

MLOH 182/1-96:  
HANS BANDLER: 17/6/92

TAPE 20: Side A.

FAMILY LIFE:

12 Born in Vienna, 1914. WW1 had started.  
Poverty after war and food shortage was remarkable.  
Father went out into country to find food.  
Problems contributed to early dissolution of parents marriage.  
Lived with grandparents at first, later with aunt.  
Aunt good with languages. Taught him responsibilities.

44 Grandfather interested in technical things.  
Music in house. Records. Chamber music played with friends.

67 Aunt taught German language to post graduate medical students.  
Vienna medical centre in '30's.

74 Boy scout skills. Knowledge of city - streets, places of interest.

84 Schooling.  
Interest in engineering.  
Uni. students needed money.  
Technical college. 4 year course in engineering.

128 Australian doctors studying in Vienna.  
Acted as tour guide - spoke English.  
Interest in Aust. started then.

161 Palace of Justice burned by populace.  
Soc. Democrats & Catholic Party divisions.

177 Dr. Kinsela, Sydney.

187 TECHNICAL EDUCATION.  
Strong political overtones - anti-Semitic.  
Student Labor club formed amongst anti Nazi students.  
Posters put up despite opposition.  
233 Neither family very religious.  
264 1934 graduated in mechanical engineering.

268 Work difficult to find.  
Reynolds cycle chains.  
Radio factory.  
Drafting and translating from English to German.  
Machine shop.  
Political and religious bias in employment appointments.

314 Awareness of Nazi rise in Germany.

329 Lecturers at college.  
Visited professor's villa in Prague.  
Also visited Germany, Italy in holidays.  
Dolomites.

---

Dr. Kinsela; Reynold cycles. | PF1.

383 Father typesetter.

393 Side A ends.

TAPE 20 Side B: Bandler cont.

21 Father didn't make transistion to lino type.  
Out of work.

Saw father weekly.

Otto Bandler, brother, introduced Underwood typewriters to Austria.

40 Constant interest in engineering led to travel.

LIFE UNDER NAZIS:

47 Repairing radios in Jewish firm. Worry as Nazi influence grew.  
Anschluss.

Impossible to move in streets - stopped if not wearing swastika.

Lost job.

74 Wrote to other countries for work.

Visited embassies.

Street incidents.

106 Arrested. Taken to school. Held 2 days.

Taken to Western railway station.

Loaded by SS into carriages.

Incidents.

Taken to Dachau concentration camp. 5 months.

Hard labour. Deprivation.

168 Transferred to Buchenwald.

208 Friendships.

Experiences.

244 Early correspondence with English teacher, before war.

RELEASE & DEPARTURE EUROPE:

256 Aunt contacted 2 Australian doctors while in camp.

Sent home.

Employment in Sydney as engineer.

Landing money from Melb. doctor.

275 Gestapo in Berlin. Could appeal if had passport, ticket away  
from Europe, etc. Aunt made arrangements.

English friend met in London.

322 Younger half brother Bernard.

Arrangements for him to come out to London.

Aunt went to US.

379 Met at ship in Melbourne.

Came on Otranto. Many Jewish passengers.

415 Side B ends.

---

Otto Bandler; Bernard Bandler. | PF1.

TAPE 21. Hans Bandler cont.

SIDE A.

ARRIVAL IN AUST.

13 Arrived in Melbourne. Met by Dr. Wettinhall.  
Stayed in Toorak.  
Job not available in Sydney.  
Employed by General Motors in Sydney.  
Worked at Holden factory at Pagewood as draughtsman.

69 Description of Pagewood factory.

71 Stayed with Dr.Kinsell at Killara.  
Train to Central, tram to Maroubra.

78 WORKING CONDITIONS.  
Fine sand problem.  
Cold winds.

84 Work finished with completion of construcion drawings.

87 WW2 commenced.  
Tried to join AIF.

107 Interviewed by police at Kings Cross as alien.

EARLY CAREER

116 Enrolled at Tech. in Local Govt. engineering.

120 Student friendships.  
Told of Nazi regime.

128 Small jobs.  
Diploma awarded 1943.

135 Civil engineering - interest in hydraulic engineering.  
Water supply of Sydney & Brisbane essay.

147 1944. Became naturalized.

153 Ministry of Munitions; radio communications structures.

157 Interest in documentary films.  
Instituted film groups, music assemblies in lunch hours.

167 Attended concerts in Town Hall

173 Influenced by Mr. Foxall, taught surveying.

184 Worked as surveyor's assistant and linesman for Foxall & Lyons.

189 Wolfgang Bass. Friend from concentration camp.  
Worked for Dept. for Mainroads.  
Designed skew bridges for railway crossings.  
Walter Bass, son.

Dr. Wettinhall; Dr.Kinsela; Mr. Foxall; Wolfgang Bass; Walter Bass.|PF1.



218 Ministry of Munitions closed.

221 Joined Inst. of Engineers 1945.

#### ABORIGINES.

240 Interested in documentaries about aborigines.

Faith Mussing.

Married soon after, 1952.

260 Depression at this time.

1953 Job with Water Board. 25 years.

Retired 1979.

#### WORK WITH WATER BOARD.

274 Structural design of Warragamba dam.  
Details.

George Aiken. John Collecott. Bill Egan.

#### FAMILY LIFE.

297 Acquired land at Frenchs Forest.

Built house.

1954 daughter born.

Wifes father came from New Hebrides.

Daughter now doctor of medicine.

#### TRAVEL.

326 Overseas trip to inspect technical structures

1969 Report on Asia & Europe.

Details.

351 Kuwait. Desalination works.

381 Tel Aviv, Israel.

397 Zurich.

399 Side A ends.

Tape 21, Bandler cont.

Side B.

#### OVERSEAS TRAVEL

20 Israel tour details.

Water supplies. Wells.

Arab traders courteous.

39 England. London Metropolitan Water Board.

Edinburgh. Filom festival.

Pittlochary Dam. Details.

49 Water Congress, Vienna.

54 West Germany. Works on Lippe.

60 Amsterdam.

63 Prague.

65 Moscow.

Water works in Tashkent.

---

Faith Mussing; Geo.Aitken;John Collecot; Bill Egan. |PF1.

68 Karachi, Pakistan.  
Rawalpindi Dam.  
Military control.

80 WORK ON WARRAGAMBA.  
Specifications for lift, gantry crane.

91 Worked for time with Water Conservation & Irrigation Commission  
of NSW. Burranjuk Dam.

100 Cyclopiam masonry in dam construction.

110 Engaged on service reservoir design.  
Not always environmentally compatible.

116 1972 Post grad. course at Macquarie Uni. on environmental  
studies.  
Gained Masters degree . Thesis "Environmental implications of water  
supply of Sydney hydraulic structures". 1979.

143 1975 Tokyo. Paper to conference of International Assocn. of  
Hydraulic Science.

148 Studied water structures in Tokyo.  
Paper on water resources development in Japan.

152 Member of Water Resources branch of Inst. of Engrs.

156 Founding member of Environmental Engr. branch of Inst. 1984.  
Regular meeting attendance

160 Lectures on environmental engineering and hydraulic structures  
to Uni. in Italy, Germany - 1985.

178 Interest in environment grew in Water Board.

194 Retires from W.Board 1979.  
Devoted time to reading & writing on engineering.  
1991 Hobart. Last paper on case studies on environmental structures.

212 Peter Hughes, Water Board, influence.

216 1971. Active member of Aust. Water & Waste Water Assocn.  
Papers, conferences, seminars, etc.

230 Currently interested in pre-history.  
Hon. research associate of Macquarie uni.

234 Considering book on Water for Kuringai.

240 Paper on water resources and engineering in pre-history.  
Fish traps, etc.  
Stone houses in Vic. Lake Condah.  
Details of work, leisure, law of aborigines.

288 Wishes to encourage aborigines in engineering works.

---

Peter Hughes. | PF1.

298 OUTSTANDING FRIENDS.

Alan Ashbolt.

Jim Staples.

Rev. Alf Clint. Tranby Abor. College, Glebe.

Walter Mussing.

Fritz Poyr. W.Board engr.

340 Comments on environmental management in engineering.

Rio conference.

Shoalhaven scheme. Fitzroy Falls dam.

Braidwood dam.

414 Interview ends.

---

Alan Ashbolt; Jim staples; Rev.Alf. Clint; Walter Mussing.

Fritz Pohr. | PF1.



THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, AUSTRALIA  
SYDNEY DIVISION ENGINEERING HERITAGE COMMITTEE  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEWEE: HANS BANDLER

No: IEA 20

21

INTERVIEWER: RICHARD RAXWORTHY

DATE: 17 JUNE 1992

NO. OF TAPES: 2

SIDE ONE

Eiki B&H

- 010 Introduction.
- 012 Personal details. Born in Vienna, December 1914. Conditions in Austria after the war. Effect on parents. Grew up with grandparents, then mother's sister. Description of young life.
- 041 Influences. Grandfather/ interest in technical things. Music at home. Influence of aunt. City of Vienna.
- 080 Schooling. Access to universities in Vienna in the 1930s. Technical College (for those interested in engineering). Lived in 9th District, close to inner city. Schooling system in Austria. Attended technical college for four years.
- 122 Links between Vienna and Australia. Doctors from Australia who came to Vienna for postgraduate study. Offered to act as a guide to overseas doctors. Dr Rowland Wettinghall from Melbourne. Dr Kinsella from Sydney.
- 177 Technical education. Political overtones. Implications of Jewish descent. National Socialist ideas. Student bashings. Formation of Student Labour Club. Battles between right wing and left wing intensified over the 1930s. Political consciousness.
- 222 Religious observances of family. Attitude to Jewish families. HB known as a member of the Student Labour Club. Graduated in Mechanical Engineering in 1934.

---

Dr Rowland Wettinghall, Dr Kinsella

- 258 Early working life. Not entirely satisfied with experience gained. Religious bias of major engineering factories.
- 301 Rise of Hitler in Germany. Awareness in Austria. Threat.
- 310 Lectures at Technical College.
- 324 Travels as a student.
- 367 Father. Occupation - typesetter. Description of work.
- 377 END OF SIDE ONE

## SIDE TWO

- 018 Father, cont. Didn't make the transition into linotype/ out of work.  
Otto Bandler - introduced Underwood Typewriters to Austria.
- 037 The Anschluss. Interest in other countries. Repaired radios for Jewish firm. The Anschluss [annexation of Austria by Nazi Germany]. Memories of the night. Events following the Anschluss/ almost impossible to go out in the street without being stopped. Ceased work. Looked for engineering work in other countries. Nazi hold-ups in the street. Awareness of threat.
- 099 Arrest. Call at 6.30am. Arrest by two policeman. Experience at the police station/ school where they were held. Released after two days/ taken to railway station/ SS/ train journey to Germany/ treatment/ attempted escape of fellow student/
- 150 Dachau Concentration Camp. Work at camp. Deprivation. Food.
- 160 Transfer to Buchenvart camp. November - transferred to Buchenvart [spelling?]. Conditions. Corruption. Lack of medical care. No women prisoners. The electrical wire.

---

Otto Bandler



- 190      Alphabetical organisation of inmates. Fellow prisoner, Bruno Bettelheim (later famous writer, psychiatrist). Exchange of information/ retained intellectual buoyancy. Disobeying of orders. Punishment.
- 233      Arrangements for release. Previous correspondence with teacher in England. Aunt in touch with Dr Wettinghall and Dr Kinsella in Australia, 'saved his life'. January - allowed to go home/ job organised in Australia/ Dr Wettinghall had guaranteed landing money. Release - arrangements for ticket, legal passport. Bribery of Nazis. Conditions of release. Flight from Vienna to London. Feelings on plane. Met by teacher in England.
- 304      Situation of other family members. Father. Half-brother/ attempts to get him out of Vienna. Arrangements made. Aunt/ arrangements for US. Unable to get father out.
- 381      Voyage to Australia by ship.
- 398      END OF SIDE TWO

---

Bruno Bettelheim  
Dr Wettinghall, Dr Kinsella

## SIDE THREE

- 010      Arrival in Australia. Atmosphere in Melbourne. Meeting Dr Wettinghall. Arrangements for job. Looking for a job in Melbourne.
- 053      Interview with General Motors. Move to Sydney as engineering draftsman with GM factory at Pagewood.
- 066      General Motors. Description of site. Accommodation at Dr Kinsella'. Travel to work. Working conditions.
- 082      WWII. Attempts to join AIF, the Airforce. Value of qualifications in Australia. Interviewed by police as an enemy alien. Restrictions on enemy aliens in Australia. Friends made at college. Integration.
- 125      Work and study. Jobs as an engineering draftsman. Passed diploma from Sydney Technical College 1943.
- 129      Civil Engineering. Interest in hydraulic engineering. Work on water supply of Sydney and Brisbane.
- 143      Naturalisation, 17 November 1944. .
- 156      Ministry of Munitions. Job in radio communications.
- Interest in documentary films. Film groups and music assemblies. Musical concerts at the Town Hall.
- 107      Influences at Sydney Technical College. Mr Vauxhall - surveying teacher. Wolfgang Bass - Lecturer. In concentration camp with HB.
- 214      Institution of Engineers. Joined 1941 - student membership.
- 232      Interest in film.
- Marriage.

---

Dr Kinsella  
Mr Vauxhall  
Wolfgang Bass

- 251       Sydney Water Board, 1950s. Joined Water Board in September 1953. Worked as a designing draftsman for over 25 years. Retired 20 July 1979.
- 266       Mains work. Structural design. Responsibilities. Principle designing engineer - George Aiken. John Collacott. Bill Egan.
- 290       Purchase of land at Frenchs Forest. Building of house. Birth of daughter, 1954.
- 318       Overseas trip to inspect technical structures. Report published, *Report on Visit to Europe and Asia* 1969.

END OF SIDE 3

---

John Collacott  
Bill Egan



## SIDE 4

- 019 Overseas trip cont. Israel. Discussion with professors at Haifa. Water situation in Israel. Pollution. Salt. Cooperation of arabs. England. International Water Supply Congress, Vienna. West Germany. Amsterdam. Prague. Moscow. Tashkent. Karachi. Return to Australia.
- 078 Warragamba Dam. Design specifications. Tradition of dam design in NSW. HB had worked for Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission of NSW.
- 097 Cyclopean concrete method.
- 108 Environmental awareness and dams. Concerns mentioned to supervisors/ response. 1972 - course for Environmental Studies at Macquarie University. Masters degree - thesis: 'Environment Implications of Water Supply of Sydney Hydraulic Structures 1979'. Macquarie University - Diploma course in Environmental Studies.
- 139 International Conference of the International Association of Hydraulic Science, Toyko 1975. Paper published in *Water Resources Development in Japan*.
- 154 IEAA. Founding member of the Environmental Engineering Branch of The Institution of Engineers, Sydney Division. March 1984.
- 160 Lectures. On 'Environmental Engineering and Hydraulic Structure' in Italy and Germany.
- 176 Water Board. Growing interest in environmental questions. Role of Water Board.
- 191 Retirement from Water Board, July 1979. Activities in free time. Research and papers. National Engineers Conference, Hobart 1991 - paper titles 'Hydraulic Structures: Research, Development and Practice - Environmental Success or Failure'.

- 205      **Colleagues.**  
Water Board - Peter Hughes  
Australian Water and Waste Water Association.
- 228      **Interest in prehistory.** Intention to write a book about  
Kuringai/ fish traps built by aborigines.  
Aboriginal stone house in Victoria, near Lake Condah.
- 288      **Outstanding people.**  
Alan Ashbart - ABC Radio and Film  
Jim Staples  
Rev. Alf Clint  
Walter Mussing  
Fritz Poyer
- 337      **The environment.** Respect for the environment.
- 368      **Shoalhaven scheme.** Criticisms. Further proposals.
- 400      **END OF SIDE 4**

---

Peter Hughes  
Alan Ashbart  
Jim Staples  
Rev. Alf Clint  
Walter Mussing  
Fritz Poyer