



Edith's Story, Chapter 6

And did you hear from your parents at all after you left?

Yes. I had letters, they were transported to the Camp de Gurs in 1940 and in 1942 to Auschwitz. That's as far as I know. But my father went out, worked on the farm and I always sort of thought they were together but they weren't in the end. Nothing I could do about it. But I did get letters from her right up to 1942. But I've been back to Germany last year and I met the son of the, who bought our house, and he said that his father always told him that they came back from picking potatoes and the family had gone. They didn't see anybody. They didn't see them but somebody must have seen something.

And when my daughter went, must be 20 years ago, probably more, with her children, they came out, because they went looking for the house, I explained where it was and everything else. A man came out and he says "Who are you? What are you doing here?" and she says "We're Edith's daughters" and he says he could never understand why we never came back. I could tell them why. But what can I say? I suppose we were lucky to get out.

When I went to the house, our house, they'd done it up beautifully inside, the most wonderful Neff kitchen you could imagine. Really, everything... Where we used to have a little bit of a shop they'd made a laundry room. I mean it really didn't bother me. This is the third time I've been in the house but the first time I'd seen it done up. But he told – I asked about a friend of mine, if she was still around. I went to the cemetery, the Christian cemetery to see if I could find who was living and who, but they'd done it up, that was like a park and there was about 5 or 6 family graves and they had a new crematorium. It was fantastic the way the graves were and the stones so I couldn't recognise anybody that I knew. He told me that the person I was asking about was still alive and 1, 2, 3 I rang her and she said "Oh you must come and see me" and when I got there we were pleased to see each other, I had no complaints about her at all. And her family was there, her nephew was there and her daughter was there, and her nephew was the Burgomaster of Teschenmoschel, he still lived there, well I knew he was by the name. And the daughter said that for years she'd said "I must find out what happened to Edith". But the strangest thing was, and I still can't get over it, we had school photos taken and she showed me the school photo, I had the same one, and she brought a photo out

of Jack and me when we were courting and I had a picture of her when she was about 16 or 17. I still don't know how I've got them or how she got ours. I can't remember. I mean I was very surprised. The school photo yes, that was what happened then, but when she brought the photo out of the two of us I couldn't believe it. And I couldn't quite get her to understand, I wanted to know how she got it but we never established it. And I've written to her since and she writes to me and so I'm in touch with her.