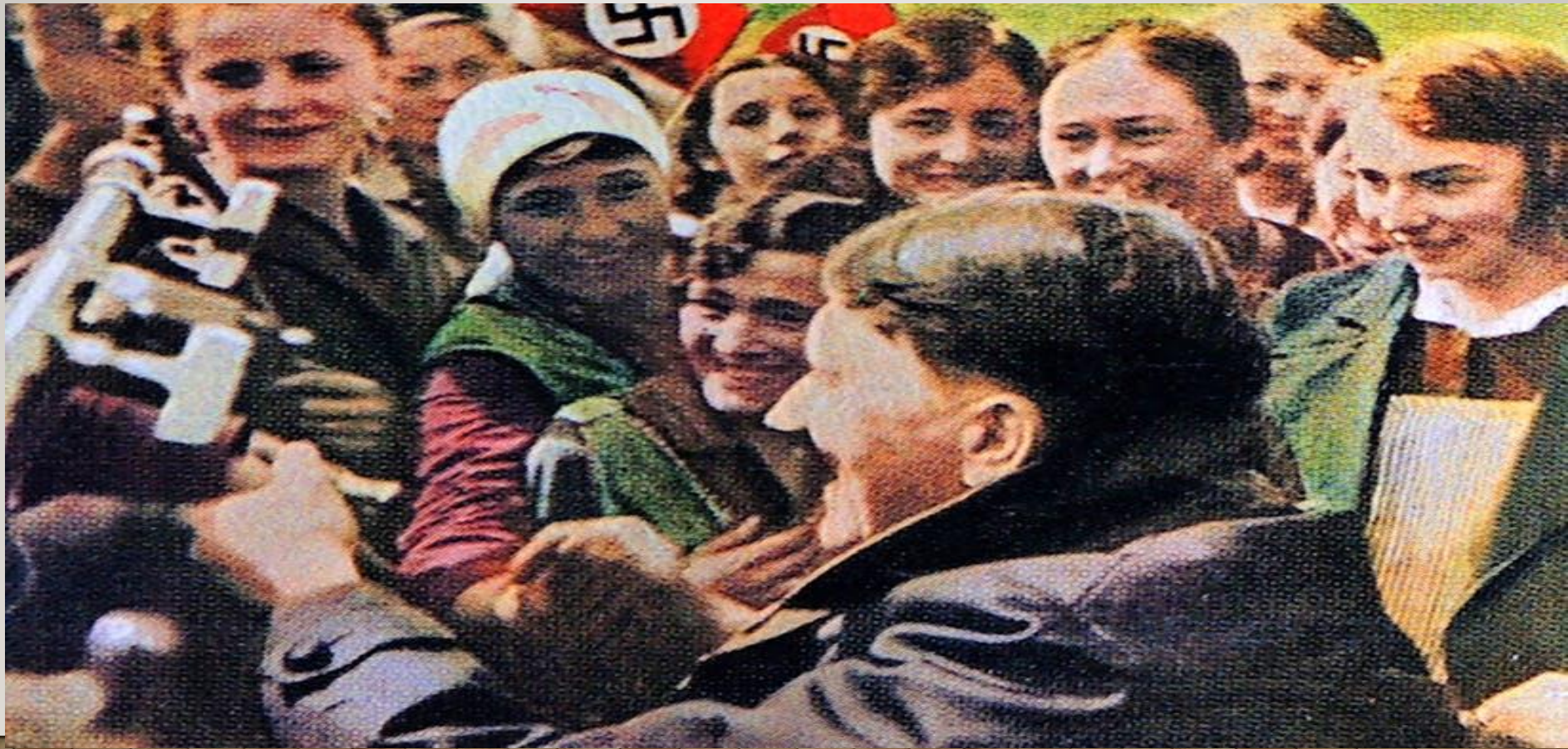
ELECTION NIGHT MARCH 5, 1933



'IT WILL PASS' A WRONG DECISION



A LOT OF PEOPLE IN GERMANY SUPPORTED AND ADORED HITLER



‘DON’T BUY FROM JEWS OR USE THEIR DOCTORS OR LAWYERS’



LIFE CHANGED OVERNIGHT 'BEWARE OF THE JEWS'



RECENT NEWSPAPER HEADLINE.

‘ Mum told me I can’t play with you because you’ve got the virus’: How Chinese children in UK are suffering a racist backlash due to coronavirus as adults are shunned on buses and trains.



JEWISH BOOKS BURNED

THE BURNING OF THE BOOKS

10 May 1933

Books burned in the market square, 1933



NUREMBERG LAWS

MID-SEPTEMBER, 1935



Jews(and other groups) lost their German citizenship-
became 'subjects of the German Empire'

Marriage and sexual relations between Jews and non-
Jews were forbidden

Non Jewish German women (Aryans) under the age of
45 are not allowed to work for Jews

THE NAZIS DEFINED AS JEWISH

Anyone with 3 or more Jewish grandparents were defined as fully Jewish

Those with less than 3 were still affected by anti-Jewish legislation although not to the same extent

OTHER GROUPS ALSO BEING PERSECUTED

People with disabilities

Roma/Sinti (known by many as Gypsies)

Communists and socialists

Homosexuals

Jehovah's Witnesses



**‘EVERY RECREATION WAS CLOSED
TO US’**



e

I UNDERSTOOD THAT JEWS WERE OUTCASTS



I UNDERSTOOD THAT JEWS WERE OUTCASTS



JEWS ARE UNWANTED HERE



JEWS ARE GERMANY'S MISFORTUNE



1937

THE LAST JEWISH CHILD IN BUBLITZ



MY GRANDFATHER'S POEM ABOUT SELLING THE BUSINESS



Often I want to cry...

I am so sad...full of anger...I feel
lousy and mean...You want to puke
in all directions...

Those beautiful times, not granted
any longer, are over, over, over.

‘HEADS UP AND DON’T DESPAIR!’



It is a bitter decision, not voluntary, but a hard necessity is forcing us to leave Bublitz. We only can and must live in hope. Let God prevail.

"Heads up and don't despair."



9-10 NOVEMBER, 1938- KRISTALLNACHT

At least 1000
synagogues set
alight



7,000 Businesses
destroyed and looted

9- 10 NOVEMBER- KRISTALLNACHT 26-30,000 JEWISH MEN ARRESTED



CONCENTRATION CAMPS- INHUMANE TREATMENT



CONCENTRATION CAMPS



POTSDAM PRISON, NEAR BERLIN



TRYING TO GET OUT OF GERMANY

‘NONE IS TOO MANY’



JEWES TRYING TO ESCAPE. FROM NAZI GERMANY/AUSTRIA



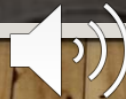
SAVE THE CHILDREN THE KINDERTRANSPORT



'I COULDN'T STOP CRYING'



DREADFUL FOR THEIR PARENTS



**‘WE HAD TO PART FROM OUR LITTLE
CHILDREN WHICH BROUGHT US UNTOLD
SUFFERING.’
AUGUST 1939**



AUNT ILSA, HUSBAND & 6 YEAR OLD SON LEAVE FOR ARGENTINA, MID-DECEMBER 1938



MY MOTHER'S SUITCASE



NO MONEY OR ANYTHING OF VALUE



FROM HOLLAND TO ENGLAND

LONDON & NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY.
Service Hook of Holland—
HARWICH
DIENST HOEK VAN HOLLAND—HARWICH
Steamship Accommodation Reserved
Gereserveerde Bedden
FIRST CLASS
EERSTE KLASSE

Name of Passenger }
Naam v/d Passagier } _____
Date Sailing } 14 DEC 1938
Datum van Vertrek } _____
Name of Steamer } AMSTERDAM
Naam v/d Schip } _____

DECK—DEK	CABIN—HUT	BERTH—BED
Promenade		
A		
B		
C	<u>333</u>	<u>B</u>
To Pay Te Betalen Toeslag	£ : s. d.	

The Baggage Porter should be informed the number of the Cabin, and it will help if hand baggage bears a label shewing name of passenger, name of steamer and number of Cabin.

Gelieve den drager van Uw bagage het nummer van Uw hut op te geven en Uw handbagage te voorzien met een label, aangevende naam van den passagier, het stoomschip en het nummer van de hut.

ARRIVING IN BRITAIN ON 15 DECEMBER, 1938



DOVER COURT HOLIDAY CAMP IN WINTER





WYBERLYE LADIES CONVALESCENT HOME BURGESS HILL, WEST SUSSEX



MY AUNT KÄTE ARRIVES IN ENGLAND, FEBRUARY 1939

2 April 1939



We are very anxious and long for
you. Leonhard

My thoughts are only with you and how we can be together again,
the quickest way possible. This is my firm wish for you and us. Clara

MY GRANDPARENTS GET A VISA TO GO TO CHILE IN SOUTH AMERICA



Photo from the province where they were expected to settle

Berlin, 31st May, 1939

I have been instructed by the Chilean Government to grant you and your family an entry visa to Chile,
Please report on 23/08/39 to this consulate for granting of a visa.

Sincerely Consul of Chile in Berlin

MY GRANDPARENTS SEND THEIR POSSESSIONS AHEAD OF THEM



We want to take our fate into our own hands no matter how difficult it might be in the distant land. We want to be full of hope...Heads up! Go through! August 1939



EXAMPLES OF WHAT MY GRANDPARENTS PACKED



CUTLERY



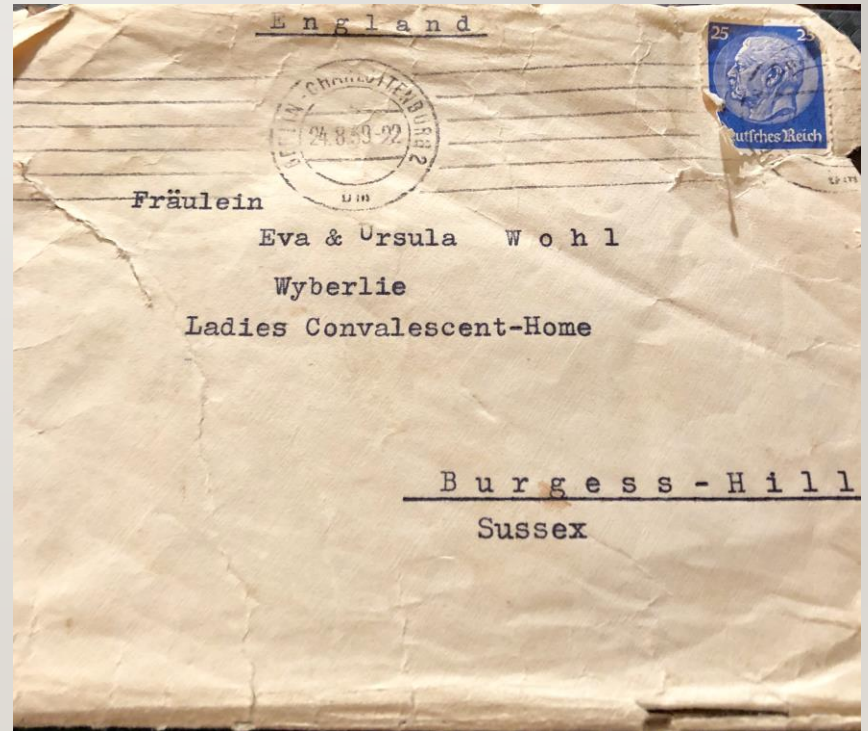
TABLE CLOTHS



MARCH 1941- 'OUR THINGS ARE IN
YOKOHAMA,(JAPAN) HOPEFULLY WE'LL SEE
THEM AGAIN.'



NO LETTERS OR PHONE CALLS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND GERMANY DURING WORLD WAR 2, 1939-1945



MISSING BIRTHDAYS

26th November 1939

Since 4:30 am I am thinking of you. I pray that we can live happily together again as soon as possible, and hope God will hear our prayers.



MY MOTHER TURNS 18 AND KÄTE 21

You can probably imagine how we feel today
when we think back to happier days.



TRYING TO GET OUT OF GERMANY

December 1940

If you knew how Dad runs around for it, but it's just too late. We really missed the moment.



NEARLY GETTING OUT OF GERMANY AGAIN

March 1941

Unfortunately we did not get out. We had everything ready and papers for the passage when Panama was closed and we could no longer leave.



‘JUST DON’T THINK BECAUSE ONE CAN GO CRAZY’

Yes, such is our luck. What can we do, the money is gone and our hopes are buried and we do not know what's going to happen.

Just don’t think, because one can go crazy



IT'S A TRAGEDY



One after the other is leaving. Only our turn does not come. It is a tragedy!

LITTLE OR NO NEWS

We have been without any news from our children for a long time and are very worried and sad.

Clara.

12/3/1941



COMMUNICATING IS DIFFICULT EVEN WITH ARGENTINA

March 1942

Our letters came back again... no airmail gets across
anymore ...



25 WORDS



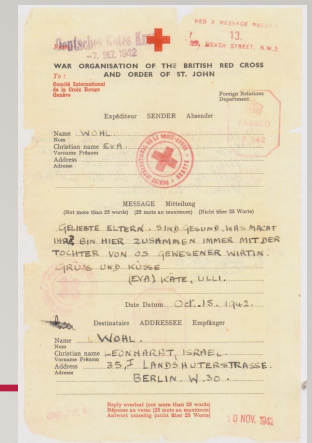
June 1942

We are well and hope that you are too.

Do you hear something from Ilse? She hasn't written to us for years.
Käte, Eva , Ulli

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz
-7. DEZ 1942
RED X MESSAGE RULES
13.
22, WEATH STREET, N.W.3.
WAR ORGANISATION OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS
AND ORDER OF ST. JOHN
To :
Comité International
de la Croix Rouge
Genève
Foreign Relations
Department
Expéditeur SENDER Absender
Name WOHL
Nom
Christian name EVA
Vorname Prénom
Address
Adresse
MESSAGE Mitteilung
(Not more than 25 words) (25 mots au maximum) (Nicht über 25 Worte)
GELIEBTE ELTERN SIND GESUND WAS MACHT
IHAB BIN HIER ZUSAMMEN IMMER MIT DER
TOCHTER VON O.S. GEWESENER WIRTIN.
GRÜß UND KÜß
(EVA) KÄTE, ULLI
Date Datum Oct. 15. 1942
Destinataire ADDRESSEE Empfänger
Name WOHL
Nom
Christian name LEONHARDT ISRAEL
Vorname Prénom
Address 35, LANDSHUTER-STRASSE
Adresse BERLIN W.30
Reply overleaf (not more than 25 words)
Réponse au verso (25 mots au maximum)
Antwort umseitig (nicht über 25 Worte)
10 NOV. 1942

GRATEFUL



1942

But we are grateful... may this evil war soon end
and may we meet again.

God prevail



DESPERATE FOR NEWS.



May 1942

Write as often as you can. You cannot
imagine how happy we are with any
news.

STILL HOPING



Hopefully the big wish, that we can proceed and finally see the children again will come true now.

11 June 1941



WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO DESERVE IT?

Our progress is once again completely at zero point. We do not know what will become of us.



We really have only immense misfortune, and what have we done to deserve it?

14 June, 1941

MY MOTHER AND AUNT GROW UP

It's great how they struggle along at their young age, isn't it?... but the big, big longing we have, you cannot imagine! May 1941.



DOWNCAST AND ANXIOUS

We are downcast, depressed and sad and also very anxious about our loved ones.

Dec. 1941



WILL WE MEET AGAIN?



Will we see you and the other loved ones again? I
do not believe it - a painful thought! May 1942



Just missed the connection

Even if everything was fine, it would be impossible to leave the country. We have just missed the connection through unfortunate coincidences and now have to accept the fate that is destined to us. December 1941





LIFE IS HARD

I'm very hard-working, and age becomes already noticeable; if only one did not have such serious worries, then everything would not be so difficult. –



In Germany, life was miserable

Jews only allowed to shop for one specific hour at the end of each day.



Jews shopping in another town in Germany



ONE OF THE LAST LETTERS FROM MY GRANDPARENTS

End of December 1942

Dear children,

We are healthy, hopefully you are. Why don't
you write to us any more? It's just 4 years since
we were separated from you and we miss you.

Your parents

MY GRANDFATHER'S FINAL POEM



You know, dear readers,
and can understand:
The end, the end,
I long for the end.

THE END CAME ON 19 FEBRUARY
1943.



THEY WERE MURDERED ON 20TH FEBRUARY 1943



MY GRANDPARENTS WENT INTO THE GAS
CHAMBERS WITH NO CLOTHES ON.



OTHER GROUPS MURDERED BY THE NAZIS

Group	Number Murdered (Est.)
People with disabilities	250,000
Soviet Prisoners of War	3,000,000
Non Jewish Polish civilians	1,800,000
Non Jewish Soviet civilians	5,500,000
Serbian citizens	312,000
Roma /Sinti (Gypsies	500,000 maybe more
Jehovah's witnesses	1,900
Career criminals	70,000
Political opponents / resistance fighters	Undetermined
Homosexuals	Undetermined

IT WAS NOT JUST GERMANS WHO MURDERED MILLIONS OF HUMAN BEINGS FOR BEING WHO THEY WERE

Albania, Austria, Bulgaria , Belgium,

Channel Islands, Czechoslovakia, Croatia

Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Holland

Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania

Luxembourg , Macedonia, Norway, Poland,

Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Soviet Union, Ukraine

Many people also just stood by and did nothing (bystanders)

TERRIFYINGLY NORMAL

The Holocaust was the result of millions of ordinary people collaborating with campaigns of discrimination, hate and murder.



AUSCHWITZ STAFF ON THEIR DAY OFF



Left to right: Rudolf Höss, commandant of the camp; Josef Mengele, physician; and other staff members. The photograph was taken in 1944.



AUSCHWITZ STAFF ON A DAY OUT.



MY PARENTS' WEDDING, 31 JULY 1943

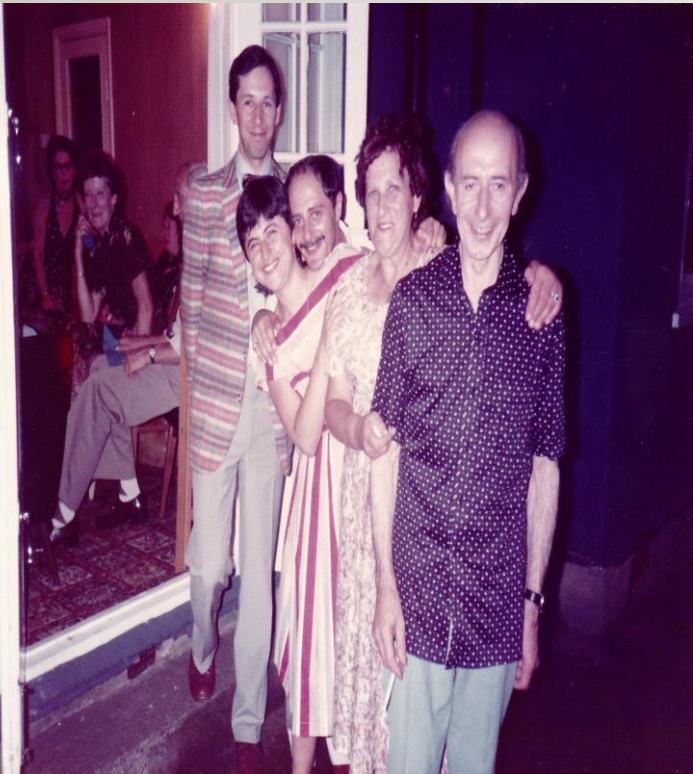


NOTHING TO CELEBRATE



GETTING ON WITH LIFE

From left to right: Käte, Ilsa, Ulli(standing) and my mother



MY GRANDPARENTS' TRUNKS ARRIVE IN LONDON



'IT'S UNBELIEVABLE'

Just under 10,000 children
brought to Britain before the war



1.5 million
children murdered



IT IS NOT OK TO HATE, DISCRIMINATE, BULLY OR PERSECUTE OTHERS FOR ANY REASON



taken together with the stabbings in New York something truly monstrous is rising from the slime.

Hampstead and Belsize Park this morning



DON'T BE INDIFFERENT TO INJUSTICE AND INHUMANITY

The detention, deculturization & mistreatment of
the Uyghur people in China



STAND TOGETHER AGAINST HATRED, PERSECUTION AND INJUSTICE



HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS WANT LESSONS TO
BE LEARNED SO SUCH HORRORS DON'T
HAPPEN AGAIN.

We have to be tolerant. I don't care if
you're Catholic, Muslim or something else
as long as you are a decent human being.

Alexander Kimel: Holocaust survivor- five years hard
labour in a ghetto in Poland



**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING AND
HAVE YOU GOT ANY QUESTIONS?**