

One day they saw a tank with a red star. It was Americans. Someone said: look at this. Albert: impossible. They ran out, ripped off the uniforms and showed the Americans their numbers. The soldiers believed us and took us to the barracks.

Alfred wanted to go back to Bochum to see if my parents were alive. An American soldier who spoke German made a call. There was shooting in Bochum. There was fighting in the Ruhr. The Wehrmacht was shooting deserters. Later, when Alfred got to Bochum he worked for the town consul. He found out that after Kristallnacht his father and a brother were sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp.



Peter Benjamin: Alfred knew of my mother's family, the Goldstaubs, who owned Bochum's Tonhalle (theatre). When we were in Bochum some 30 years ago, I saw it was being used as an Aral (Petrol Company) car park - it now is a McDonalds! He was however, unaware that my dad Alfred had married my mother Lili Goldstaub. He said that my father was unmarried, which would have been true when he knew him - I had to reassure him I wasn't a bastard! My parents married after they had left Bochum, which probably accounts for the gap in his knowledge. He had no knowledge of my father's emigration to Australia in 1938. Alfred is 89, going on to 90. He is in full possession of all his mental faculties, but cannot walk any more. He drove a car till three years ago, when he had to surrender his license. His wife is Mady, his son is Axel. He only speaks German, but despite my rusty German, we were able to communicate quite well. He remembered that my father Alfred Benjamin (his uncle) had held a senior position (Fashion Controller) with Hermann Tietz (department stores with branches in Germany & Europe), and even remembered his then salary of 32,000 Marks! That was back in the early Thirties! He also knew my father's younger siblings, August (born 1898) and Gertrude

(known as Tutti, born in 1902, to whom you Marion bear a striking resemblance, both physically and in nature!).

He has photos of our Benjamin ancestors' graves as well as a photo of the horse butchery that our great grandparents and possibly our great great grandparents owned. He mentioned a photo of the premises taken in 1850. Grandfather Julius Benjamin was a conscript in the German Army that occupied Paris in about 1875, so he would have been born around that time (1850-55), so I assume that his (i.e. Julius Benjamin's) parents must have already owned the family Pferde Schlachterie at that time (1850).



PAUL MEGAN PETER
BENJAMIN



ALFRED SALOMON AND WIFE MEDY



AXEL

ALFRED SALOMON IN BOCHUM
WITH GRANDSON DANIEL





AXELS WIFE MECHTHILD
AND HER SON DANIEL

Medy and grandchild Miriam

