

# JFS Journal

JFS School

Issue 4 - Migration Edition

December 2020

From the  
Editor's  
Desk...

*Migration has been a topic of the autumn term at JFS in history lessons and what could be better than to celebrate our varied backgrounds and those of our sporting idols than by covering it for our winter edition*

*Happy reading and do please get involved in your paper*

*Ms Wolfson*

## Half - Aliya?

When I was on a 3-month Israel tour with my school earlier this year, I spent a couple of Friday nights with families who had moved from the UK (known as making Aliyah) in the last couple of years. I had a great time – the food was delicious, the conversation interesting and we all went out to play midnight football in a nearby park – something one wouldn't normally consider in late January back home.

What was strange, though, was that all the conversations were in English, the only Hebrew that night was the prayers. All the adults around the table remained partners or directors in English firms and returned frequently to the UK for business meetings or for family events.

Around half my extended family lives in Israel. The original pioneers left the UK in the fifties and sixties. Flights were comparatively very expensive, as there was no easyJet or low-price airlines, and in any case there was little cash to spare. They sold their houses and cut most of their ties to the UK. Contact with the family was limited to letters and the very occasional phone call, which had to be booked in advance with the telephone exchange. When you arrived in Israel you spent six months on Ulpan, an immersive Hebrew language school, and then you were expected to get

about in Hebrew. Speaking English or any other foreign language in public would have been considered rude and unpatriotic. Once you were there that was it.

Many of those who came out in the 50s and 60s are still alive, and they are proud of the sacrifices they made to establish families in Israel. While obviously pleased to see so many families arriving, many of them wonder how committed they really are. While they generally lead comfortable lives on UK salaries, is it possible that they are storing up problems. Israeli newspapers have written about the difficulties of families who live in bubbles in predominantly English or French speaking areas, where there is scarcely any need even to speak Hebrew fluently. What future do these children have in Israel? How will they cope in the army and in the job market?

COVID-19 and the spread of homeworking will no doubt lead to increasing number of families trying to benefit from a Mediterranean climate without letting go of their home comforts or salary. But only time will tell whether this half-Aliyah remains as durable as the original and more committed version.

Joshua Year 10

# Alphonso Davies: From Refugee to Victory



Debeah and Victoria Davies had just fled civil war in Liberia and had reached Buduburam, a Ghanaian refugee camp in November 2000. There were countless issues surrounding the camp such as searching for water which wasn't contaminated, food to eat and shelter to keep warm. There they had given birth to a son, Alphonso, who to survive required these essentials. Five years later, Debeah applied and was accepted into a resettlement project in Canada. Alphonso & his family decided to settle in Edmonton, a developing industrial city in the province of Alberta. His parents worked extremely hard to keep Phonzie and his two younger siblings entertained.

Alphonso was first noticed for his sporting talents at primary school where his coach enlisted him to a free after-school football league called Free Footie run by Tim Adams. When Adams watched Davies play for the first time after hearing the buzz from his coaches, he immediately called in Marco Bossio, coach of St. Nicholas Soccer Academy to watch a tournament. From this league, Phonzie met a fellow immigrant from Liberia called Chernoh Fahnbulleh and played football together until Davies was scouted for Vancouver Whitecaps' academy program at only 14 years old. At this point, Davies knew that he wanted to commit his future to football and to train to play

in Europe's best leagues. But little did he know how fast his dream would evolve into a reality. One year later at 15 years, 8 months & 15 days young he made his first appearance in the MLS, the USA's top football league and becoming the youngest player to do so.

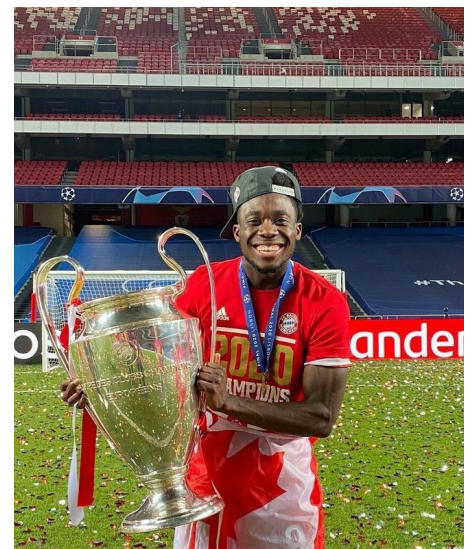


Davies had also caught the eye on the international stage for Canada and had played at Under 17 & 20 before being called up to the senior Canada side in June 2017. One of his biggest accomplishments internationally had been becoming the youngest ever goalscorer for Canada in both friendlies and major tournaments. In July 2018, German giants Bayern Munich agreed a record \$10 million fee + \$6 million bonuses for the

signature of Alphonso Davies. Before heading off to Germany, Davies discussed in a conference how Canada had welcomed him with open hands and how he had been able to develop from a refugee struggling to survive at 5 years old to 18 years old and one of the most talented youngsters in the world of football.

When Davies signed for Bayern, he was seen as an investment and a youngster to ease into Bundesliga football. Starting as a left-winger he struggled to fit into the slow possession gameplan Bayern were employing. However, when Niko Kovac was fired in November 2019 everything started to change. The new coach, Hans-Deter Flick moved Alphonso to left-back to replace the departing Rafinha and the retiring Bayern legend Phillip Lahm. The combination of pace and ball control allowed Bayern to develop a fast-tempo possession-based gameplan which could beat top defences such as rivals Borussia Dortmund and their speedy centre-backs. At the end of the 19/20 Bundesliga season, Bayern finished 13 points clear and won the title. The same year, Bayern Munich worked their way to the UEFA Champions League final to play PSG. The most important domestic game in the world finished 1-0 and Alphonso started and played the whole game at left-back. Davies had shown how his versatility and dynamics of pace and agility could land him a starting place at one of the best teams in the world.

## Aaron Year 10





# In My Grandma's Words...



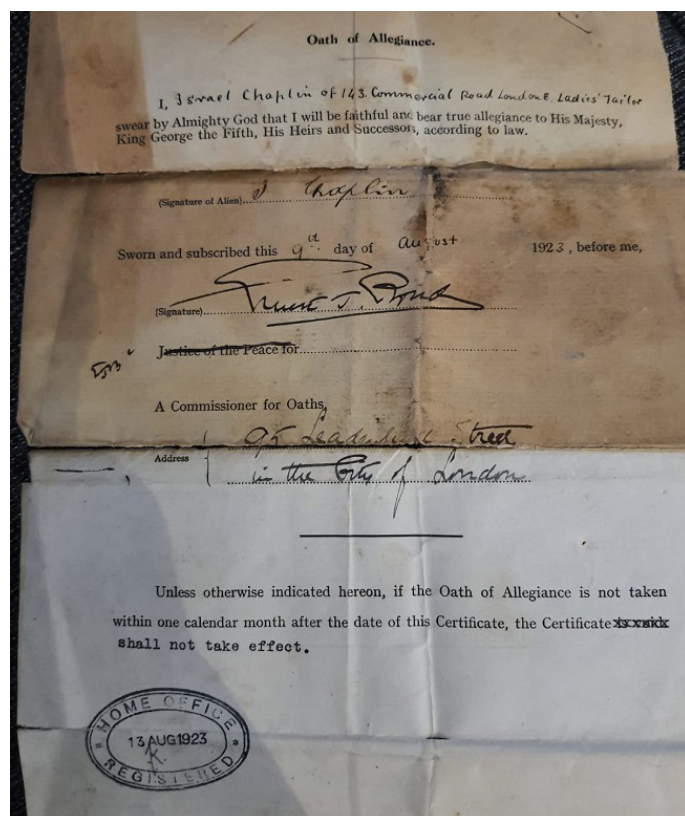
My name is Coral Crawford and I am a third generation Jewess, born in England to parents who were also born in England, but my grandparents all had a story to tell.

My Grandpa, Israel Chaplin, was born Israel Cheplinski in Russia, maybe somewhere near Belarus, where there were many little villages populated with Jews. In or around 1870 there were Pogroms when Russian soldiers on horseback burnt down villages and bad things happened to the Jewish population, so Israel and his parents moved to Poland. They would have packed their belongings up, maybe with a horse and cart, just like in Fiddler on the Roof, and they went to live in a village called Klodowa near Warsaw, the capital of Poland, where my grandparents raised their large family.



In or about 1890 the Polish government ordered all young men over a certain age to join the Polish Army. Israel and Yisken his brother knew they were Jews and did not want to fight for Poland, so they caused minor injuries to themselves. Grandpa Israel broke two fingers and Yisken broke his toes. They must have caused themselves so much pain, but they didn't care as they were desperate to emigrate to England and live their lives as English men.

So eventually in or around 1890 – 1895 Israel and Yisken emigrated to England and ended up in Stepney, my grandfather getting involved in the textile industry and Yisken would have been a cabinet maker. My grandfather changed his name by Deed Poll to Israel Chaplin and was very successful, opening up shops selling textiles and ladies fashions. He met his wife Katie who was from Romania around 1905. She was a wonderful dressmaker



and made all her daughter's clothes. They had six children Dinah, Ivor, Lily, Betty, Monty and Helene. They had a live-in Irish maid to help with the children and were the first family in the East End to have a bathroom. All of their family were involved in the clothing industry.

In or around 1940, because of the bombs in the East End, Israel, Katie together with Dinah (my mother) and Joe (my father) moved to Rayners Lane in Harrow, Middlesex. They bought a small house with my parents who had two children, Coral (me) and Michael my brother. My grandma Katie died in 1947 but my Grandpa Israel and my parents, myself and my brother Michael lived happily in the house for nearly forever – my grandpa died in 1957 but Dinah, Joe, myself and my brother lived in the house until it was time to move on.

## Max Year 7





# Two Guns Cohen

My great grandma Joan's cousin was the one and only Jewish General of the Chinese Army! In fact, for a few years, the second language of the Chinese Secret Service was actually Yiddish thanks to him!! It's true! His name Abraham Morris Cohen but soon earned the name "two guns Cohen". My dad discovered the story on a work trip to Shanghai:

Born in the East End of London, he lived there most of his childhood. He was known as "Fat Moisha", and was a bit of thug. He was actually a JFS boy but got expelled for bad behaviour. He spent time in youth detention for doing crimes. He used to break house windows and then offer to fix them for money.

His parents decided to send him to Saskatoon in Canada to work on a farm to improve his behaviour and work ethic. Unfortunately, he mixed with the wrong crowd in Canada. He enjoyed gambling, in a local Chinese restaurant, he befriended the restaurant owner Mah Sam. One time, the restaurant was being robbed, Morris stepped in and threw the robber out. He became a hero to Mah Sam and the local Chinese



*This picture of the "upper echelon" showing Two-Gun Cohen, in the white suit, seated with President Chiang Kai-Shek on his right, verifies his importance in Chinese leadership.*

community. He joined the secret Chinese Tong – support organisation for the Chinese president Dr Sun Yat Sen. Morris mixed in high circles and eventually got invited to China.

He tried to convince the president to put HIM in charge of his 250-man bodyguards. Attempts were made to assassinate the president, and on one occasion Morris Cohen fought off three assailants on a train. He was shot, only slightly 'nicked' on the left hand, so he decided to get a gun holster so he could shoot with both hands – and was dubbed "2 Guns Cohen". He became a military adviser and arms dealer for the Chinese president as he knew how to get deals done.

Eventually he became the commander general of the Chinese Army. In World War 2 Morris was captured in Hong Kong and spent time in a Prisoner of War camp and eventually released in a prisoner exchange with Canada. For many years after the war Morris helped broker trade deals for China.

In 1945, he was approached by the international Jewish community to try to persuade China to reverse their decision to reject the creation of the state of Israel, and in fact they did change their vote to an abstention. This helped to get the UN to vote in favor of the creation of the State of Israel.

He died in Manchester England, and attending his funeral were delegates from China and Tibet, a very rare occasion where both sides would attend together.

On his headstone was an inscription in English, Hebrew and Chinese. They referred to him as "Mah Sam" – the closest the Chinese could get to Morris Cohen. It means "clenched fist".

Eli Year 9



*Two Gun's gravestone in Manchester.*



# Migrating from Moscow

## A Defector's Tale

Plenty of Jews today can tell the story of their ancestors' immigration. A lot of the tales of escaping from danger in other countries aren't just something that happened in the past, as immigration is still occurring today. My family has a very colourful background, with grandparents from several countries.

My great-grandparents came from Moscow. My great-grandfather was sent to London with his wife as part of a trade delegation under Stalin. He decided never to return to Moscow, called defecting, because of the anti-Semitism in Russia at the time, with Joseph Stalin as the dictator.

My mother, who told me these stories, said:  
"Now, immigrants of different faith are encouraged to celebrate their

cultures and languages, whereas back then, my grandparents had to strive to become as English as possible."

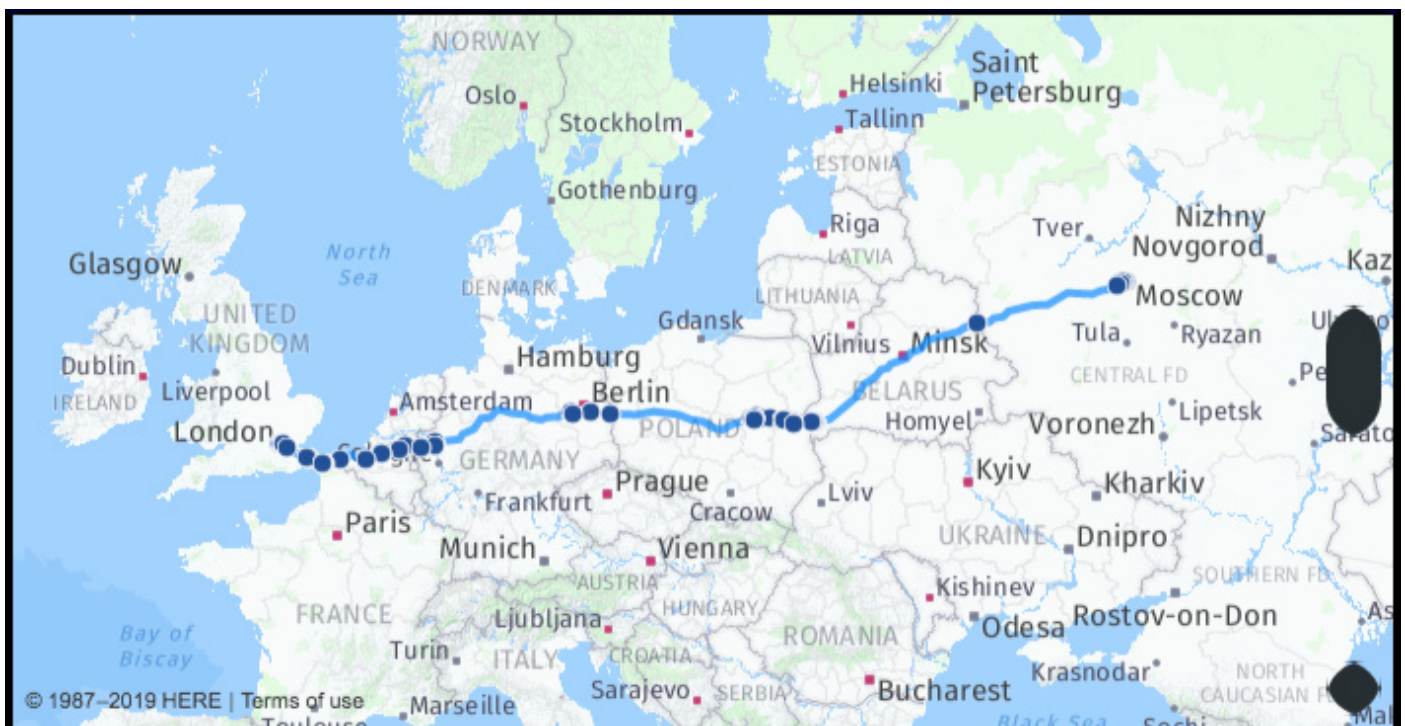
As immigrants, they spoke only Russian and found it difficult to integrate with the people who were British. So, my great-grandmother had a clever idea. She would go to sermons at St Paul's Cathedral on Sunday mornings despite being Jewish so that she could learn the Queen's English from well-spoken clergymen. Before my grandmother died, you'd never have known she once knew no English- she was so posh!

Sadly, when my great-grandfather Yosef defected to England and refused to return, his sister, Frieda, was punished, as Stalin discouraged defecting by causing any family left in Russia to suffer. Frieda was forced

to vacate her apartment, leaving her homeless. For a time, she lived in a forest on the outskirts of Moscow with others who had suffered the same fate. However, her son Sevyan, who was studying at a university in Moscow, brought her to secretly live in his rooms. During World War 2, when there was rationing, Sevyan and his friends selflessly offered parts of their meagre rations to Frieda.

When the Soviet Union fell, Russians were allowed to travel abroad for the first time in decades. Sevyan visited Britain and was reunited with the long-lost side of the family which had illegally migrated years and years before.

**Natasha Year 7**



Travel from Russia to London- the journey my great grandparents made

Isaac and Anne Herbst

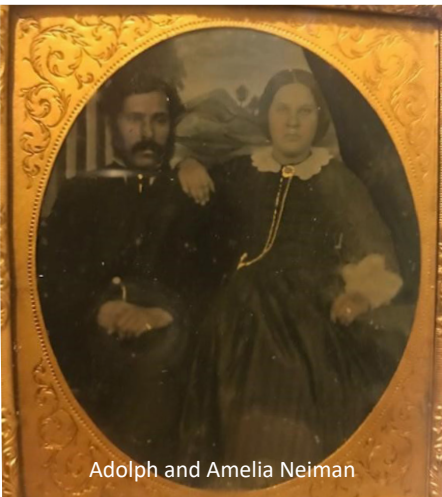


My family have come from a variety of places throughout Eastern Europe.

On my mother's side one set of great great-grandparents were Solomon Hocking and Mary Bensick who came from Brody, which now forms part of Ukraine, via Budapest, to Devon where they were given the surname Hocking



Samuel Steinberg (centre) with his wife Elizabeth on his right



Adolph and Amelia Neiman

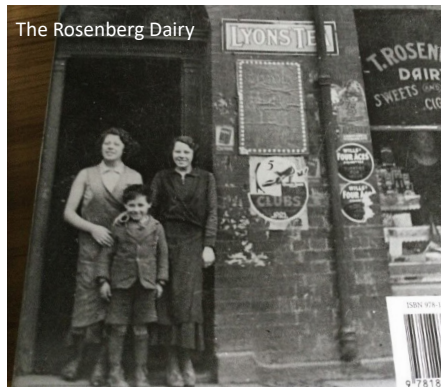
(which was a really popular name in that area).

A second set of great great-grandparents were Isaac Herbst and Anne Warchausky. Anne was born in London, but her parents (Abraham Warchawsky and Sarah Lazarus) had come from Russian Poland. Anne moved to Manchester as a small child. Isaac was born in Austria and arrived in Manchester speaking no English

whatsoever. They ended up becoming the managing directors of the biggest clothes manufacturer in Manchester.



Tilly and Gershon Rosenberg with their children Esther, Lou and Rachel (far right)



Also, on my mother's side of the family, my great great-grandma Sarah, left Russia with her first husband before WW1 to escape the pogroms. They landed in Liverpool. The intention was to go onwards to South Africa. Her husband went ahead of her but died out there, and she was left in Liverpool with two young daughters. She then married my great great-grandfather Bernard Steinberg who was born in Liverpool. Bernard's side of the family can be traced a long way back. His mother Elizabeth Neiman can trace her history back to 1645. Her father Adolf Neiman came from Miskolc in Hungary and her mother Amelia's family (named Henriques Valentine) came from Amsterdam to London in the 17th century. They were originally Sephardi Jews who fled Spain or Portugal to Holland. Bernard's father Samuel was born in Liverpool. His parents were Eustine Jablonski and Behr Steinberg and had come from Poland and Behr fought in the Crimean War.

On my father's side my great great-grandparents Tilly and Gershon Rosenberg came to Manchester in

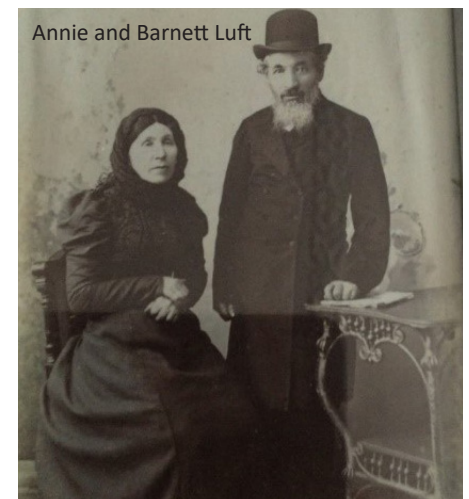
## My Family Roots

the 1880/1890s from Lithuania. They opened a dairy shop. Their daughter Rachel, my great grandma, was born in Manchester and she married my great grandfather Asher Geller. Asher was also born in Manchester to Rose and Isaac Geller who came to Manchester from Austria also in the 1880/90s.

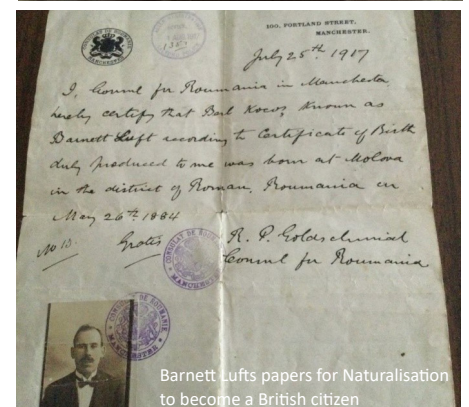
Also, on my father's side my great great-grandparents Ezra and Annie came from Warsaw. Ezra arrived in London in the 1890s where he set up a raincoat factory but found the atmosphere here was not good for the cotton so moved to Manchester where the weather was damper which stopped the cotton from breaking. Their son, my great grandfather Hyman married my great grandma Clarice whose father Barnett Luft came from Romania in 1898 aged 14 and her mother Annie Lang came from Galicia Poland in the late 1890s.

This shows all the different areas of Eastern Europe my family originally comes from including Lithuania, Poland, Austria, Ukraine and Russia.

### Oliver Year 7



Annie and Barnett Luft



Barnett Luft's papers for Naturalisation to become a British citizen



# From Russia, Poland, Romania to the UK and the world...

Migration has played an important part in my family history. I am a child of an English father and a German mother. I am lucky that I have two nationalities and languages – English and German. I am learning Hebrew and French too.

My family history is very interesting and touches upon the history of Jews in Europe from the start of the 20th Century.

My basic family tree looks like this: There is me and my sister. Our parents are Deborah and Peter.

On my father's side:

My grandparents are Marion and Jerrard (Jerry). Marion's parents were Frida and Sidney. Jerry's parents were Queenie and Anthony.

On my mother's side:

Deborah's parents are Sara and David. David's parents were Ester and Joseph. Sara's parents were Basia and Aisig.

On my dad's side, he is fourth generation British, with his grandparents all born in London. However, his great grandparents were born in Russia, Poland and Romania and fled to the UK at the turn of the 20th Century, fleeing pogroms and antisemitism in their former home countries.



My Great-Great Grandfather, David Davies, fled to the UK for his safety. He told my grandmother stories of how

the Cossacks used to ride their horses through the streets and attacked and murdered Jews. David met and married Rachel and they had four daughters, Freda, Rose, Betty and Lilly.



Lilly married an American soldier Sam during the Second World War; and moved to the USA where she lived the remainder of her life. Betty emigrated to Australia (where one of her sons moved) and lives in a retirement home in Australia.

Freda, is my great grandmother and she moved to Hereford during the Second World War, where it was safer to live than London, which was being bombed by the Nazi's. My Great Grandfather Sid was serving in the British Army and was based in Hereford.

My grandma, Marion, was born in Hereford, where she spent her first few years. until the War ended. She has very fond memories of her time there and even has a Welsh accent – when she decides to use it!

Marion met my Grandpa Jerrard, at Maccabi Association London (which no longer exists) who was the son of Anthony and Queenie. My Great Grandfather and Great Grandmother were the children of immigrants from Poland and Romania. My Great Grandmother was the daughter of a fishmonger in the East End, whilst Anthony was the son of a tailor.

Anthony, built a successful menswear business, including shops in Park Lane, Golders Green, Harlow and Hatfield, which grew out of his experience of the tailoring business.

My Great Grandpa Tony and Great Grandmother Queenie moved to St Albans in Hertfordshire, before the Second World War, and my Grandfather Jerry went to school in the City. My Great Grandpa helped to

build the Synagogue in St Albans and his name is still up in the Synagogue!



My mother's family in Germany survived the Second world war although they had to survive the Nazi death camps and living in countries under Nazi occupation. My

mother, Deborah, was born and lived in Munich until she came to the UK to study at university.

Her grandparents moved to Munich from Poland. My Great Grandparents on my mother's side spoke Yiddish and left Poland due to the Holocaust and post-war pogroms on Jews. They had no home to return to after the war. The Poles hated the Jews, and it would have been impossible to live in their home towns. My Great Grandfather Aisig was a very clever man, who built a business in Munich. He had a great knowledge of history and current affairs, but his only education was at Yeshiva in Poland.

My (Oma) Grandma Sara, was born in an American Displaced Persons Camp after the war, near Munich and could have lived in America if she wished to.

My Opa (Grandpa) was born in a Catholic Cloister, St. Ottilien, after the war and was featured in a TV documentary about Jewish children born there. As the son of immigrants, he had a tough upbringing and faced anti-Semitism daily from the teaching staff at school, who had not been de-Nazified. Post-war Germany still had many supporters of Hitler, in key positions, which made it hard to be a Jew in Germany at the time.

My family history is rich in terms of my family living in Central and Eastern Europe and moving to the UK; then heading to America and Australia. Migration has played a significant part in my family's history and is probably, typical of the European Jewish experience of migration.

**Olivia Year 7**