



Mrs Alice Alexander, born 1925 in Honnef, Germany, grew up in a Jewish family. Her father had a well-run business which was appropriated by the regime. In 1939 Alice was sent on a Kindertransport to flee Nazi Germany and lived with her aunt in London. She was able to continue to attend Synagogue. After one year Alice had to move to a hostel via the Refugee Children's Movement, as her aunt's husband had never been in favour of her fleeing to the UK to reside with them. Nevertheless, Alice is very grateful to them as she knows that she would not have survived otherwise.

During the war she volunteered as an air raid warden and was awarded a ribbon for her efforts. At the age of 16 Alice started working in a hat-making business. During the war she tried to keep in touch with her family and managed to get mail to and from them via Switzerland. Her parents and sister were deported and suffered two years in French concentration camps. Both parents were later murdered in Auschwitz/ Birkenau. Luckily, her sister managed to escape.

Alice studied foreign languages and held a number of senior positions across various fields, with her longest job being a marketing and export executive for an international metal manufacturing company. She is blessed with one daughter and four grandsons. Sadly, her wonderful husband died in 2003.

Mr Eli Abt, born May 1929 in Berlin into a traditional Jewish family, witnessed Kristallnacht in Breslau where his parents had moved in 1936. His sister aged 8 reached Palestine on her own in March 1939 with just a placard of instructions around her neck. Eli reached England on a Kindertransport in May and spent 6 traumatic months in a boys' refugee hostel in Hove.

His father escaped in August, followed by his mother with 4 year old brother on the day Hitler attacked Poland, resulting in a dramatic reunion.

They spent almost two months at sea attempting fruitlessly to land in South Africa, before community representations persuaded the Smuts government to allow them ashore (a story in itself).

After being involved in Israel's War of Independence Eli graduated in Architecture in Johannesburg, has run a successful London architectural and planning practice and played a prominent part in those professions. Having also studied singing at Guildhall School of Music Eli appeared for many years as soloist both in London and abroad.

Eli now writes and speaks extensively on his lifelong interest in Medieval Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts. He has two sons and five grandchildren. Eli has not hitherto shared his experiences except in a filmed interview for the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation.

Kurt Marx, born 1925 in Cologne into a Jewish liberal home, had to leave his home country at the age of 13 by Kindertransport, organised by Erich Klibansky, headmaster of the Jawne school he attended, never to be reunited with his parents again. Klibansky brought Kinder to England, returned to Cologne and later perished with his family. After his train arrived in 1939 he lived in a refugee hotel for 7 months in London. He was able to maintain his religious observance and his welfare was taken care of there. In August 1939 Kurt was evacuated to Bedford. He continued to go to school until the age of 15 and started to work as a diamond polisher and in a music shop. In 1948 he married and is blessed with one child and two grandchildren. Kurt shares his story in schools and is a member of refugee groups.

Ruth Barnett, born in Berlin in 1939, was sent on a Kindertransport to the UK together with her seven-year-old brother. Her Jewish father managed to flee to Shanghai and her non-Jewish mother stayed in Berlin living in hiding. Ruth had to live with three foster families and a hostel for a period of 10 years. In the aftermath of the war, her parents were reunited in Germany hence Ruth was forced to go there. She couldn't cope with returning to Germany due to her experience in the country so she instead went back to the UK. Ruth started her career as a secondary school teacher and later worked as a psychotherapist. She is blessed with three children and two grandchildren. Ruth visits schools regularly to talk about her story.