



Heinz's Story, Chapter 1

My name is Heinz Skyte, I was born in a town called Fuerth which is about 100,000 inhabitants just outside Nuremberg. When? In February 1920 just after the war.

My paternal grandparents lived in a town nearby called (?Kitzingen) which they moved to when Jews were allowed in cities and towns in 1863. Before that they had to live in village communities. My father had four brothers and one sister [PHOTO: Skyte001.tif], and he married my mother and also married into the family business. My mother's parents lived in Fuerth, she was born there and they married in 1912. My brother was born a year later, then came a war, and after the war I came.

The family business was a retail and wholesale textile business, also floor coverings, curtains, that sort of thing.

Now we belonged to a synagogue which in this country would be known as a Reform shul, a Reform synagogue, we went to synagogue most holidays and some more or less Saturdays but it was not a religious household, we did not keep kosher.

I didn't go to any nursery or kindergarten, I was at home more or less, started school at 6 which is the schooling starting age in Germany, still is I think, to a primary school, boys' private primary school for 4 years and at the age of 10 to what was the equivalent of a British grammar school.

The secondary schooling was a grammar school, a grammar and a crammer. Six years Latin and three years Greek, we were drilled in Latin grammar and Greek grammar. I've forgotten all my Greek. The Latin I always maintain helped me with learning English. I don't know if it did, but it certainly was helpful. It was a very old fashioned school, old fashioned teaching methods, sitting in rows you know, hands on desks and no science, virtually no science, and no modern languages. So English came very much later.