

## Activity 4: Jewish Life in Pre-War Europe: Identity, Diversity & Commonality

### Inge Hack - transcription

**Interviewer:** Can we begin by you telling me about your family at home in Germany?

**IH:** Yes, my father was a lawyer and we lived in a very nice part of Nuremberg called the Luitpoldhein. And we had a very enjoyable life up until the time of Hitler. I went to school in the ordinary state school. And when we—when I was 11, took a type of examination and went to the Fürth Realschule.

**Interviewer:** What is that?

**IH:** It's a grammar school, a Jewish grammar school in Fürth.

[...]

**IH:** My mother did a lot of entertaining. She played tennis. My father, I saw mainly at the weekend, but in the evenings, he sometimes used to bring work home and they seemed to live a very comfortable life. I had a lovely time. I had a wonderful childhood.

**Interviewer:** What was your house like? Can you describe it?

**IH:** We had a flat: it had, it had a dining room; it had a lounge; it had one, two, two, three bedrooms, and then it had a small quarter for the, for the maid.

[...]

**IH:** Well, we went on holiday together as a family. We went out at the weekend as a family: They had a little car. Used to go out even after we couldn't go, you know, into restaurants and so on anymore. We used to have picnics in the country.

**Interviewer:** What sort of places would you go on holiday?

**IH:** Mainly to Switzerland. Mainly to Switzerland. Yes.

**Interviewer:** And what would you do there?

**IH:** Swim, walk, stay in a hotel and you know the usual things.

**Interviewer:** Can you tell me more about your parents? What sort of people were they?

## Handout 3

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**IH:** Unfortunately, not very much. When you say, ‘what sort of people were they?’ My mother, it’s a German expression ‘*ein gutmütig's Mockele*’. It means she was a very loving, a very generous, a very gentle person. And she used to make quince jam, which I still do today because we've got a quince tree in the garden. And she used to give it to all the children and she used to collect all the poor children and, you know, bring them and feed them. She was a very kind person

[...]

**IH:** I was very, very friendly, you see it in the photograph, with a German girl who lived round the corner from us. I didn't know at the time that her father was an *Obersturm* trooper<sup>1</sup> of the SS and we were very friendly, we used to play together. One day the mother came to me and she said ‘you know I'm terribly sorry, you two girls, but your friendship will have to cease. If...’—I cannot remember what, what the girl's name is—‘if her father finds out, he'd kill her’.

**Interviewer:** The mother came to you?

**IH:** Yes. While we were playing.

**Interviewer:** How old were you then?

**IH:** Well, I must have been—that was in the second—so that must have been in the upper school, you know, in the in the older part of the school. I must have been about I suppose ten something like that.

**Interviewer:** What did you make of that?

**IH:** Well, our friendship just stopped, you know. I mean, I wasn't going to risk her getting into trouble with her father

[...]

**Interviewer:** Going back to your home life, what happened Jewishly in your home?

**IH:** Very little. We went to synagogue once a year.

**Interviewer:** Which synagogue was that?

**IH:** That was the main synagogue in Nuremberg.

**Interviewer:** Did you observe any festivals at home?

**IH:** I don't think so, no

<sup>1</sup> Inge hesitates when saying the rank. Within the SS, there were two ranks, which she could have had in mind: *SS Obersturmführer*, which could be translated as Lieutenant, and *SS Obersturmbannführer*, translated as Lieutenant Colonel.