



## Heinz's Story, Chapter 6

**Your parents had quite a miraculous escape, a skin of your teeth job wasn't it really, can you describe their flight?**

They did, yes, well we tried very hard to get visas for them which wasn't easy because they didn't fit into any of the 3 categories. They weren't allowed to work, people weren't allowed to work, their maintenance or their keep had to be covered so they wouldn't become a burden on the state, we tried very hard my brother and I, our salaries between us we could live as a family, not in a boarding-house but if we lived in a house by ourselves and mother catered we could manage on our combined salaries. And eventually sort of a month before the outbreak of war we managed to get visas for them. And when they got the visas they, we spoke to them on the phone more or less once a week, call boxes of course, there were no... and they said "Oh we've got our visas now, there's no rush, we can pack our things and everything" and we said "Look, drop everything and come. Never mind packing furniture or whatever", because that was the week when Russia and Germany signed the non-aggression pact and they in Germany thought that's it, there won't be a war but here we knew that there would be. So we told them to drop everything and they actually did and they arrived here five days, four days before war broke out, on August 27<sup>th</sup> I think in London, and that's a separate story too. Do you want me to go into that? They were due to arrive on the Sunday morning by boat train from Hook Harwich to Liverpool Street station. Frank and I went down to London on an evening train, we couldn't afford a hotel to stay overnight so we went on a late train, arrived in Kings Cross I don't know midnight or 2 o'clock or something, and we walked from Kings Cross to Liverpool Street station making a stop at a Lyons Corner House on the Strand and when we got to Liverpool Street station on the boat train arrival platform there were hundreds and hundreds of people similar to us waiting for the boat train, for the arrival of their relatives. On the next platform, the departure platform, were hundreds of Germans living, working in this country who had been called back for military service and they sang the Nazi songs and sort of shouted across so it was quite a situation there. The boat train arrived – no parents. So we got worried because at the time the Nazis did drag out people at the German Dutch border and didn't allow them to continue with the journey. So we didn't know what happened but we weren't the only ones, there were about half the people left after the boat train and then there was

announcement to say that there would be a second boat train. Anyway they were on the second boat train. So that was that.