

FROM HITLER'S EUROPE TO THE GOLDEN STATE
COPH OHP_253



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Descriptive Summary

Title

From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State [OHP_253]

Date

Begun 2011 - ongoing

Creator

Dr. Cora Granata

Extent

Ongoing

Collateral:

Photographs and clippings

Repository

Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton

Project Abstract

Project Abstracts

OH 4751

Narrator: Dave Fox
Interviewer: Cora Granata
Date: March 18, 2011
Language: English
Length: 2:43:52
Collateral: photographs, ephemera
Status: Finalized; Reading Room
Abstract: None

OH 4752

Narrator: Otto Ross
Interviewer: Frederick Sotelo
Date: 3/27/2011
Language: English
Length: 52:14
Collateral: photograph, ephemera
Status: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history with Otto Ross, a Jewish senior resident of Southern California. This interview was conducted for Professor Cora Granata's History 492A Spring 2011 class, From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State: Europe's World War II Migrants and their impact on California. The purpose of this interview was to learn about Mr. Ross' daily routines and customs. Specifically, this interview covers the everyday practices and traditions that he had during his lifetime. This includes routines that he had as he was growing up in Germany, new ones that he developed when he immigrated to the United States, practices that he had when he was drafted into the U.S. Army, customs that he no longer practices, and routines that he continues to practice in the present. His story illustrates how he eventually acculturated from his German origins to his new American identity.

OH 4753

Narrator: Anneke Delen
Interviewer: Jay Buteyn
Date: 4/2/2011
Language: English
Length: 2:20:44
Collateral: photographs
Status: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

Anneke Delen is a speech pathologist residing in Palm Springs, California. She was born in 1938 in Holland she experienced WWII as a child. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding her memories of Dutch collaboration and resistance to German occupation. This interview is part of the oral history project "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State" for Dr. Granata's HIST492a course. Another purpose is to gain information regarding her experiences living in Southern California. The interview covers her father's involvement in the Dutch resistance, memories growing up in the occupied Netherlands, her schooling, and life moving around the world with her husband. The interview also deals with her father's generation's feelings towards Germans and Jews.

OH 4754

Narrator: Irina Cromwell
Interviewer: Gregory Rath
Date: March 25, 2011
Language: English
Length: 51 minutes
Collateral: photographs
Status: Verbatim transcript
Abstract:

An oral history of Irina Cromwell, a Latvian immigrant who experienced World War II in Europe and now lives in Mission Viejo, CA. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her experiences in Europe before, during and after the war, and her journey to California. The interview is part of an oral history class for Dr. Cora Ganata, History 492A, Community History, From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State. Specifically, this interview deals with Irina Cromwell's experiences growing up in Europe during World War II, her experiences with the Nazis in Poland and Germany, and her journey to the United States. As an only child she grew up in Riga, Latvia living a quiet and enjoyable life with her parents. Her father and his two brothers were successful members of the community in Riga. Things changed for all of them when the Non-Aggression Pact was signed in 1939 between the Soviet Union and Germany, giving control of the Baltic States to the Russians. Her family feared the Russians since her father served as a White Russian Officer during the Russian Civil War in 1918-1921. Her father fought against the Communist Red Army. The interview goes into detail of Irina's continuous struggle to survive during and after the war in Poland and Germany, and her journey to the United States and finally California. She reflects on these experiences and the happiness she found meeting her husband in California, raising a family, and living in the wonderful Golden State.

OH 4755

Narrator: Inge Dickerson
Interviewer: Christopher Carroll
Date: April 1, 2011
Language: English
Length: 2:01:14
Collateral: photographs, student paper
Status: Verbatim transcript
Abstract:

This is an oral history of Mrs. Inge Dickerson, a German immigrant who was a witness to World War II in the eastern provinces of Germany and later moved to the United States. This interview is part of a larger project for Dr. Granata's HIST 492A course entitled "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." In this interview, Mrs. Dickerson discusses her father's education in the United States in agricultural technology and his uses of that technology on his family farm in Germany. She also speaks about the political ramifications of her failure to join the Nazi party during Hitler's rise to power. She continues to discuss her family's assistance to the village as well as how the war affected the operation of the farm. She then speaks about the Russian pursuit of the German army back through her region and Russian occupation in the region, and the subsequent Polish eviction of her family. I then ask her about her work after the war, where she worked in the paymaster's office of the Berlin Airlift and met Lee Dickerson, an Air Force Officer also assigned to the paymaster's office. She continues to discuss how she became separated from Dickerson and then her migration to the United States, first to New York, then Chicago and after raising her family, reconnecting with Lee Dickerson and ultimately moving to the Los Angeles Area. Lastly I asked her some reflective questions on how she identifies herself, whether German or American or a combination of both.

OH 4756

Narrator: Camille Van Ast
Interviewer: Vincent James Armijo
Date: April 2, 2011
Language: English
Length: 1:21:27
Collateral: photographs
Status: not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history of Camille Van Ast, born in Slawi on the Island of Java located in Indonesia. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata and her class "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State: Europe's World War II Migrants and their Impact on California." I am researching immigrants from Hitler's Europe who ultimately settled in the United States and in particular Southern California. The purpose of this interview is to gain an understanding of Germans who lived in Europe during World War II. At the time of her birth it was a Dutch colony. Specifically the interview covers the life of Camille from her birth on the Island of Java to her present day life in Newbury Park, California. As a child during World War II Java was taken over by the Japanese and subsequently she was imprisoned in a Japanese prison camp. After the war the Dutch gave the island over to its independence and as a result Camille and her family moved to Holland. She would live in Holland until 1955 and then immigrated to the United States settling in Southern California with her husband. Her impression of the United States prior to arriving was a "country" scenery as well as American country music. She would listen to Radio Frankfurt in Holland which is how she became impressed with American country music. She knew of the culture and remembers the assassination of President Kennedy. Camille is currently retired in Newbury Park, California. She and her husband are currently divorced but remain good friends. Her daughter Michelle lives nearby which she visits often. Camille feels the United States has been very good to her. She does return to Holland every couple of years to visit but to this day she has not returned to Java.

OH 4757

Narrator: Elinor Morris
Interviewer: Vincent James Armijo
Date: April 10, 2011
Language: English
Length: 1:21:55
Collateral: photographs
Status: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history of Elinor Morris who was born in Bayreuth, Germany in 1933. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata and her class "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State: Europe's World War II Migrants and their Impact on California." I am researching immigrants from Hitler's Europe who ultimately settled in the United States and in particular Southern California. The purpose of this interview is to gain an understanding of Germans who lived in Europe during World War II. Specifically, this interview covers the life of Elinor Morris who was a six years old when the war began. While her life was relatively easy in the early part of the war it soon became difficult after the Battle of Stalingrad. She recalls the food rationing; the lack of education after 1943; the Allied bombing that continued until the end of the war. Elinor immigrated to the United States in 1954 after completing a student exchange program. She describes how she initially came to Texas but moved to California as finding a job was difficult at the time; why California was such a big draw for her and why she will never go back to Germany; how she met her husband and then started their family; how they ended up in Brea, California; her thoughts on immigration in relation to California, and California's fiscal problems.

OH 4758

Narrator: Devlet Tarolov
Interviewer: Jamie Wharton
Date: April 9, 2011
Language: English and Russian
Length: 2:06:11
Collateral: photograph of narrator
Status: not transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history of Devlet Tarolov, a member of the Russian American community in Southern California. The purpose of this interview was to find out about his time in Russia during the Second World War and specifically his time living in Leningrad (St. Petersburg, Petrograd) during the blockade from 1941 to 1943. Interview also hoped to capture the experiences of those from Russia coming to the United States and their experiences in California and Southern California more specifically.

OH 4759

Narrator: Kurt Kocourek
Interviewer: Vincent James Armijo
Date: April 16, 2011
Language: English
Length: 2:27:48
Collateral: photograph of narrator
Status: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history of Kurt Kocourek who was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1930 and is a veteran of World War II. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata and her class "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State: Europe's World War II Migrants and their Impact on California." I am researching immigrants from Hitler's Europe who ultimately settled in the United States and in particular Southern California. The purpose of this interview is to gain an understanding of Germans who lived in Europe during World War II. Specifically the interview covers the life of Mr. Kocourek who is of German ancestry on his father's side and Czech ancestry on his mother's side. Kurt lived in the Sudetenland as a child and witnessed German troops marching towards Prague in 1938. He joined the Hitler Youth in 1939 and was drafted into the German Army in 1944 as well as lived in Silesia until 1946. He immigrated to the United States in 1951 and attended Columbia University before moving to California the following year and attended Cal Tech. While attending Cal Tech he was drafted into the Army, which was a difficult time for him as he was of European descent and experienced prejudice due to his German accent at the time. After his discharge from the Army he discusses meeting his wife and their settling in La Cañada, California, starting their family, and the "thrifty" lifestyle that he has lived, which he owes to his experience in Europe.

OH 4760

Narrator: Rose Judy DeLiema
Interviewer: Gregory Rath
Date: April 15, 2011
Language: English
Length: 1:53:37
Collateral: photograph and copy of memoir
Status: Finalized; Reading Room

Abstract:

An oral history of Rose Judy DeLiema, a Jewish Dutch immigrant who experienced World War II in Europe and now lives in Mission Viejo, CA. The purpose of this interview was to gather information

regarding her experiences in Europe before, during, and after the war, and her journey to California. The interview is part of an oral history class for Dr. Cora Granata, History 492A, Community History, From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State. Specifically, this interview deals with Rose DeLiema's experiences growing up in Holland in a Jewish family, the story of her family's deportation to Auschwitz, her incredible struggle to survive the death camps, and her journey to the United States. She grew up in a loving family in The Hague, Netherlands. She loved her parents, Max and Judith (Cohen) van Gelder, her two sisters, Elizabeth "Bep" and Rosetta "Zetta" and her younger brother, Hartog. Their life was a fairytale story until May 1940, when the Nazis invaded and occupied the Netherlands. Being Jewish, it was difficult to lead a normal life. They were forced into hiding under constant fear of deportation to Poland. In 1943, her parents and two sisters were detained and deported to Auschwitz, where they were killed in the gas chambers. Her younger brother would later be deported and killed in Eastern Europe about a year later. Rose and her husband Sal DeLiema (they were married in 1942), hid out longer, but were also eventually captured in 1944 and were sent to Auschwitz. The interview goes into detail of Rose's continuous struggle to survive the death camps, her stories of being with Ann Frank in Auschwitz, her long 45 day journey back home to Holland after the war, the reunification with her husband in The Hague, and her boat journey to the United States. She made the boat voyage to Los Angeles in 1950 with her family, Sal and her two little boys, Max and Robert. Rose specifically reflects on her experiences before and during the war, and the eventual happiness her family found in California.

OH 4761

Narrator: Wouter van de Bunt
Interviewer: Jay Buteyn
Date: 4/21/2011
Language: English
Length: 1:55:01
Collateral: photographs, memoir, ephemera
Status: not transcribed

Abstract:

Wouter van de Bunt is a retired airline executive, born in 1925, who experienced the invasion and occupation of the Netherlands in World War II. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his memories of Dutch collaboration and resistance to German occupation. This interview is part of the oral history project "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State" for Dr. Granata's HIST492a course. Another purpose is to gain information regarding his experiences living in Southern California. The interview covers his involvement in the resistance, working for the Dutch railroad, and living conditions in occupied Holland. It also deals with perceptions of collaborators, life after the war in the Netherlands, and view of the Indonesian War of Independence.

OH 4762

Narrator: Irmgard Dunagan
Interviewer: Frederick Sotelo
Date: April 24, 2011
Language: English
Length: 1:14:38
Collateral : photographs of narrator and interviewer
Status: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history with Irmgard Dunagan, a senior resident of Southern California. This interview was conducted for Professor Cora Granata's History 492A Spring 2011 class, *From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State: Europe's World War II Migrants and their impact on California*. The purpose of this interview was to learn about Mrs. Dunagan's daily routines and customs. Specifically, this interview covers the everyday practices and traditions that she had during her lifetime. This includes routines that

she had as she was growing up and living in Germany, new ones that she developed when she immigrated to the United States, and routines that she continues to practice in the present. Her story illustrates how she kept her German origins intact despite moving from place to place in her lifetime.

OH 4763

Narrator: Maria Alexandrova Livov
Interviewer: Jamie Wharton
Date: May 8, 2011
Language: English and Russian
Length: 3:03:56
Collateral: photograph of narrator
Status: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history of Maria Alexandrova, a resident of St. Petersburg, Russia whose grandchildren live in California. Alexandrova was born during World War One before the Russian Revolution took place in 1917. Her father was a noble prince and managed to keep his family alive during the revolution because he was a famous engineer. Alexandrova was the first child of his father's second marriage but her parents only married a few years after she was born. She lived in Petrograd, which is now called St. Petersburg, and then moved to the Siberian city of Omsk when she was five. She got a job in Moscow after she graduated from school and worked as an engineer in a city political prison. She returned to Omsk after a time but returned to Leningrad, the Soviet name for St. Petersburg, and married her first husband. She left the city twelve days before the war began and lived in Omsk throughout World War Two. After Victory Day she returned to Leningrad and married the father of her third child and she continues to live in the city until this day. This interview contains subjects which include but are not limited to hunger, famine, marriage, World War Two, Soviet prisons, prisoner of war camps, war time travel, death of Lenin, death of Stalin, and village versus city life.

OH 4768

Narrator: Ursel Petermann
Interviewer: Christopher Carroll
Date: May 10, 2011
Language: English
Length: 00:34:25
Collateral: photograph of narrator
Status: Transcribed

Abstract:

An oral history of Ursel Peterman, a German immigrant who was witness to World War II in the eastern provinces of Germany. She later moved to the United States by way of Canada. This interview is part of larger project for Dr. Granata's HIST 492A course entitled "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." In this interview, Ursel discusses her upbringing in Weisskeissel on the eastern edge of Germany, six miles from the Polish border. Her family did not talk about the war or about government with the children present, Ursel remembers the retreat of the German army through her hometown as well as the Russian Occupation afterwards. She recalls how she left home when she was 20, at the request of her grandmother to take care of her in West Berlin. While in Berlin, Ursel attended school to become a nurse, a profession in which she was employed in the United States. Ursel discusses her migration to Canada, where she and her husband lived for 12 years before moving the California. Lastly I asked her some reflective questions on how she identifies herself, whether German or American or a combination of both.

OH 4949

Narrator: Maria Sepich
Interviewer: John E. Cordero

Date: March 6, 2015: 2:45 P.M.
Length: 1hour 58 minutes
Transcript: Verbatim
Abstract:

This is an oral history of Maria Sepich, who is being interviewed for the Hitler's Europe to the Golden State: Europe's World War II Migrants to California. The purpose of this in interview is to gather information on her life in her village in the Sudetenland during Hitler's time and how her parents kept quiet on their feelings toward Hitler. She discusses how her father liked the Russians because of his fair treatment by them during World War I when he was taken prisoner. Then she describes how tough times became for her and her family at the end of the war when Mongolian soldiers came into her village, but did not rampage due to the Russians maintaining order; how the Czechs came in right after the Russians and abused the Germans; how she became a slave laborer for a Czech family for one year; how the family reunited and relocated to Frankfurt; how she got a job as a cleaning lady for an American contractor; how she advanced to become a secretary for another contractor; how she met her future husband there and how after three years left Germany and went to Columbus Ohio. Maria Sepich goes on to explain how her husband died of a heart attack after three years of marriage, and how he met her second husband, a contractor who built the Anheuser Busch Brewery in Ohio and how the couple did well financially.

OH 4950

Narrator: Gisela Gokhale
Interviewer: Shara Guengerich
Date: March 10, 2015
Length: 00:56:08
Transcript: Verbatim
Collateral: Photographs
Abstract:

An oral history of Gisela Gokhale, a German immigrant who experienced World War II in Europe and now lives in Upland, CA. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her experiences in Europe before, during and after the war, and her journey to settling in Southern California. The interview is part of an oral history class for Dr. Cora Ganata, History 492A, Community History, *From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State*. This interview concentrates on Mrs. Gokhale's experiences growing up in wartime Germany, her experiences living in post-war Germany and England, and her marriage to an Indian man, Vishnu, and their life moving from Ithaca, to Cincinnati, and finally Upland, California. She reflects on outside perceptions of marrying a person of a different ethnicity and the process of adopting two children in the 1960s. She relates how her national identity has changed over time, recounting how her identity changed from German and transitioned to embracing American citizenship.

OH 4964

Narrator: Beate Baker
Interviewer: Parker Tredick
Date: March 13, 2015: 6:00 P.M.
Length: 1 hour 36 minutes 51 seconds
Transcript: Verbatim

Collateral: Family registry packet; father's *wrhrpass*

Abstract:

An oral history of Beate Baker, a longtime resident of Santa Clarita California, collected for the Hitler's Europe to the Golden State Oral History Project by California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information about the daily experiences of Austrians both during and after World War II. Also, this interview attempts to capture the immigration experience of Europeans who left Europe after World War II to come to the United States, and more specifically California. This interview explores the life of a native-born Austrian women whose family and life was torn apart by World War II. Specifically this interview covers the later years of World War II, the Austrian experiences with American/Allied occupation, the struggle for survival after the fall of the Third Reich, the impact of Cold War politics, and the immigration experience of one Austrian to the United States. This interview covers Mrs. Baker's recollections of World War II, what her family did to survive after the war, her schooling experience as she traveled to Switzerland and Britain, and her eventual migration to the United States to live out her dream of being a flight attendant. Finally, the interview covers Mrs. Baker's experiences in Southern California and how growing up in Europe has shaped her life in the United States.

OH 4966

Narrator: Hans Georg Teepe

Interviewer: Valeria Arias

Date: March 14, 2015

Length: 00:54:19

Transcript: Verbatim

Collateral: Copies of immigration papers and passport

Abstract:

This is an oral history of Hans Georg Teepe, a post-World War II era immigrant born in Essen, Germany in 1935. Mr. Teepe was a child in Germany during the Second World War. He spent most of his childhood away from his family due to the program called *Kinderlandverschiebung*, which took children to the countryside to be safe from bombings. In his childhood he was also involved with the Hitler Youth. After the war he decided to move to Canada and then to California, where he has lived ever since, with a few interruptions due to the draft. He was in the US Navy and the US Army. He served in the US Army in Germany during the Cold War. In California he worked for a stained glass company because in Germany he had served a stained glass apprenticeship. Currently, Mr. Teepe is retired and lives in Orange County, CA. This interview is part of a project for Dr. Cora Granata's class titled "From Hitler's Germany to the Golden State."

OH 4967

Narrator: Louis A. Laulhere

Interviewer: Sandra Bustos

Date: March 14, 2015; 11:30 A.M.

Length: 45 minutes

Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An oral history of Louis A. Laulhere, born on December 28, 1935, in a very small town of Gan, France. The purpose of this interview is to gather information on his experiences in migrating to

the United States. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora A. Granata History 493C History Course, *From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State*. This interview focuses mainly on Louis Laulhere decision to migrate to the United States in 1957. This interview also focuses on his memories of World War II. He recollects memories of the Nazis invading France in his childhood. He also talks about why he decided to move to the United States and why he decided to stay in the California.

OH 5061.1

Narrator: Gisela Bandurraga

Interviewer: Jennifer Kiel

Date: October 10, 2012; 7:30 P.M.

Language: English

Length: 1 hour 42 minutes

Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.

Transcript: Finalized; Reading Room

Abstract:

An oral history with Gisela Bandurraga, a journalist and German food distributor. This interview was conducted for the Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) in a class titled, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." Bandurraga described her early, simple childhood in Bad Mergentheim, Germany. During the war, her father suddenly disappeared for providing medical services to Jewish patients. This painful memory is recalled several times throughout the interview. In the post-WWII era, Gisela worked for the German Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer. She said, "I practically became his press secretary." Despite the financial security, she desired to move to America. Mormons were her sponsors and she initially lived in Salt Lake City, Utah. After rejecting this religion, she moved to San Bernardino where she met her husband. They purchased a house in Pomona. She described the household structure. Her job at an import and export German goods business connected her with restaurants from San Diego to Santa Barbara. This interview highlighted the cultural pride she still maintained in America by having a "German corner" in her home and with food traditions.

OH 5061.2

Narrator: Gisela Bandurraga

Interviewer: Jennifer Keil

Date: March 6, 2013

Length: 1 hour 21 minutes

Language: English

Transcript: Finalized

Abstract:

An oral history with Gisela Bandurraga, a journalist and German food distributor. This interview was conducted for the Center for Oral and Public History project titled, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." This was a requirement for my spring History 596 internship course. Gisela discussed German's ideal woman and her daily tasks. She explained her role as a journalist in the International Press Office in Frankfurt. This position allowed her to interact with German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer on a daily basis. As a Californian, she wrote for local German newspapers. Gisela explained the ways she obtained and operated her household appliances. She shared about her purchasing habits. The interview discusses the differences in household traditions between American and German households.

OH 5062

Narrator: Gabriella Karin
Interviewer: Yunuen Gomez
Date: October 17, 2012; 1:30 PM
Language: English
Location: Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust
Length: 1 hour 24 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.
Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An Oral History of Gabriella Karin, born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia (Slovak Republic). She was a Jewish hidden child survivor of WWII. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding her war experiences in Bratislava and eventual migration to California. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C Oral History Course, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." Specifically, this interview deals with Gabriella Karin's early life in Bratislava; being hidden, along with her family, during the war; her life after liberation; moving to Israel; being involved in the fashion industry; her migration to California; her art work; and her involvement with the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust.

OH 5063

Narrator: Mary Miscovich
Interviewer: Jacquelyn Bullis
Date: October 19, 2012; 10:15 AM
Language: English
Length: 1 hour 22 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.
Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history with Mary Miscovich, a longtime resident of Orange, California and an immigrant from Yugoslavia (Croatia). This interview was conducted for the Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) at California State University, Fullerton, specifically for Dr. Granata's class, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." The purpose of the class and interview was to find narrators that had lived through WWII Europe and had since immigrated to California. In the process we would find out why they came to California, what was the experience like for them, and what were their recollections of WWII. The interview with Mary covered her childhood in Croatia, previously Yugoslavia; her experiences while living there during the war; her decision to move to the United States; the first perceptions of America; the transition and language barrier; living in a primarily Croatian neighborhood; her outlook on ethnic communities; feelings on the breakup of Yugoslavia; the Yugoslavian war; Tito and his work camps to rebuild the country after the war; her outlook on war now and how it has affected her; and her reflections on how times have changed eluding to modern education and technology.

OH 5064

Narrator: Margaretha (Margrit) Kendrick
Interviewer: Heather Glasgow
Date: October 20, 2012; 11:00 AM

Language: English
Length: 2 hours, 17 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.
Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history of Margrit Kendrick, a Swiss born citizen, who lived through WWII, on the border between Switzerland and Germany. She married an American Marine, moved to California and began a family. The purpose of this interview is to gather information about her experience living in a neutral nation during a time of war, and how her life in Europe shaped her later life in Southern California. I also wanted information about her involvement in the community in Orange County. This interview is a part of Dr. Granata's History 493C, Hitler's Europe to the Golden State class. Specifically this interview deals with her early childhood in Switzerland and her family life running a store from their home; how her life changed when the war broke out in 1939; challenges with living during war and having her home taken over by the military; life after the war and her search for independence from her parents; her job with the Swiss postal service; meeting and marrying her American husband; moving to California to begin her husband's medical practice; adjustment to a new country and raising a family; and finally her many years of active service to the community in Orange County, from school boards, chamber of commerce, historical commission, and many more organizations.

OH 5065

Narrator: Jim Huiberts
Interviewer: Austin Clark
Date: October 19, 2012
Language: English
Length: 1 hour 9 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log.
Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history with Jim Huiberts, a WWII Dutch immigrant and a longtime resident of Westminster, CA. This interview was conducted for the Center of Oral and Public History (COPH) at California State University, Fullerton. It was also conducted for Cora Granata's History 493C, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." The purpose of this interview is to better understand the lives of European immigrants, who left WWII Europe for California. This interview in particular, discusses Jim's early childhood and his upbringing on a farm, in rural Holland. Jim also mentions being raised Catholic and being very involved in the church. He discusses his view of the war, and the hunger experienced by his countrymen. Also, he touches on his dealings with the Nazi troops as well as witnessing Jews captured daily. He talks about the Dutch resistance and collaboration. He also talks about his time in the service, and the big flooding problem that the Netherlands faces. The interview also discusses his move to California; where he met his wife; and how the dairy business in California boomed because of European immigrants. He closes with how he has fully assimilated and is very satisfied with his life.

OH 5066

Narrator: Norbert Rosenblum
Interviewer: Bryon Walsh
Date: October 22, 2012; 1:30 P.M.

Length: 56 minutes
Language: English
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.
Transcript: Finalized; Reading Room

Abstract:

An oral history of Norbert Rosenblum, an engineer residing in Anaheim, California. Norbert was born in Straasburg, France on June 29, 1936. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding European immigrants who experienced WWII in Europe and now live in California. This interview is part of the "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State" oral history project" for Dr. Cora Granata. Specifically, this interview deals with Norbert's childhood growing up in France; his recollection of kristallnacht (the Night of Broken Glass); his experience in the OSE organization, or *Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants* (Society for Rescuing Children); the difficulties obtaining a visa to the United States; his first impressions and early experiences of New York and America; his time in the Air Force; his perceptions and reasons for moving to Orange County, California; his career in aerospace engineering, working for companies like Hughes Aircraft; how his childhood experiences in Europe still affect him today; and his reflections on why it is important to remember WWII and the Holocaust. Norbert attends temple at Temple Beth Tikvah in Fullerton, California.

OH5067

Narrator: Arie Passchier
Interviewer: Matthew Dietrich
Date: October 22, 2012
Language: English
Length: 1 hour, 45 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log. Passchier family photos; Copy of Arie Passchier's naturalization papers.
Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An oral history of Arie Passchier, a Dutch survivor of World War II, who lived in the Netherlands from 1940-1950. The interview was part of Dr. Granata's class and oral history project, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." Passchier is a retired Boeing employee and volunteer member at the Ruby Gerontology Center at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of the interview was to record his personal experiences of the war, including his education, family life, relationships and his immigration from Holland to Artesia, California. The main purpose of the interview was to expose the postwar era of his life, which began approximately before 1950 through the 1970s. Specifically his education; assimilation into American life; experiences during the Cold War; hotspots including John F. Kennedy's assassination; Vietnam War protests; and the US involvement in postwar Europe.

OH 5068

Narrator: Mary M. Thompson
Interviewer: R. Martin Ugelstad
Date: October 19, 2012; 3:00P.M.
Language: English
Length: 45 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log.

Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An oral history of Mary M. Thompson, an immigrant from England to the United States after World War II. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding European experiences, from immigrants who arrived in the United States after the war. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Granata's history 493C: "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." Specifically, this interview deals with the firsthand account of Mary, a victim and witness to the mass bombings from German bombers in England. After surviving the war, Mary traveled to Canada to find her new home but because it was too cold, she decided to relocate to New Zealand. On her way to New Zealand, she visited California and became pregnant. It was due to her pregnancy that she decided to stay in California and set roots with her husband, Fred Thompson. Her account shows her everyday life and her experiences as the years go by. She also shares her ideas about Americans and their ideals towards the war, as well as a comparison of the United States from the 1960s to today.

OH 5069

Narrator: Luke Siemensma

Interviewer: Jim Park

Date: October 22, 2012; 3:00 PM

Language: English

Length: 1 hour 7 minutes

Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.

Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An oral history of Luke Siemensma, President of the United Netherlands Organizations. The purpose of this interview is to gather information spanning from Mr. Siemensma's childhood memories of growing up in the Netherlands, during World War II, to his current station in the United States. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." Specifically, this interview deals with Siemensma's upbringing on a farm in the countryside town of Exmorra (Friesland, Netherlands); farmers helping members of the Dutch resistance; interactions between Dutch civilians and German soldiers, interactions between Canadian troops and Dutch civilians; his immigration to the United States; and his involvement in Dutch community organizations in the United States.

OH 5070

Narrator: Rose Marie Bullesbach

Interviewer: Evan Haynes

Date: 10/21/12

Language: English

Length: 00:59:09

Collateral: Field Notes, Recording Log, Photograph, Photograph description (paper copies).
Digital copies given to Stephanie

Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An interview with Rose Bullesbach. The purpose of this interview is to record Rose's wartime experiences during World War II, and detail her eventual journey to Southern California. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C course, Hitler's

Europe to the Golden State. This interview covers Rose's early childhood and schooling experience; her wartime memories, including her experiences with soldiers and her family's attempts to protect Jews within their home; the actions of the Maquis (the French Resistance) in her home of Toulouse; her travels abroad to London, where she met her husband; traveling to Germany, Monaco, New York, Washington DC, and California; cultural differences between Germany, England, and the U.S.; her preconceptions about the U.S. and California; and finally, her life after settling in Orange County.

OH 5071

Narrator: Richard Trillwood

Interviewer: Steve Little

Date: October 21, 2012

Language: English

Length: 1 hour 39 minutes

Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.

Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An oral history of Richard Trillwood, a British-American survivor of World War II and current CEO of Electron Beam Engineering. The purpose of this interview is to gain an understanding of WWII survivors' experiences both during and after the war, and their subsequent migration to the United States. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's 493C course: "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." Specifically, this interview deals with his childhood in Cambridge (UK), with stories about his experiences during the Blitz on London; air raids and aircraft; the Royal Air Force (RAF); interaction with American GI's; views on Germany and its propaganda; Winston Churchill's speeches; war refugees; suicide; rationing; food in Britain; British television; his education and apprenticeship in Britain; the miner's strike; how he became an engineer; the opportunities that brought him to California in 1981; culture shock; his views on American citizenship; how his experiences with a special-needs daughter got him more involved in philanthropy, specifically on the Board of Vocational Visions.

OH 5072

Narrator: Peter (Berlowitz) Daniels

Interviewer: Ana L. Cisneros

Date: October 20, 2012

Language: English

Length: 1 hour and 28 minutes

Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.

Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history with Peter (Berlowitz) Daniels, a Jewish child Holocaust survivor. This interview was conducted for the class "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State" (HIST 493C) taught by Dr. Cora Granata, at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Daniels' experience in Germany, his early childhood during World War II, his time in the concentration camp Theresienstadt (Terezin), and his postwar experience leaving Germany and moving to the United States. Specifically, this interview deals with living under a fascist regime under Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich along with its discriminatory racial laws; being raised by a single mom; his time in a detention center

before being moved to the concentration camp, Theresienstadt, in Czechoslovakia; his encounter with Adolf Eichmann; the Red Cross visit of Theresienstadt; living in the American sector of Berlin for a few months; his time in a Displaced Persons camp in Germany; arriving in the United States via refugee tanker; moving to New York and adjustment in terms of language and education; running away from home at fourteen due to child abuse, both mental and physical; joining the U.S. Navy; obtaining degrees in high school, community college, university, and graduate school; and opening up about his Holocaust experience with students via the Museum of Tolerance and the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust.

OH 5073

Narrator: Peggy Caballero
Interviewer: Mike Parrish
Date: October 24, 2012; 11:00 A.M
Language: English
Length: 49 minutes 21 seconds
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.
Transcript: verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history of Mrs. Peggy Dahlman Caballero. The purpose of this interview is to gather information on Scandinavian immigrants who fled Europe to escape the turmoil of the Third Reich and World War II. This interview is a part of an oral history project, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State," taught by Professor Cora A. Granata. Specifically, this interview covers Caballero's early years in Sweden; the experience of her parents, both Scandinavian immigrants who became naturalized citizens of the United States; her experience with escaping Sweden aboard the *U.S.S American Legion*; her new life as a Swedish-American citizen living in the U.S.; her time spent in the cities of Milwaukee, Chicago, Klamath Falls Oregon; and finally her move to California.

OH 5074

Narrator: Guenter Lennarz
Interviewer: Briana Masotto
Date: October 22, 2012; 7:45 P.M.
Language: English
Length: 1 hour, 13 minutes, 29 seconds
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; Photograph.
Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history of Guenter Lennarz, collected for Dr. Cora Granata's "Hitler and the Golden State" oral history class. The purpose of the class was to explore the experiences of European immigrants, who remembered the years during and/or after WWII, who also immigrated to the United States or California. Specifically, this interview deals with Lennarz's childhood memories of the last few years of WWII, including his father's involvement in the German army on the Russian Front; his hometown of Nuertingen (Germany) being devastated by the war; and how much of the German people were torn apart by it. It covers the attitudes of the German people toward the Nazi Regime; his formative years during the immediate post-war environment under American occupation; American pop culture's influence on Germany and its post-war youth generation; and what aspects of American pop culture media he remembers/enjoyed when

he was growing up. The interview mainly focused on the difference between the American pop culture he experienced in Germany versus after he immigrated to the U.S.; what led him to immigrate to California in the first place; his assimilation process in America; and how American culture influenced him and his upbringing in postwar Germany.

OH 5075

Narrator: Dr. Eric Streitberger
Interviewer: Richard Hartman
Date: October 25, 2012; 10:00 A. M.
Language: English
Length: 1:49:00
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; Photographs; Photograph description; Ephemera description; Family enlistment records; Passenger manifests; Family census records.
Transcript: Verbatim
Abstract:

An oral history of Dr. Eric Streitberger, a retired chemistry professor at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his experiences growing up in Germany during World War II. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Ganata's History 493C, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." Specifically, this interview deals with Dr. Streitberger's youth in Amberg, Germany; his journey to America; his teenage and young adult years in Iowa; his teaching for the US Armed Forces school system in Nuremberg; his higher education at Oregon State University; and finally his arrival at California State University, Fullerton. He talks about the evolution of his award-winning use of snowflakes during class. He reflects on his and his relative's attitudes during the second World War, and also his return to Germany as an American school teacher.

OH 5076

Narrator: Marion Rosenblum
Interviewer: Bryon Walsh
Date: October 25, 2012; 1:30 P.M.
Language: English
Length: 1:33:14
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.
Transcript: Finalized; Reading Room
Abstract:

An oral history of Marion Rosenblum, a small business owner living in Anaheim, California. Marion was born on November 12, 1934 in Frankfurt, Germany. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding European immigrants who experienced WWII in Europe and currently live in California. This interview is part of "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State" Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The interviewer is a student in Dr. Granata's History 493C oral history course. Specifically, this interview deals with Marion's early memories of Frankfurt, Germany; a brief recollection of Kristallnacht (the Night of Broken Glass); escaping to Brussels, Belgium, her mother doing so illegally; the German invasion of Belgium in 1940; fleeing to Marmande, France; her father's experiences in the French internment camps of Gurs and Saint-Cyprien; immigrating to Ciudad Trujillo, modern day Santo Domingo; The Jewish settlement of Sosua; her perceptions of President Franklin Delano

Roosevelt and the United States; growing up in the Lower East Side of New York; her struggles with her German and Jewish ethnicity; assistance from refugee organizations; moving to Orange County, California in the 1960s, noting the changes in Anaheim, Westminster, Fountain Valley, and Fullerton; her experiences in Israel during the Yom Kippur War; discussing how experiences in Europe during the Holocaust affected her life; how she wants WWII to be remembered; and square dancing around the world.

OH 5077

Narrator: Regine Angela Thompson

Interviewer: Gloria Lopez

Date: October 26, 2012

Language: English

Length: 1 hour 53 minutes

Collateral: Field notes; Recording log.

Transcript: Finalized; Reading Room

Abstract:

An oral history of Regine Angela Thompson, a Board of Directors member at the Wende Museum in Culver City, California. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding migration experiences from Europe to California during, and after, World War II. This interview was part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's HIST 493C: "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." This interview deals with Angela's upbringing in the German Democratic Republic [GDR] / East Germany [after the end of World War II] and her family's escape to West Germany. She recalls her experiences with the stark religious differences in Germany (Catholic vs. Protestant) and the difficulties assimilating. She reflects on being very individualistic at a young age, which resulted in her influencing her family's decision to flee from East Germany, so that she would not be forced to join the Young Pioneers. She also discusses what decisions led to her migration to the United States. Angela migrated to California in search of an education. She traveled back to the GDR in the 1970s and spent numerous trips helping political refugees and their families. She discussed her attachment to European culture, after her migration to the United States, and how she would like the Second World War and the division of Germany to be remembered.

OH 5078

Narrator: Dora Cohen

Interviewer: Joshua Ornelas

Language: English

Date: October 26, 2012; 4:13 P.M.

Length: 1 hour

Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.

Transcript: verbatim transcript

Abstract:

This is the oral history of Dora Cohen, who for thirty-three years was a Foreign Language teacher for the Orange County School District and is now retired and resides in Placentia, California. This interview was part of a collective group in a class at California State University, Fullerton entitled History 493C, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." Dora Cohen was born in the spring of 1944 in a forced labor dairy farm in a village on the outskirts of Toulouse, France. Specifically, the interview explains why she believes her family remained to be the only

surviving family in the village, the medical issues she encountered while she was a child with no doctor and no medicine allowed into the forced labor camp, the expectations she and her family had before moving to America, and the struggles she and her family endured while trying to make their American dreams come true.

OH 5079

Narrator: Yan Achrem
Interviewer: Justin Mingus
Date: October 30, 2012; 1:14 P.M.
Language: English
Length: 2 hours, 4 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.
Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history with Yan Achrem, a Polish-American immigrant living in Seal Beach, CA. The purpose of this interview was not only to ascertain the already expansive knowledge of European immigrants in Southern California, but also to listen and analyze their numerous experiences during World War II. This interview is part of an oral history for Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C oral history course, aptly titled "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." Specifically, this interview deals with Yan's formative years growing up on a farm in eastern Poland (now Belarus), during the 1930's; his experiences during both Soviet and Nazi occupation; and altogether his outlook on WWII. He also gives insightful information on partisan groups in the area. Later, he talks about his life under Soviet rule in both Kiev and Lvov, Ukraine as a cameraman filming documentary films. This profession allowed him to meet many high communist officials such as Brezhnev and Khrushchev. Ultimately, he escaped the Soviet Union on forged papers and ended up in a refugee camp in Rome, where he then traveled to Chicago and managed to make ends meet. From Chicago, he followed his daughter and son to California and ended up in a film lab in Hollywood, working on movie advertising. In the end, he gives an important reflection and criticism of the second World War, as well as a vital perspective on modern American policy and culture.

OH 5080

Narrator: Monika (Riemer) Broome
Interviewer: Ana L. Cisneros
Date: October 31, 2012
Language: English
Length: 54 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.
Transcript: verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history with Monika (Riemer) Broome, a half Jewish, half German woman who escaped World War II in 1940. This interview was conducted for the class "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State" (HIST 493C) taught by Dr. Cora Granata at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Broome's experience in Sweden and England during her early childhood, her experience leaving England as a child refugee with other children, and her adjustment and life in the United States. Specifically, this interview deals with Broome losing her mother at an early age; moving to England before the war started; living

through the bombings of London; living in England until 1940; her father leaving Germany for the United States on a Rockefeller scholarship to do research in Minnesota; being allowed to leave England as a child refugee with other children due to Winston Churchill's and Franklin D. Roosevelt's joint effort; her family in Denmark supporting the Jews by everyone, including the king, wearing the yellow star; being on two of three ships that survived their voyage to New York; spending time in New York waiting for her father to arrive, as he was unsure whether she had survived; constantly moving due to her father's career as a professor; studying at University of California, Los Angeles and Berkeley; working in the education field in many jobs such as aide in classroom, regular education teacher, special education teacher, and student teacher supervisor; her efforts in helping the California Democratic Party at local and state level; participation in the senior center at Cal State Fullerton, Osher Lifelong Learning Program (OLLI); her two adult children.

OH 5081

Narrator: Frederick Smith
Interviewer: Jim Park
Date: November 2, 2012
Language: English
Length: 2 hours 35 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.
Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An oral history of Frederick Smith, an English immigrant to the United States. The purpose of this interview is to gather information spanning from Smith's childhood memories of growing up in the Netherlands during World War II, till his current station in the US. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C Oral History course "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." Specifically, this interview deals with Smith's experiences during the Blitz; the arrival of American soldiers; his term with the British army immediately after the Second World War in Allied occupied Germany; his immigration to Canada and the US; and how he established his life in Southern California.

OH 5082

Narrator: Lionel Simons
Interviewer: Evan Haynes
Date: 11/12/13
Language: English
Length: 01:59:31
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description (paper copies).
Digital copies given to Stephanie.

Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An interview with Lionel Simons. The purpose of this interview is to record Lionel's wartime experiences during World War II, and detail his eventual journey to Southern California. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Granata's History 493c course, From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State. This interview covers Lionel's family history; his early upbringing in an orphanage in London; evacuation to the countryside during the German blitz, where he eventually ended up in the town of Chittlehampton; his experiences as a young Jewish boy, and

being brought up with Christian teachings; his reunion with his family in 1943; attending the London School of Economics; becoming a vital member of the AIESEC organization; his travels to Finland, Germany, Canada, and the United States, where he continued to establish AIESEC programs; his many business ventures, including selling Univac computers, importing Denby pottery from England, the creation of Simon Office Systems; and his entry into the energy industry; his views on Southern California; his views on religion, Judaism, Christianity, and how they affect society; his opinions on Islamic communities and conflict with the western world; and finally, lessons of the second World War.

OH 5083

Narrator: Peter Dirnbach
Interviewer: Jacquelyn Bullis
Date: November 9, 2012; 2:30 P.M.
Language: English
Length: 1 hour, 42 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.
Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An Oral History with Peter Dirnbach, a retired engineer. The purpose of this interview was to retrieve information on his experience during World War II in Germany and Yugoslavia during his youth, and his immigration to the United States, eventually settling in California. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Granta's 493C class, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." This interview generally focuses on Peter's experience as a young adolescent during the war. Specifically, his birth in Berlin; being Jewish; leaving Germany for Yugoslavia; the bombing of Belgrade with his mother; his father being forced into a work camp; going to Italian occupied Croatia; being placed in a concentration camp on Rab; liberation by the partisans; forced to join the Partisans for two years; military life in Yugoslavia; losing his family; Tito's regime; education; leaving Yugoslavia and traveling to Prague; traveling to Austria and trying to get the United States; living in a displaced persons camp; climbing through the Alps to cross over into Italy; retrieving a visa to come to the US; living in New York for eight years; his move to California; meeting his wife; adopting three children; and how he would like to be remembered.

OH 5084

Narrator: Ilse Byrnes
Interviewer: Heather Glasgow
Date: November 10, 2012; 9:00 AM
Language: English
Length: 48 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.
Transcript: verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history of Ilse Byrnes, a Swiss born citizen who lived through World War II in her hometown of Zurich. This interview is part of Dr. Granata's Hist 493C class, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." Ilse talks about her early childhood and living through the Second World War in a neutral country, and what that meant for her and her family. She talks about the summer programs during the war, when all the children had to work to help feed the country. Ilse

also talks about her move to the United States to see the world, and meeting her husband in Mammoth, California. She also talks about her work in historical preservation and the Orange County Historical Commission and the importance she puts on preserving historical sites and buildings in her now home of San Juan Capistrano.

OH 5085

Narrator: Rose McDonald
Interviewer: Steve Little
Date: November 10, 2012
Language: English
Length: 2 hours 14 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.
Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history of Rose McDonald, a British survivor of WWII and my grandmother. The purpose of this interview is to gain an understanding of WWII survivors' experiences, both during and after the war, and their subsequent migration to the United States. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's Oral History 493C course: From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State. Specifically, this interview deals with her childhood on the outskirts of London, where she went to art school; being the daughter of a WWI veteran; her experiences during the Blitz on London; air raids; interaction with American GI's and becoming a "war bride"; views on Germany; propaganda; Winston Churchill's speeches; rationing; food in Britain; her work in the Red Cross; migration to the United States via the Queen Mary; life in Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, California, specifically Orange County; her husband's involvement with Barry Goldwater; becoming a widow; and her reflections on life today.

OH 5086

Narrator: Dr. Martin J. Hebeling
Interviewer: Richard Hartman
Date: November 14, 2012; 11:00 A. M.
Language: English
Length: 1 hour, 47 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; Photographs; Photograph description; Ephemera log; Passenger manifests of family; and U.S. census documents.
Transcript: Finalized; Reading Room

Abstract:

An oral history of Dr. Martin J. Hebeling, professor emeritus at Fullerton College. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his experiences growing up in Argentina, Germany, and the United States during WWII. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Ganata's History 493C, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." Dr. Hebeling talks about his father's time in the German colony of Southwest Africa and his mother losing her first husband in the battle of Verdun (France, WWI). He also talks about his grandparents in Silesia (Poland). Martin was born in Buena Aires, Argentina in 1926 and the family was able to come to America in 1930 under the quota system. They were in New York temporarily and moved to Springfield, Massachusetts, where his father worked at Bosch as a tool and die maker/mechanist. Martin developed whopping cough in 1932 and his mother took him to Grünewald, on the west side of Berlin. They returned to the United States in 1934. After

graduating from high school in 1944, he was drafted into the Army and through testing went to Officers Candidate School (OCS) and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He was stationed in North Africa, but had a courier trip to Germany after the war. After returning to America, he attended Colgate College, Columbia University, and Harvard Law School, where he received a JD. In 1958, he elected to take a four year tour with the US Army Military Intelligence, winding up in Berlin, interviewing refugees from the east, looking for people that were willing to go back and gather intelligence. Returning to California after the tour, he attended UCLA to receive his teaching credential. He taught at Western High School in Anaheim and then at Fullerton College. He started taking students to Europe during the school year and had a group in Salzburg, when the Berlin Wall came down in 1989.

OH 5087

Narrator: Rainer Grimm
Interviewer: Matthew Dietrich
Date: November 12, 2012; 11:12 A.M.
Language: English
Length: 2 hours, 39 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; Photograph; Copies of Nazi propaganda posters.
Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

This is an oral history with Rainer Grimm for the oral history project and class, titled "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." He was born on May 17, 1929. He survived the Second World War and supplements his story with that of current knowledge about the war and as well as stories from his father, friends, his mother and other people he came across over his lifetime. He was a chemical engineer who worked for Siemens and in his later years with a company named Bechtel. His area of focus was on both coal and eventually nuclear power plants. He was born in Nurnberg, Germany and moved to Erlangen in the early years of the war to escape the destruction seen in major cities. At the age of 10, he was forced into service for the Hitler Youth in the medical field. He was a part of the reconstruction of the Reichsparteitagsgelände Great Road (a Nazi Party Rally Site), as well as other various projects. Throughout his life he traveled the world and experienced many different cultures and values his education dearly.

OH 5088

Narrator: Andre Sprong
Interviewer: Austin Clark
Date: November, 13, 2012
Language: English
Length: 1 hour 34 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; Photograph; Photograph description.
Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An oral history with Andre Sprong, a WWII immigrant and a longtime resident of Huntington Beach. The interview was conducted for the Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) at California State University, Fullerton. It was also conducted for Dr. Granata's History 493 C class, titled "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." The purpose of this interview is to better understand the lives of European immigrants leaving WWII Europe for California. This

particular interview discusses Andre's childhood; his upbringing in the urban city of the Hague; his father's and uncles' stories of fighting in the resistance; the hunger winter; the destruction the war caused; his immigration to New York then California; his life and family in Huntington Beach; the Dutch soccer club; American Politics and socialism; his father in law, Leo Hordyk; how he met his wife; and how he considers himself Dutch-American.

OH 5089

Narrator: Michéle Cooke

Interviewer: Jennifer Keil

Date: November 15, 2012

Language: English

Length: 1 hour, 40 minutes

Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; Photograph; Photograph description.

Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

Michéle Cooke, a Parisian French woman, who journeyed to America in 1946, with her American husband. She was eighteen years old when World War II started in 1939. Michéle recounted her wartime experience in the city and rural areas. Her American step-mother, Vie, influenced her early cultural experience with the United States. Michéle made the acquaintance of Senator Connelly and General Lee's wife because of this connection. Her aunt owned the school of Cordon Bleu in France and prepared her for marriage with cooking lessons. She offered cooking lessons at Williams-Sonoma in Bakersfield, California. NBC created a television show at the cookware store called, "Cooking with an Accent," that aired in the late 1970s. She recounts how she adapted to new appliances and product loyalty. Michéle discussed women's role in the household. This interview was conducted for the Center for Oral and Public History project titled, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State" for the fall 2012 History 493C course.

OH 5090

Narrator: David Shichor

Interviewer: Yunuen Gomez

Date: November 20, 2012; 10:15 AM

Language: English

Location: David Shichor's home in Fullerton, CA

Length: 1 hour, 11 minutes

Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; Photograph; Photograph description.

Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An oral history of Dr. David Shichor, born in 1933 in Budapest, Hungary. He was a Jewish child survivor of World War II. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his war experiences in Budapest and migration to California. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C Oral History Course, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." Specifically, this interview deals with Shichor's early life in Budapest; German occupation and not being put in a Ghetto with the rest of the Jews during WWII because his father was in charge of a custom made suit store; his life after liberation and escaping Budapest because of the communist government to eventually move to Israel; his migration to the United States; his early life in California in 1962 and then again in 1975.

OH 5091

Narrator: Haim Asa
Interviewer: Gloria Lopez
Date: November 27, 2012
Language: English
Length: 2 hours 27 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; Photograph; Photograph description.
Transcript: Finalized; Reading Room

Abstract:

An oral history of Rabbi Haim Asa, Rabbi Emeritus from Temple Beth Tikvah, in Fullerton, CA. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding migration experiences from Europe to California during, and after, World War II. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's HIST 493C, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." This interview deals with Rabbi Asa's experiences in Bulgaria as a child during World War II. He discusses his experiences with the Holocaust as teenager, who stayed in Bulgaria until 1944. The Jewish community of Bulgaria survived the Holocaust largely because they were deported to the East. A great deal of this interview deals with how he wants the Bulgarian experience to be remembered because of his, and his father's, experience there. In June of 1944, Rabbi Asa and his father fled to Israel, after a violent encounter with the Nazis. The last part of this interview deals with his migration from Israel to the United States, and his settlement in Southern California. Sometime after graduating from rabbinical school, Rabbi Asa began his career with Temple Beth Tikvah and received a life contract.

OH 5092

Narrator: Elfa Ernst
Interviewer: Joshua Ornelas
Date: November 26, 2012; 3:19 P.M.
Language: English
Length: 1 hour, 36 minutes, 14 seconds
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; Photograph; Photograph description.
Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history of Elfa Ernst, collected for Dr. Cora Granata's "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State" oral history class.. The purpose of this class was to explore the experiences of European immigrants, who remembered the years during and/or after World War II occurred, and who immigrated to the United States or California afterwards. Specifically, this interview deals with Elfa's childhood memories of World War II and what it was like being a child in Germany during this era. She traveled all over Germany and Czechoslovakia between 1935 and 1961. In this interview, Elfa explain how she was in the middle of air raids, stuck in a train tunnel hearing the air raids, and most importantly her experience when she survived the D-Day battle. She lived in Germany and Czechoslovakia for most of her life. However in 1961 she moved to the States with her husband, Jerome, to begin life as an American. Although Elfa has experienced some traumatic events, she emphasizes that she was only a child when she witnessed these events and does not wish any child suffer the same experiences. Lastly, she has truly been through a lot in her life and loves being in the United States.

OH 5093

Narrator: Bernard Allain
Interviewer: Mike Parrish

Date: November 30th, 2012; 10:00 AM
Language: English
Location: Mr. Allain's home in Hemet, California
Length: 1 hour, 42 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; Photograph; Photograph description.
Transcript: verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history of Bernard Allain. The purpose of this interview is to gather information on Allain's time spent in Jersey, one of the British Channel Islands, under German occupation from 1940 – 1945, during World War II; and also Allain's subsequent move to California some ten years after the end of hostilities in Europe. This interview is part of an oral history project, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State," and Professor Cora A. Granata's History 493C class. Specifically, this interview covers Allain's formative and teenage years in Jersey, including the five years he spent living under German occupation; his move to Vancouver, Canada, at a later date; his new life as an American citizen, living in Oakland, California, during the Civil Rights, Free Speech and Student Rights movements.

OH 5094

Narrator: Herbert Stockinger
Interviewer: Martin Ugelstad
Date: December 7, 2012; 3:30P.M.
Language: English
Length: 1 hour 35 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.
Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An oral history of Herber Stockninger, an engineer living in Walnut, California. Herbert was born on July 30, 1927 in the town of Aspang, Austria. He is an immigrant from Austria to the United States after World War II. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding European experiences coming to the United States after the war. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Granata's History 493C: From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State Oral History course. The interview is conducted by Martin Ugelstad, a student in her class. Specifically, this interview deals with the first-hand account of Herbert, a teenage boy trained in the Hitler Youth and eventually drafted into the navy of the Axis powers in 1944. After the defeat of the German Army in 1945, Herbert travels and works throughout Europe. He encounters both negative and positive attitudes towards him by people of Switzerland. He eventually is able to come to the United States after he is sponsored by a professor in Berkeley. Employed as an engineer, he travels through the United States and eventually settles in California with his wife, Lilly. He has three kids with her. Because of his heavy accent he was often asked where he was from, which caused mixed reactions towards him. For a period of time Herbert told people he came from Switzerland to hide the fact that he fought for the Axis powers. Despite that many years have gone by, and he has become accustomed to the United States, Herbert feels like he is still affected by what he did in the past.

OH 5113

Narrator: Dieter Boegner
Interviewer: Sean Washburn

Date: April 5, 2014
Language: English
Length: 00:46:17
Collateral: None
Transcript: Verbatim

OH 5136

Narrator: Fanula Byrne
Interviewer: Justin Mingus
Date: December 10, 2012; 11:00 A.M.
Language: English
Length: 01:32:48
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph; photograph description.
Transcript: verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history of Fanula Byrne, an Irish-American immigrant living in Seal Beach, CA. The purpose of this interview was not only to expand on the already expansive knowledge of European immigrants in Southern California, but also listen to and analyze their numerous experiences during World War II. This interview is part of an oral history for Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C oral history course, aptly titled "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." Specifically, this interview covers Fanula's formative years growing up in the bustling metropolis of Dublin, during the 1930s; her experiences during the war; her outlook on WWII and immigration to the United States; civilian life and neutrality during the war; life in Ireland after the war; her occupations; and her reason behind moving to California. She provides excellent insight into the experiences of Irish immigrants in California, particularly in the fields of Catholicism, family life, and cultural transitions. In the end, she gives an important reflection and critique of World War II, as well as a vital perspective on modern American policy and culture. Though her experiences during the war were limited, due to Ireland's neutrality, she provides an alternate view of the war in Europe, and how it affected people differently depending on geographic location, class, and age.

OH 5137

Narrator: Ann Nanes
Interviewer: Briana Masotto
Date: November 20, 2012; 2:19 PM
Language: English
Length: 1 hour, 42 minutes
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph.
Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history of Ann Nanes, collected for Dr. Cora Granata's oral history class, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." The purpose of this class was to explore the experiences of European immigrants, who remembered the years during and/or after World War II occurred, and who immigrated to the United States or California around that time. Specifically, this interview deals with Ann's childhood memories; being born and raised Jewish in displaced person camps in Semipalantinsk (Russia) to Ulm and Foehrenwald (Germany), between 1944 to 1951; her family's background in Poland; their fleeing to Russia to escape the Nazi death camps

and Holocaust; the family being brought to labor camps in Siberia before the war ended; the living conditions of the camps; Ann's impressions of German DP camp as a small child, specifically her unawareness to the horrors of war; being insulated among the predominantly Yiddish refugee culture; her childhood experiences during and after "camp;" the difficulties of assimilating to life in America; learning English in public school; adjusting to Baltimore, Maryland's urban environment; living alongside different ethnicities and cultures (mainly Italians and Irish); her later experiences with anti-Semitism in America; and her formative years during the Cold War era.

OH 5179

Narrator: Edith Erickson
Interviewer: Jennifer Keil
Date: March 27, 2013
Language: English
Length: 57 mins
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph.
Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract:

An oral history with Edith Erickson, a Comparative Literature professor. This interview was conducted for the Center for Oral and Public History project titled, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." This project was a requirement for my spring History 596 internship course. She grew up in Berlin and then moved to a small town called Schmalkalden when the war started. Because of her Aryan features, she was recruited for the Hitler Youth despite her parent's anti-Nazi stance. Edith experienced Russian occupation and their transformation to the educational system. Her early childhood memories are composed gathering food and behaving like a tomboy. She also recounted the devastating American bombings in which she and other children participate in the bucket brigade to remove the rubble. Edith recalled Nazi ideals for women and homemaking courses for young girls. She recounts how women persevered and used whatever resources they had during the war. She initially moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts for her husband's studies. They ended up visiting and moving to California because of the monastery mentioned in the *Autobiography of Yogi*. She enjoys cooking and recalled the adjustment to American food preparations. Edith shared, "I had to learn how to cook the American way. I got the *Fannie Farmer Cookbook* and had to figure out ounces, cups, pints. We have the metric system in Europe. Life was just different. We never had cocktail time in Germany, it didn't exist. It was a more opulent lifestyle here." The use of appliances, gender expectations, and consumerism are also discussed.

OH 5180

Narrator: Margo Delp
Interviewer: Jennifer Keil
Date: April 11, 2013
Language: English
Length: 1 hour, 17 mins
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph.
Transcript: Verbatim transcript

Abstract

An oral history with Margo Delp, a trained beautician. This interview was conducted for the Center for Oral and Public History project titled, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." This project was a requirement for my spring History 596 internship course. Margo grew up in Mainz, Germany. She temporarily lived in Kowal, Poland for about a year when her father was stationed there during the war. She recalled Nazi Germany's expectations for women and children. Margo recounted how, "Once you were twelve years old you had to go in the Hitler Youth. I had to go." She shared about everyday hardships with rationing and how she aided her Jewish neighbors by smuggling food to them. When regime changed power her great-aunt, who was a seamstress for soldiers, made a dirndl out of a German Nazi banner by removing the swastika and repurposing the material. She shared about American consumerism and purchasing her first appliances in California. She explained how her German traditions were preserved through cooking and high cleanliness expectations. Margo expressed the challenge of leaving her family and becoming established in another country. She still visits her ninety-nine year old mother who still lives in Germany.

OH 5181

Narrator: Juliane Hodjera
Interviewer: Jennifer Keil
Date: May 8, 2013
Language: English
Length: 1 hour, 38 mins
Collateral: Field notes; Recording log; photograph.
Transcript: Verbatim transcript
Abstract:

An oral history with Juliane Hodjera, a former German and French language teacher. This interview was conducted for the Center for Oral and Public History project titled, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." This was a requirement for my spring History 596 internship course. Juliane lived in Czechoslovakia in the town Teplitz-Schönau in the Sudetenland region. She is experienced Russian occupation. In Vienna as a student of the art school, she experienced bombing raids. She pursued graduate studies and was married in Munich. Once she was able to emigrate to Canada, she and her husband with two girls were able to enter the United States. They settled in California when Juliane was visiting her cousin. She explains the way her family has preserved Czechoslovakian traditions. She also shared about her expectations of being a wife and mother.

OH 5313

Narrator: Bill Postma
Interviewer: Dat Tran
Date: October 11, 2013, 10:45 A.M.
Length: 2 hours 14 minutes
Transcript: verbatim
Abstract:

Bill Postma is the son of a Dutch dairy worker who emigrated from Friesland to Canada and then to the United States. This interview is part of Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C class, From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State. The purpose of this interview was to gain insight on the trials and tribulations of Dutch migrants after the liberation of the Netherlands. This interview deals with some core topics: the experiences of the Dutch during the war, the role of the

Reformed Church and the Emigration Society, and post-war California. Specifically, this interview examines the Postma's family voyage across the Atlantic from Holland to Canada and their experiences working as migrant labor on farms. When his family arrived to California, they settled in Artesia. His father worked on a dairy what was known as Dairy Valley—what is now known as Cerritos. Bill also covers events in his life that led him to aspire a high salary profession and a good life—which touches on the American Dream.

OH 5314

Narrator: Ernie Braunstein

Interviewer: Richard Mast

Date: October 6, 2013

Transcript: Verbatim

Length: 01:47:32

Abstract:

An oral history with Ernest Braunstein of Reseda, California, for the project, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State: Europe's World War II Migrants to California," Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Braunstein's youth and young adult years in Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia, and Germany during the Second World War, and the rest of his life in New York City and southern California in the postwar years, extending to the present time. This interview covers Braunstein's childhood and family background; his father's vocation prior to the Holocaust; his family's life prior to the war years; his own life prior to being arrested by the Nazis; his participation in a forced march as a prisoner of the Nazis from Yugoslavia to Germany between late summer 1944 to the winter of 1944-1945; his work in the labor and concentration camps at Bor, Yugoslavia, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg, and Mauthausen; his police chief work in the liberated English-controlled Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, which had been a concentration camp during Hitler's regime; his immigration to New York City and Los Angeles; his work as a delivery driver and salesperson with LA Pleating and Button Company; his work as an independent contractor and manufacturer of women's clothing; his life in the Jewish neighborhood of the Fairfax district in Los Angeles; his business with Blockbuster Video and its collapse resulting from Blockbuster going out of business; the loss of his Century City condominium and other assets in 2011; his current family, friends, and ex-wives; and his current life at the Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging and Elderly in Reseda, California.

OH 5315

Narrator: Ernest Behnke

Interviewer: Hayley Cadman

Date: October 12, 2013; 3:00 P.M.

Transcript: Verbatim

Length: 1 hour 16 minutes

Abstract:

An oral history of Ernest Behnke, a resident of Norco, California since 1959 who was a child during World War II. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his experience growing up in Nazi Germany and his immigration to California, via New York. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C course. Specifically, this interview was recorded for California State University Fullerton's Center for

Oral and Public History project, From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State. This interview addresses Mr. Behnke's childhood experiences in Ellerhoop located in Northern Germany, which is in the Schleswig-Holstein area. He recalls the impact of the war on him and his family, the air raids and bombings from the British and American forces, the presence of Russian and French prisoners of war (POW's) in his town, German propaganda, fascist impact on education, the different writing styles he learned both style-script and Latin, and traditional cultural practices that he took part in. He explains the process of coming to America, how he avoided being drafted into the American army during the Korean War, learning English, the social and cultural differences that he noted upon arrival, such as how generous and helpful people were, and how willing they were to go out of their way to assist others in times of need, and his perceptions of both the United States and California prior to arrival. He discusses his role in the work force as a watchmaker and machine operator in New York and later, after his move to Long Beach California, he became an aerospace engineer and worked on the Apollo missions. Throughout his narrative, he talks about his marriage and raising a family in the US. He participated in activities with the German American Club and the Phoenix Club in Southern California. He emphasizes that he identifies himself as an American citizen, and reflects on his life experiences in the "paradise" that he has found in California.

OH 5316

Narrator: Peter Epstein
Interviewer: Richard Mast
Date: October 15, 2013; 5:00 P.M.
Transcript: verbatim
Length: 2 hours 26 minutes

Abstract:

An oral history with Peter Epstein of Santa Clarita, California, for the project, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State: Europe's World War II Migrants to California," Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Epstein's childhood in Germany and the Netherlands between 1932 and 1945, and his life in Holland and southern California after the war. This interview covers Epstein's childhood and family background; his father's law practice in Germany until 1934, and his subsequent participation in a textile business in Amsterdam, Holland between 1934 and 1943; the Epstein family's forced deportation to the concentration camps at Westerbork, Holland, and then Bergen-Belsen, near Hannover, Germany; everyday life in the camps and people's survival strategies, the evacuation of Epstein's family from Bergen-Belsen in April, 1945, and subsequent liberation by the Russian and American forces; his family's life in Amsterdam and Peter Epstein's stay in a Swiss sanitarium to recover from tuberculosis; his family's relocation to Los Angeles in 1952; his experiences with racism and anti-Semitism while in the U.S. Army in Fort Campbell, Kentucky; his three marriages, the first of which ended in divorce and the second in the death of the spouse from cancer; his tax preparation business in Los Angeles which he still does at home part-time; reflects on his mother, his Dutch club group; how his experiences in Europe shaped his life in California; what his life might have been like if he had settled in another part of the United States; how he defines himself; and finally, how he would like to be remembered, along with how he would like World War II to be remembered.

OH 5317

Narrator: Dorothy "Dottie" Dodd

Interviewer: Lindsay Huysentruyt
Date: October 11, 2013; 2:11 P.M.
Transcript: verbatim
Length: 2:29:62

Abstract:

An oral history of Dorothy Dodd, who was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1938 and lived in China during World War II. The purpose of this interview is to gather information about her experiences in the Second World War and how this affected her life in the United States, particularly California. This interview is part of the oral history project, From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State, for Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C course. In this interview, Mrs. Dodd discusses some of her mother and father's experiences in Vienna, Austria right as Hitler was coming to power. Her father was Jewish, but Mrs. Dodd did not learn this until later in life, after moving to the United States. She lived as a refugee in Shanghai, China until the age of 8. Here she witnessed bombings and recalls her mother surviving in China after her father was murdered. Dorothy lived in Southern California most of her life. Growing up near Hollywood, she lived among celebrities and started a career in fashion. In her 40s, she learned of her father's Jewish heritage and how much Hitler had affected her family. She reflects on this dual heritage, having Nazi uncles from Austria as well as Jewish family members she never got to meet. Though California has provided her a good life, she does not see it as defining her character. She credits that to her mother and her Austrian heritage, as well as having American values. She thinks WWII should be remembered so that people learn to think for themselves and not repeat this dark time in history.

OH 5318

Narrator: Kurt Toppel
Interviewer: Sean Washburn
Date: 10/18/2013
Transcript: verbatim
Length: 1 hour 9 minutes

Abstract:

This is an oral history of Kurt Toppel a resident of the Pacific Palisades, California. The purpose of this interview is to gather information about Kurt's childhood in Nazi Germany, his experience in the Second World War, and his immigration and life in the United States. The interview is part of Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C: From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State. Specifically, this interview covers Kurt's early childhood in Stuttgart, Germany before the outbreak of the Second World War, describing his family background such as his father's involvement in World War I, his father's occupation as a sausage factory manager, and his father's forced joining of the Nazi Party. Kurt discussed being in the Hitler Youth, meeting Adolf Hitler in 1942, and living through Allied air raids, which led to his parents sending him away to another town. While he was gone his school was bombed, which led to the school's students, including Kurt, being evacuated to the Black Forest. Kurt also shared his experience as a child soldier on the Eastern Front, witnessing the atrocities committed by the Russians against ethnic Germans, and his horrible journey back to the Black Forest after participating in his first and only battle. This journey back home included surviving air raids by Allied planes and the fear of being caught by the guards who sought out and executed deserters. Kurt then discussed the occupation. He talks about being sent to Dachau by the Allies, how the Allies took his father away because he was member of the Nazi Party, and how his family was kicked out of their home by the occupying American forces. Kurt explained how he continued his education during

this time eventually graduating from high school. He then went to college majoring in economics and then immigrated to the United States in 1956 after being told that he could receive his masters from UCLA in six months. After arriving, he found that this was untrue and searched for a job, eventually finding work for the General Telephone Company in Santa Monica. Kurt also served in the US military, as part of his immigration, and became a computer programmer through the General Telephone Company and finished his masters in economics at California State University Los Angeles. He later started his own company and then went on to work for TRW systems, working on the Advanced Aerial Fire Support System program or AAFSS for the US Army.

OH 5319

Narrator: Eva Pearlman
Interviewer: Richard Mast
Date: October 19, 2013: 7:30 P.M.
Transcript: verbatim
Length: 1 hour 57 minutes

Abstract:

An oral history with Eva Perlman of Encino, California, for the project, "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State: Europe's World War II Migrants to California," Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Perlman's childhood in Germany and France during the Second World War, and the rest of her life in various locations in France, Israel, England, Uganda, Ontario, and both northern and southern California in the postwar years extending to the present time. This interview covers Perlman's childhood and family background; her father's vocations in Germany and France both before and during the war years, her family's life in hiding in various locations in France during the German occupation of France; her schooling in Paris and Israel after the war ended; her marriage to her husband, Mel Perlman, an American soldier from Kansas City, Missouri; their life in or near Oxford University, England while he pursued a degree there; their life in Kampala, Uganda and in two villages there; their life in Berkeley, California between 1963 and 1970, when Mel taught at the University of California; their life in Saint Catherine's, Ontario, between 1970 and 1988 where Mel taught courses at Brock University until his death; Eva's vocation as an accountant while in Canada; her relocation to southern California in 1988; her life and her home-based businesses in the years leading up to the present time.

OH 5320

Narrator: Richard Pilling
Interviewer: Eric Ortega
Date: October 21st, 2013; 2:20 P.M.
Location: Pollak Library, North Building Room 442 – CSUF Campus
Language: English
Transcript: verbatim
Length: 1 Hour and 35 Minutes

Abstract:

This is an oral history with Mr. Richard Pilling, an English-American who lived in Leeds as a boy during the Second World War. Mr. Pilling's interview was recorded for the "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State" oral history project, supervised by Dr. Cora Granata of Cal State

Fullerton. This interview and its related project deal with the wartime and migration experiences of European Americans who immigrated to California during or after World War 2. Mr. Pilling's interview covers the experience of a young boy in Britain during the time of mass German aerial bombing. Mr. Pilling discusses how the people of Leeds and his family cooperated in evacuation drills, food and clothing rationing and bomber warning and detection. He also recalls his participation in the British Combined Cadet Force; and how the nation trained young men in martial skills to prepare for a possible future conflict. He discusses the shape that Europe and especially England was in after World War 2 and his motivations for coming to America, which included higher wages and better living conditions among them. He shares several anecdotes about his early years in America including working as a chemist at UC Riverside. He closes the interview with his own ruminations on American culture and its differences from his experiences living in Leeds as a boy and Bristol as an adult.

OH 5321

Narrator: Irmgard Pence **RESTRICTED**
Interviewer: Jonathan Higbee
Date: October 25, 2013; 11:24 A.M.
Transcript: None
Length: 1 hour 36 minutes
Abstract:

An oral history of Mrs. Irmgard Pence, a German America and longtime resident of Southern California for nearly 60 years. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding her experiences of living in Europe during World War II and then immigrating to the United States, more specifically to California. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's oral history course History 493C From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State: Europe's World War II Migrants to California. Specifically, this interview deals with Mrs. Pence's early life living in East-Prussia; her disruption of living in Allenstein present day Olsztyn (now Poland); her education under Nazi Germany; her interactions with the invading Russian army; her family struggle to survive during 1945; looking for her father after being separated for years because he was stuck in France serving in the German military; living in Poland under the Communist government; participating and competing in competitive sports in Communist Poland; experiences traveling across the Atlantic to the United States; living in a Connecticut convent; deciding to move to California; meeting her husband on a bus; and how World War II should be remembered.

OH 5322.1

Narrator: Brigitte Rogers
Interviewer: Keith Okamoto
Date: 11/1/2013
Transcript: verbatim
Length: 46 Minutes
Abstract:

This is an oral history of Brigitte Rogers who lives in the city of Orange, California. The purpose of this interview is to gather information about Ms. Rogers's memories of growing up in World War II Germany and her immigration to America. The interview is part of an ongoing project of Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C: *From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State*. This interview covers Ms. Rogers's early childhood, growing up in rural western Germany during the

Second World War. While Ms. Rogers was very young during the war she does recall a few events, such as seeking shelter during bombing raids as well as living under occupation of foreign troops. While Ms. Rogers does not recall having any personal opinions of Nazi politics due to her young age, she does give insight into what it was like to live under Nazi laws. Ms. Rogers describes how it was safer to keep opinions to oneself out of fear of arrest by Nazi officials. She describes how two of her family members were arrested by the Nazis for their lack support to the state. Ms. Rogers also gives a detailed account of what the culture was like directly after the war. As many people began to return from the war there was a clear sense that a heavy silence had overtaken many people. Ms. Rogers also gives an interesting account of how she came to America and what life was like for an immigrant trying to settle in a new home country.

OH 5322.2

Narrator: Brigitte Rogers

Interviewer: Keith Okamoto

Date: 11/08/2013

Length: 00:35:48

Transcript: verbatim

Abstract:

This is an oral history of Brigitte Rogers who lives in the city of Orange, California. The purpose of this interview is to gather information about Ms. Rogers's memories of growing up in World War II Germany and her immigration to America. The interview is part of an ongoing project of Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C: *From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State*. This interview covers Ms. Rogers's early childhood, growing up in rural Western Germany during the Second World War. While Ms. Rogers was very young during the war she does recall a few events, such as seeking shelter during bombing raids as well as living under occupation of foreign troops. While Ms. Rogers does not recall having any personal opinions of Nazi politics due to her young age, she does give insight into what it was like to live under Nazi laws. Ms. Rogers describes how it was safer to keep opinions to oneself out of fear of arrest by Nazi officials. She describes how two of her family members were arrested by the Nazis for their lack support to the state. Ms. Rogers also gives a detailed account of what the culture was like directly after the war. As many people began to return from the war there was a clear sense that a heavy silence had overtaken many people. Ms. Rogers also gives an interesting account of how she came to America and what life was like for an immigrant trying to settle in a new home country.

OH 5323

Narrator: Bernd Kammer

Interviewer: Eric Ortega

Date: November 6th, 2013; 1:05 P.M.

Location: Mr. Kammer's residence in Brea, California

Language: English

Transcript: verbatim

Length: 1 Hour and 49 Minutes

Abstract:

This is an oral history with Mr. Bernd Kammer, an American with Prussian ancestry who was born in 1943. He was born in a small village in West Prussia called Deutsch-Eylau, now known as Iława, Poland. Mr. Kammer was interviewed as part of the "From Hitler's Europe to the

Golden State” oral history project, supervised by Dr. Cora Granata of Cal State Fullerton. This interview and overall project investigates the experiences of European Americans who came to California amid the Second World War or the post-War era in Europe. Mr. Kammer was evacuated from the Polish Corridor as the Russian Army advanced westward toward Germany. Kammer recounts how his family missed boarding the *Wilhelm Gustloff* at the port of Gotenhafen. This ship was later sunk by Russian submarines in what became the worst single loss of life in maritime history. Kammer’s father was an SS (*Schutzstaffel*) Officer who was captured by Russian forces. His step-father was a soldier in the German Army (*Wehrmacht*) who married his mother while they were both living in Springe as refugees in post-war Hanover. Kammer’s family came to America under the Displaced Person’s Act in 1952. Kammer recounts his first experiences of a country he had no knowledge of, including the weather, building conditions and his first encounter with racism at a diner in Mississippi. Kammer’s step-father worked for Wonderbread Baking company and eventually accepted a position at Orowheat Baking company in Burbank, California in the Spring of 1955. Kammer spent the rest of his life in California. He recalls his youth spent in North Hollywood and what life was like for a young German boy with a family who, while still proud to be German, quickly found their appreciation of the nation they now called home. After high school Kammer began his career in law enforcement, taking many positions throughout California in different capacities throughout his career. After the passing of his step-father in 1986, Kammer reconnected with his birth-father by contacting the Wiesenthal Center in Berlin who were known “Nazi Hunters.” By using their resources and the skills he had as a detective Kammer eventually found his father and visited with him several times in the final years of his life. In the end of the interview Kammer ruminates on his own life, how European-Americans like him have shaped America with their skills and ingenuity; and finally, how he wants the Second World War to be remembered.

OH 5324

Narrator: Oskar Zimmermann

Interviewer: Jonathan Higbee

Date: November 11, 2013; 2:00 P.M.

Transcript: verbatim

Length: 1 hour and 6 minutes

Collateral: Zimmermann’s book: *The World War II Chronicle of a Bessarabian German*

Abstract:

An oral history of Mr. Oskar Zimmermann, a German American and longtime resident of Southern California for nearly 60 years. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his experiences of living in Europe during World War II and then immigrating to the United States, more specifically to California. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's oral history course History 493C From Hitler’s Europe to the Golden State with association with the Center for Oral and Public History. Specifically, this interview deals with Mr. Zimmermann's early life living in Bessarabia (now part Moldova and the Ukraine); his family's long history of coming from Germany to Bessarabia; his education under Nazi Germany, Romania, and Russia; his interactions with the invading Russian army; the constant shifting of government control of his homeland from Russia, to Romania, to the Soviet Union; his family's interactions with people of the Jewish faith; leaving Bessarabia for Germany; forced to occupy Poland; moving to and living in Canada; leaving Canada for the California weather; helping to start the Phoenix Club in Anaheim California; and finally, how World War II should be remembered.

OH 5325

Narrator: Hester Dove
Interviewer: Hayley Cadman
Date: November 4, 2013; 10:08am
Transcript: Verbatim
Length: 1 hour 11 minutes

Abstract:

An oral history of Hester Dove, a resident of Murrieta, California who was a child in England during World War II. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding her experiences growing up in the United Kingdom (UK) during the war and her immigration to Bakersfield, California, via New York. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C course. Specifically, this interview was recorded for California State University Fullerton's Center for Oral and Public History project, From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State. This interview addresses Mrs. Dove's childhood experience in Hook, in the county of Surrey, which is 20 miles south of London. She recalls the air raids and bombings during the war, and the impact they had on her town and the surrounding area, the rationing that occurred, the animosity the British held toward Germans, the sound of the V-2 rockets, or Doodlebugs, the impact the war had on her family and what her life was like after the war. Mrs. Dove discusses her training and career as a typist for the Ordnance Survey, and the Royal Air Force, her time spent at Bushey Air Force Base, her move to the United States (US) after marrying an American GI, and her experience traveling by car across America to California. She explains her participation with the Welcome Wagon upon arrival in Southern California, her life as a homemaker on the ranch raising her two daughters, the holiday traditions she passed down to her girls, her move to Orange County (OC) then to Murrieta and her reflections on the American political and educational systems both in the past and today. Throughout her narrative, Mrs. Dove addresses her perception of the American west as being a place of Hollywood glamour and explains her understanding of the term "ugly American."

OH 5326

Narrator: Simone Sechter
Interviewer: Lindsay Huysentruyt
Date: November 12, 2013; 2:20 P.M.
Transcript: Verbatim
Length: 02:24:16

Abstract:

An oral history of Simone Sechter, who was born in Paris, France in 1942 and lived in Normandy during World War II after the Nazis invaded her country. The purpose of this interview is to gather information about her experiences in the Second World War and how this affected her life in the United States, particularly California. This interview is part of the oral history project, From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State, for Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C course. In this interview, Ms. Sechter discusses some of her mother and father's experiences in Paris before the war began, particularly how they met and their occupations. Her mother, Rachell, worked for Air France and her father, Bernard, was a dentist. In 1943, her parents were deported to a concentration camp, Birkenau, the extermination camp of Auschwitz. Bernard died in the gas chamber at this camp. Rachell managed to survive, but was subjected to hard labor. Eventually she was moved to the camp Ravensbrück, and made her way back to Normandy, France. Simone

and her sister were sent to live on a farm in Normandy during the war and did not have to go to concentration camps with their parents. Simone shares memories of living on the farm, hearing Allied planes overhead, and her mother's return. She describes the family moving back to Paris, picking up their lives after losing everything they owned, and eventually moving to the United States with an aunt and uncle in 1951. She has lived the majority of her life in Southern California, got her degree at UCLA, raised two children and worked as a social worker in Orange County. Simone does not identify herself as a Californian necessarily, but does have a dual national identity between her French heritage and living in the United States. She is also very proud of her Jewish heritage. To her WWII should be remembered because of how close Hitler was to succeeding, and how people need to question propaganda and stand up to evil. She also sees importance in reflecting on why Jews were singled out in the Holocaust, despite how much the Jewish people have contributed to humanity.

OH 5327

Narrator: Marie Elich
Interviewer: Dat Tran
Date: November 11, 2013, 2:43 pm
Transcript: None
Length: 1 hour 4 minutes

Abstract:

Marie Elich migrated to California with her husband Adrian Elich in 1957. Born in 1933 and raised in the province of North Holland, Elich was five when the war started and twelve when it ended. This interview was done in her home at The Chateau Cupertino near San Jose as part of Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C class and project titled "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." The purpose of this interview was to learn about Elich's wartime experiences during WWII and her coming here to California. Specifically this interview addresses core topics like: the occupation of the Netherlands, rationing and the Hunger Winter of 1944, the Dutch economy in the post-war years, and impressions of America and its culture. Elich discusses her upbringing in a German-occupied Netherlands as privileged. Her father, a doctor, found ways to deal with the famine and by trading linens for food and getting meals at a local police station. She recounts a Jewish family near her home being deported to a concentration camp, their only survivor was a 17 year old son. She also noted that her family sheltered a Jewish woman for a few months and with the help of the Underground, was sent to England. However, after the war, one of her uncles was mistakenly killed by a member of the Underground thinking that he was a German collaborator—an act that commonly occurred that time. Her town of *Hilversum* did not suffer much damage from the war, however a nearby town was—a town by the name of *Arnhem* which was featured in the film *One Bridge Too Far*. As she adjusted to her life in California, she started giving up her Dutch traditions and asserting her American identity. Towards the end she states that the biggest thing to be learned from the Second World War was the Holocaust.

OH 5328

Narrator: Ellen Nue
Interviewer: Sean Washburn
Date: 11/29/2013
Location: Ellen Nue's home in Torrance, California.
Transcript: Verbatim
Language: English

Length: 2 hours and 15 minutes

Other Items: A written account of Ellen's experience of the first day of the Battle of Berlin.

Abstract:

This is an oral history of Ellen Nue, a resident of Torrance, California. The purpose of this interview is to gather information about Ellen's childhood in Nazi Germany, her experience in World War II, and her immigration and life in the United States. The interview is part of Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C: From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State class. Specifically, this interview covers Ellen's early childhood in Berlin, Germany before the outbreak of the Second World War. She describes her parents' background, including her father's family, his education, and his occupation as the director of a power plant in Berlin. Ellen then discusses her mother's education and her family. She explains that they were in Yugoslavia on vacation when the war started and that people expressed their anger because they knew her family was German. Ellen also describes in detail living through the air raids in Berlin. She explains how they watched for incendiary bombs to keep neighborhoods from burning down, the daily schedule of the bombings, their routines for getting into their bomb shelter in the basement, and later learning how one determined if they were safe from the falling bombs. Ellen also describes living through the Battle of Berlin. She explains that she went to school the day the Russian military attacked on April 20. She also describes her volunteer work at her school that was now being used as a field hospital. She describes the conditions of the wounded soldiers whose injuries were wrapped in paper since there were no bandages. She discusses her journey home from school through war torn Berlin with two younger girls. Ellen then discusses the mass rape of German women by the Russians and how she and her mother escaped being raped. She then explains their decision to leave Berlin for Hamburg and their experience of attempting to cross into the British sector of occupied Germany. After reaching Hamburg in July, they then travel to Czechoslovakia to find her father. He was sent to clinic there because he had a mental breakdown during the war. She tells about her father's suicide because of his mental condition and her continuation of her education after the war. Ellen immigrated to the US alone in 1952 after getting a sponsorship that was originally for her mother. Ellen finishes the interview by discussing various topics such as her failed first marriage, her current husband, her children, and her involvement with the German American League of Los Angeles—she is currently the president of the organization—and why she finds cultural clubs such as the League so important.

OH 5329

Narrator: Frigga Breitenstein

Interviewer: Keith Okamoto

Date: 11/29/2013

Transcript: Verbatim

Length: 1 hour and 20 minutes

Abstract:

This is an oral history of Frigga Breitenstein who lives in Torrance, California. The purpose of this interview is to gather information about Ms. Breitenstein's memories of growing up in World War II Germany and her immigration to the United States. The interview is part of an ongoing project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C: *From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State*. This interview covers Ms. Breitenstein's early childhood growing up in Austria during WWII. While memories of this part of her life are a little faded, she does give an interesting perspective of what life was like during the early stages of the war. This includes various ways the people helped contribute to the war effort and the effects the war had on the people in the way of

rationing and bombing raids. Her family eventually moved to Munich in the final months of the war. It was here that she began to truly see the hardships that Germany was facing. Ms. Breitenstein gives an interesting take on what it was like to live under American occupation as well as the struggles that people still faced at the conclusion of the war. Her family eventually moved to the United States in 1949 with the help of relatives already living in America. The move to America brought about new challenges for her family. This included the continuous search for employment for her parents as well as the cultural differences that the family had to contend with. The interview concludes with Ms. Breitenstein talking about her involvement as president of the German American League.

OH 5332

Narrator: Barbara Vigano
Interviewer: Valeria Arias
Date: March 20, 2015; 9:00am
Length: 01:23:35
Transcript: verbatim
Collateral: Photographs
Abstract:

This is an interview with Barbara Vigano for the class From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State. Ms. Vigano was born in 1938, in Leipzig, in East Germany. Her family became refugees during World War II and they made their journey out of East Germany into West Germany at the end of the war. Since her father was a pest control engineer he did not get drafted into the army and his connections to farmers guaranteed that the family always had food. Her father's occupation also helped the family escape out of East Germany because the British wanted him to work for them so they received British aid. After the end of the Second World War, the family moved from Germany to Switzerland where Ms. Vigano finished high school. She married an American born in Italy in 1963 and then moved to Germany, where they had two children. From there they moved to Italy and Holland because of her husband's work. Then her husband found work in Southern California and the family moved there in 1975. Ms. Vigano attended Cal State University, Fullerton and got a Bachelor's and Master's degree. She taught French and German there and at Mt. SAC. She is trilingual, speaking fluent English, French, and German, and has always had a love for learning languages. Currently, Ms. Vigano teaches at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Cal State Fullerton.

OH 5499

Narrator: Edith Badstubner
Interviewer: Cora Granata
Date: July 29, 2014
Location: Germany
Length: 01:38:34
Transcript: None (German)
Abstract:

OH 5500

Narrator: Marie Louise Gericke
Interviewer: Cora Granata
Date: June 23, 2014

Location: Germany
Length: 01:41:53
Transcript: verbatim
Abstract:

OH 5501

Narrator: Hans-Joachim Grimm
Interviewer: Cora Granata
Date: July 31, 2014
Location: Germany
Length: 02:11:39
Transcript: None (German)
Abstract:

OH 5502

Narrator: Ingeborg Linder
Interviewer: Cora Granata
Date: July 21, 2014
Location: Germany
Length: 01:48:06
Transcript: None (German)
Abstract:

OH 5503

Narrator: Alexander Longolius
Interviewer: Cora Granata
Date: July 7, 2014
Location: Germany
Length: 02:17:26
Transcript: None (German)
Abstract:

OH 5504

Narrator: Hans Munchenberg
Interviewer: Cora Granata
Date: August 15, 2014
Location: Germany
Length: 02:18:23
Transcript: None (German)
Abstract:

OH 5505

Narrator: Hans-Dieter Robel
Interviewer: Cora Granata
Date: August 13, 2014
Location: Germany
Length: 02:04:12

Transcript: None (German)
Abstract:

OH 5506

Narrator: Saskia Von Brockdorff
Interviewer: Cora Granata
Date: August 11, 2014
Location: Germany
Length: 02:19:39
Transcript: None (German)
Abstract:

OH 5507

Narrator: Manfred Omankorsky
Interviewer: Cora Granata
Date: August 5, 2014
Location: Germany
Length: 02:02:33
Transcript: None (German)
Abstract:

OH 5508

Narrator: Klaus Schwerk
Interviewer: Cora Granata
Date: July 28, 2014
Location: Germany
Length: 01:26:46
Transcript: None (German)
Abstract:

OH 5509

Narrator: Klaus Peschke
Interviewer: Cora Granata
Date: July 25, 2014
Location: Germany
Length: 01:04:08
Transcript: None (German)
Abstract:

OH 5510

Narrator: Margit Siebner
Interviewer: Cora Granata
Date: July 3, 2014
Location: Germany
Length: 02:40:58
Transcript: None (German)
Abstract:

OH 5527

Narrator: Henny Vanderswaag- Weening

Interviewer: Shara Guengerich

Date: March 24, 2015

Length: 1:39:35

Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An oral history of Henny Vanderswaag, a Dutch immigrant who experienced World War II in Europe and now lives in Upland, CA. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her experiences in Europe before, during and after the Second World War, and her journey to settling in Southern California. The interview is part of an oral history class for Dr. Cora Granata, History 493C, From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State. This interview concentrates on Mrs. Vanderswaag's experiences growing up in wartime Drachtstercompagnie, Holland, and her experiences living in post war Netherlands. Her family hosted Jewish and Dutch underground refugees during the war, and she explains the tension between participating in illegal activities while the German army built a military encampment on the other side of the family farm. She explains how hostile relations between the Dutch and Germans continued after the war. She joined a Mennonite and Reformed youth group that held exchange programs between youth in the United States and Europe, and through this program came to the US, and met her husband, settling in Southern California. She relates how her national identity has changed over time, recounting how her national identity continues to be pulled between Dutch and American allegiance.

OH 5528

Narrator: Christa Hulz

Interviewer: Parker Tredick

Date: March 28th, 2015: 10:15 A.M.

Length: 1 hour 15 minutes 44 seconds

Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An oral history of Christa Hulz, a German-born immigrant and resident of Southern California, collected for the From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State Oral History Project at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to provide insight into the experiences of Germans who lived through World War II, the aftermath of the war, and migration to California. Also, this interview includes information about the education experiences, life in the American zone of occupation, and family life of Germans after World War Two. This interview captures the life of Christa Hulz, a German born in 1943, who lived through the Second World War who was educated in post-war Germany, and then immigrated to Bishop, California. Also, this interview compares the experiences of European immigrants who came to the United States. The interview covers Mrs. Hulz's family life, education experiences, photography business started in the town of Bishop in Southern California, her life in the state of Washington, and how her experiences of immigrating to the United States impacted her life.

OH 5529

Narrator: Sylvia Mackay

Interviewer: Jordan Magana

Date: March 31, 2015; 10:40am
Length: 1hour 21 minutes 15seconds
Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An Oral history of Sylvia Mackay. The purpose of this interview is to gather information about World War II Europeans emigrating after the war and ultimately taking residence in California, USA. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 493C course "From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State." This Interview deals with Ms. Mackay's childhood in Ashted during the Battle of Britain, experiences with meeting Canadian and American Soldiers, and her father's work as an Air Raid Warden; the feeling of abandonment as her parents prepared to send her away for her safety; her reservations about moving to Canada in 1947, her immigration from Canada to the US in 1984; Comparing life in Canada, England, and the US; and struggles of defining nationality and discussions of nationalism through the eyes of an immigrant.

OH 5530

Narrator: Carl Wiesmuller
Interviewer: Sandra Bustos
Date: April 17, 2015; 10:30 A.M.
Length: 1 Hour and 4 Minutes
Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An oral history of Carl Wiesmuller, born in 1926, in the town of Laader, Germany. The purpose of this interview is to gather information on his experiences in migrating to the United States, and in World War II. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora A. Granata's class From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State. This interview focuses mainly on Carl Wiesmuller experience as a German soldier during World War II. This interview also focuses on his decision and adventure of coming to the United States. He recollects memories of his involvement in the Hitler Youth and how he was drafted into the war at age seventeen.

OH 5531

Narrator: Elizabeth Alexander
Interviewer: Samantha Self
Date: April 23, 2015, 10:30 A.M.
Length: 1 hour 4 minutes 49 seconds
Transcript: Verbatim

Abstract:

An oral history with Elizabeth Alexander, a woman of British origin who now resides in Irvine, California. This interview was conducted for Dr. Cora Granata's From Hitler's Europe to the Golden State class. The purpose of this interview was to better understand Europeans' experiences during the war and their immigration to Southern California. This interview covers Elizabeth's life growing up during World War II England. Elizabeth lived in Gloucester and Bath, England before moving to New York and finally Southern California. In this interview Elizabeth, a young girl during the Second World War, describes the loss of her mother to cancer, having to live with different relatives away from home, bombings in Bath, a historical Roman

town, and rationing. In an attempt to not dwell on the past Elizabeth speaks mostly of her years in the United States and how she defines herself as an American.