

WORLD WAR II ORAL HISTORY SERIES

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In Partnership

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Mildred Bauman

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Interviewed by

JoAnn Myers

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Burnet, Texas



Millie Bauman

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Tape Counter, Speaker, Subject	NARRATIVE
000 Myers	This is Jo Ann Myers; today is 18 November 2005. I'm interviewing for the first time Millie Bauman. This interview is taking place at the Library in the Herman Brown Free Library at 100 East Washington St., Burnet, TX. Ok, first off Ms Bauman I want to thank you for coming in and letting us hear your story. I think it's really important to hear a child's perspective of the war in particular in your case since you were a child in Germany. I want to start off with where you were born and when you were born.
Bauman	I was born in Brooklyn, New York, November 1926
Myers	Ok, and what were your parent's names?
Bauman	Arthur and Kaethe Weitzel
Myers	What did your parents do for a living? In Brooklyn?
Bauman	Well my father had a hard time finding work when he came over but when I came back in 1946 he was working for a chain restaurant in New York City as a maintenance man.
Myers	When did he immigrate to the United States?
Bauman	In 1923
Myers	So that was pretty close to the time when the depression began.
Bauman	Yes
Myers	So he had a hard time finding work?
Bauman	Yes
Myers	Ok. Did you have any other relatives in New York at the time?
Bauman	Yes. My father's two sisters.

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Myers	They were already there? Or did they come with you?
Bauman	No, I think one came before, It's a long story how they came over here. But a very interesting story
Myers	Well if you would like to share that?
Bauman	You may not have enough time for that. When WWII broke out in 1914, my father's sister worked for a circus as a seamstress. The circus was in England at the time and they had a choice go back to Germany or go with the circus to the United States.
Myers	Oh, I see.
Bauman	So my father's sister opted to go with the circus to the United States and there was a man she married my Uncle Pete, he was from Denmark and he also came over to the states and they married and after they became citizens then they sent for an affidavit for my father to come over here and after my father became a citizen they sent for my mother
Myers	Oh
Bauman	So that's how my family got to be here, just because my father's sister worked for a circus.
Myers	WOW, that's really interesting! You had told me previously that your Grandparents raised you, so tell me how that came about.
Bauman	Well my Mother and Father sent me to Germany in 1928 to live with my Grandparents in Berlin and that's what happened. I was only supposed to stay four years or so until school age but my parents never asked for me to come back to the states.
Myers	Do you think it was for financial reasons? That's why you went over? That's why you got sent over?
Bauman	No I was never told the truth.
Myers	Oh, Ok. So you went when you were just a small child.
Bauman	Seventeen months old. A stewardess looked after me on the ship and the Captain.

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Myers	WOW! That is amazing!
Bauman	At seventeen months, but there were other small children there, too.
Myers	That were going back to Germany?
Bauman	Yes
Myers	Under similar circumstances, I guess?
Bauman	Yes.
Myers	Ok, so you went to Berlin?
Bauman	Yes.
Myers	Your Grandparents were in Berlin? What were your Grandparents names?
Bauman	Ernest and Martha Wagner.
Myers	So you just grew up there in Berlin?
Bauman	I grew up there. I went to school in Berlin grade school and business school.
Myers	And did you continue to speak English? Or did everybody speak German there?
Bauman	No, No.
Myers	You grew up learning the German language?
Bauman	What ever I learned as a baby I forgot again.
Myers	Well, Did you have any brothers and sisters?

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Bauman	No.
Myers	None.
Bauman	No brothers, no sisters.
Myers	So how old were you when the war began in Germany? WWII began?
Bauman	Twelve.
Myers	You were twelve? When Hitler marched on Poland? That's pretty much the beginning of that War.
Bauman	Yes, I was twelve in December and turned thirteen in November, 1939.
Myers	What did your Grandparents think of that? Do you remember them talking about Hitler's rise to power and what was going on? Did they speak of it at all?
Bauman	No, My Grandparents did not discuss politics.
Myers	Even in their own home?
Bauman	No.
Myers	They just went about their business? What did your Grandfather do for a living?
Bauman	He was a supervisor at a cigarette company, my Grandmother was a housewife
Myers	Were you the only child that they were taking care of at the time?
Bauman	Yes
Myers	So did they have other children that were already grown and married?
Bauman	Yes, they had another daughter who had a son three years younger than I was.

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Myers	Was she still in Germany? Or did she go?
Bauman	Yes.
Myers	So you were acquainted with your cousin then?
Bauman	Oh, yes.
Myers	So tell me about what your life was like say 1940 and 1945.
Bauman	I have to go back to the thirties.
Myers	Ok.
Bauman Taunted by children	<p>Because as soon as Hitler came to power you know the children, everybody in Berlin -- the neighbors -- knew I was an American citizen because my Grandparents had lived there for a long time.</p> <p>My Grandfather was in the first world war, my Grandmother already lived there and she had these two daughters, and everybody knew each other. But then in the twenties when my Mother married and came over here, by then people had moved away, new people moved in, but my Grandparents remained where they were. The newer people then were younger people, had children, and I went to school with their children, I played with their children, but as soon as Hitler came to power the tide turned.</p> <p>They were all against me, they called me all kinds of unmentionable names, like, I'm gonna say it here. "American Shi., American Niggerwoman, why don't you go back home." They tried to beat me up. They were really, really mean to me.</p>
Myers	That must have been horrible!
Bauman Bombing in Berlin	<p>Yeah, it was; and sometimes they beat up on me and then in 1941 I was through school. From '41 to '43 I went to college. See, college over there during my time was different than over here, so I had two years of college. Now, the war was ended in '45.</p> <p>My Grandparents lived in Berlin, but the company I worked for had an office in southeast Germany in the mountains and they evacuated the office workers because the bombings in Berlin got just too bad. Every night always one air raid after another. Then two years from '43 to '45 I lived in the mountains until the Russians came. I was there when they came</p>
Myers	From what I've seen of the pictures and the history of the bombing of Berlin, it's amazing anybody survived that. So did your Grandparents stay in Berlin during all that bombing?

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Bauman	My Grandfather passed away in '44, my Grandmother got bombed out.
Myers	What happened to her?
Bauman	She didn't actually get bombed out. It was when the Russians came to Berlin. Everybody had to move out of his or her homes.
Myers	Oh, they did? They forced people to move out of their homes?
Bauman Russian brutality	Oh, yes. The Russians. You don't know what they did. They raped women and they beat them up. I've been through it myself, been beaten up by a Russian soldier. Well, when the war was over in '45 and the Russians came into Germany, we had to leave where I was living those two years in the mountains. We had to walk back to Berlin. There was no transportation.
Myers	About how far do you think that was?
Bauman	Well, almost two and a half weeks.
Myers	Oh, WOW!
Bauman Russian artillery	Ya, two and a half weeks, we walked and when I came back to Berlin, my Mother's sister's house was closer to my Grandparents. So I went to her house and then my Grandmother opened the door and when she opened the door I knew that we lost everything in Berlin, but not through the bombs. I felt like I had a guardian angel, you know, no bombs ever hit our house, but when the Russians came with their artillery and everything, we lost everything.
Myers	They destroyed everything?
Bauman	My Grandmother just got a little purse, little suitcase and went to her daughter's and that's where she was when I came back.
Myers	That's all she had?
Bauman	That's all she had. And I had nothing either only my one suitcase.
Myers	That is just amazing to think that happened to people, that they did that to people.

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Bauman Berlin divided	By then Berlin had already been divided into four sectors and my Grandmother happened to be in the American sector and she took me to the, I don't know what you would call it. Where they established the US sector and they had their headquarters. They told me I would go back to the states.
Myers	Because you were a citizen?
Bauman	Yes, the next day there was a truck leaving for West Germany, so they told me to "be there the next day and we'll take you to Germany, to West Germany, and then from there you'll come back to the states."
Myers	What about your Grandmother? She couldn't come with you?
Bauman	No, she couldn't come with me, because she was German citizen, but she came over two years later in '48.
Myers	That's good. That's really good that she was able to come. Bet you were happy too, huh?
Bauman	Oh yes.
Myers	What did she do for those two years? How did she survive?
Bauman	Well, I guess, soup kitchens, there were a lot of soup kitchens and handouts.
Myers	So she was in the American sector? There was some relief there I guess?
Bauman	Yeah, and she got a room in somebody's apartment. People had to open their houses to those who had nothing left. Yes
Myers	You know people today just can't imagine living like that and the conditions that those German citizens went through. We just can't imagine it. We just can't phantom the degree of suffering.
Bauman	I don't even watch pictures of war movies.
Myers	I can imagine.
Bauman	Like what's going on over there right now. It infuriates me.

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Myers	Are you talking about the Iraq War or are you talking about just Germany?
Bauman	Any war, where ever we send our boys. I don't like it. I don't like it.
Myers	Yeah, I can understand that.
Bauman	Because unless you are in the middle of it, I've been literally in the middle of it.
Myers	You were really in the middle of it!
Bauman	Yes, yes. I buried people that had been blown to bits -- three boys and three soldiers.
Myers	I know that's horrible.
Bauman	Yeah, it is.
Myers	Well, while you were in the mountains you were working? You had a job and were relatively safe there?
Bauman	Until the Russians came.
Myers	Then the Russians just pushed everybody out?
Bauman	Yes, uh-huh, that was May 1945.
Myers	So did your Grandmother tell you anything about what it was like being in Berlin during the time you were gone?
Bauman	Those two years? Well there was one bombing after another.
Myers	Did they have shelters for the citizens to go to?
Bauman	Yeah, we had shelters and basements of the houses. Those were apartment houses in the center of Berlin. You don't have houses like that here.

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Myers	But what about food and clothing and bare necessities of life?
Bauman	You wore your shoes until the sole wore out and then if we were lucky we found an old tire from an automobile and made your own soles. We had ration cards and had to stand in line for hours.
Myers	You just did with what was there.
Bauman	Yeah, Yeah.
Myers	Did you say it was her sister?
Bauman	My mother's sister, Lotte.
Myers	Oh, Ok. Her other daughter then, they kind of helped each other out?
Bauman	Yes her other daughter. Well you make soup out of pumpkin. Have you ever tasted pumpkin soup?
Myers	I've seen recipes for it. I've never tasted it. Is it good?
Bauman	NO. It isn't .I like pickled pumpkin, but not pumpkin soup. When I was a child, back in the 1930s, the last company my grandfather worked for would send the children to summer camp for six weeks.
Myers	That sounds nice.
Bauman	The summer of '39 was the last time they could send us and it was really, really nice there.
Myers	Where did you go?
Bauman	Out of Berlin. In the country a little place called Hirschluch. Well, one day we woke up and we heard sounds, we didn't know what it was, so we went looking we followed the sound and there were German soldiers on maneuvers. They were shooting the machine guns and their rifles.
Myers	Out there close to your camp?

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Bauman	Yeah, was the summer camp because in Germany a lot of the land is government, you know. You can go there, you can do what ever you want to. Not like here, everybody has ranches and state parks, you know, like Yellowstone. But in Germany the land you can go where ever you want to. And they were there you know. So when time was over for me to go back home, for us kids to go back home, I told my Grandfather what I had seen and they knew what was going on.
Myers	So even though they didn't talk about it much they were able to read newspapers and see what the political thing was happening.
Bauman House searched	Oh, Yeah. My Grand father was political minded, but he had wanted nothing to do with Hitler. They came and searched my Grandparents house.
Myers	They did?
Bauman	The Nazis -- one time during the night while we were sleeping.
Myers	Well, I've heard and read that citizens like your Grandfather and Grandmother, especially the men, were forced to join the Nazi Party.
Bauman	My Grandfather did not join.
Myers	And as a supporter even though he didn't want to be he would have to be able to keep his family alive. Is that true?
Bauman Neighbor snitch	My Grandfather, to my knowledge he didn't, but he resisted it. But there was this one person in our apartment house, he's the one who had them come and search our house.
Myers	So he told something, that made them come?
Bauman Nazis attempted pickup	1939 is when the War started in Germany and 41 the United States entered the War. Well one morning at five o'clock they came and knocked on the door to pick me up and my Grandfather went with me. And my grandfather ran to the nearest precinct, in big city they are precincts.
Myers	So this is the military that came to pick you up?
Bauman	No, the Nazis.

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Myers	Oh, the Nazi's came to pick you up?
Bauman	Yeah, they picked me up and they took me to the precinct and we sat there for a couple hours 'til - well, I would say - 'til the Capitan police came. He came walking in and he saw my Grandfather sitting there and me, he says, my Grandfather's name is Ernst, "Well, Ernst, what are you doing here?" and my Grandfather told him what they did. See I had to register every fall.
Myers	Because you weren't a German citizen?
Bauman	Right, I was an American citizen, so I had registered. My Grandfather had me register but some guys at the precinct, they wanted to make a name for themselves, so they just came and picked me up. They forged the register where I was; they forged something in there. The Capitan, he was my father's friend, he says, "You go home and don't worry about it." And he told me to get like an ID with my picture in it that showed that I was the child of German parent living outside Germany. That passport saved me from further being picked up and maybe taken to the concentration camp.
Myers	That made it better for you, because you were in Germany rather than, the other way. That is amazing. So there was a lot of prejudice against Americans even that early time.
Bauman	Yes, Yes, the kids were the worst you know. They were the worst.
Myers	But the kids had been indoctrinated I guess in that hatred.
Bauman	Sure, sure, by their parents. Even my teacher at school. When I started to go to College, the teacher asked us our names, and I said my name was Mildred. She said, "That's English!" And I said, I popped up, I said, "No that's American."
Myers	It was the wrong thing to say, huh? So I guess you learned at an early age not to say what came to your mind. You had to be careful what you said and who heard you.
Bauman	My Grandparents never had company; they didn't go any place; they just kept to themselves, ya.
Myers	And were afraid.

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Bauman	Oh, Yeah
Myers	They were just afraid of anything and everything I guess. No telling what would cause somebody to tell on him or her and the police would come.
Bauman Girl disappeared	They would have loved to pick me up and maybe my Grandparents too, and do away with us. I've got some documents here of a girl that went to school with me and one day she didn't come to school. The teacher sent me after her. I knocked on the door, and finally she opened the door and she saw me and she tried to jump at me, you know, and I backed up and she closed the door and I told the teacher what happened. Well a couple of days later, a few weeks later, -- this girl was Jewish -- and they were two Jewish boys in my school too, and one day they all disappeared and it bothered me so much that several years ago I wrote to the Holocaust Museum and they did some research and they sent me a copy, where her name is listed, her name, her Mothers name, she died in one Concentration Camp and the girl in the other.
Myers	Oh, My Gosh!
Bauman	See that's why I would love to have all this published in a book if I could. Because these are facts.
Myers	That's right. Have you sent any of your stuff to the Holocaust Museum? Do they except things like this?
Bauman	Oh, no. I just wanted to know. I give them three names, the name of the boys and of the girl. I wish I had given them the name of our doctor, we had a Jewish doctor. The Jewish doctors, the Christians and the Germans could not go to the Jewish doctors anymore. The doctors had their shingle out. The shingle what used to be white, they had to get a blue shingle.
Myers	To show that they were Jewish?
Bauman	To show that they were Jewish. Everybody knows they had to wear the yellow star.
Myers	Even the children? Did the children wear those to school?
Bauman	Oh, yes, yes.
Myers	Well did you understand, when you were a child, what happened to these children when they disappeared?

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Bauman	No.
Myers	You didn't know at the time were they went.
Bauman	
Concentration Camps	No, no did not. There were rumors of concentration camps. In fact, we took a trip one time, a boat trip out of Berlin and we passed a concentration camp.
Myers	But you didn't know what it was?
Bauman	Yeah, my Grandfather knew what it was.
Myers	Oh, he did! Did he tell you?
Bauman	Yeah, he says, "Don't look, don't look!"
Myers	That must have been horrible knowing that was going on and he knew there was nothing he could do about it. He couldn't speak out against it. He couldn't tell anybody about it, and he couldn't move. He couldn't leave the country.
Bauman	No, we couldn't write, we couldn't tell my parents, you know, we couldn't write about those things. Our mail was opened and read by the Nazis.
Myers	That's just unimaginable, to somebody living over here.
Bauman	
Inmates released	Then when the war was over, well, before the war was over, in the beginning of '45 was real cold winter in Berlin. The Germans had opened concentration camps -- some were in east Germany there and they came along were we lived, along the route.
Myers	You mean the people that had been released?
Bauman	Yeah, in their suits, stripped suits chained together.
Myers	Oh, they were still chained together?
Bauman	Yeah.

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Myers	They were taking them to another place?
Bauman	They were just taking them out of concentration camp. We don't know where. They never made it to safety anyway. I don't think.
Myers	Probably not.
Bauman	All they had on was their K2 cloth; they didn't have any shoes on, you know. Some fell down and others had to drag them along.
Myers	And you saw that?
Bauman	Yeah, I saw all that.
Myers	Well, you know there's people now who say that the Holocaust didn't happen.
Bauman	Oh, sure it did.
Myers	I think, this is one reason I think it is important for people like you to tell your story. To say, "I saw this, I know it happened!"
Bauman Buried remains	<p>Yes, and you know, years ago there were Germans who left Germany and settled in other countries, like the Ukraine, a lot of them, the white Russians, Germans, you know.</p> <p>There was one group they came from Romania, I think. In their covered wagons, during the winter. They had been ousted, they were of German decent, you know and had been ousted, where they had lived for so many centuries just like what the, several years ago down there in the Balkan States what was going on. Well, that's been going on forever. Only during the Second World War they didn't pay attention. Unless you were there you didn't know what was going on in the outside world, because the journalists weren't as multiple as they are here, you know. Here they are every where. But then you didn't have that.</p> <p>Then, in 1945, about the same time where the Germans retreated from the Russian front, next to us was a vacant field where they had set off their hand grenades you know. They even got rid of their ammunition, they just dumped the ammunition there and skedaddled; left, but some were taking the pins out of the hand grenades when one exploded and it killed three boys, and three soldiers.</p> <p>Their remains were splattered all over the ground and on houses and I was the only brave person that, around where we were living, to dig a little hole and pick it up, pick things up and bury their remains, snow on the ground and when the snow melted, there was another</p>

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

	hand.
Myers	Oh my gosh!
Bauman	People can't imagine that.
Myers	No, not at all.
Bauman	You know even when you watch television and you see what's going on I like to know what goes through people minds that watch it, you know. I think to them it's just a picture.
Myers	It's just make believe.
Bauman	Make believe or something.
Myers	But when you see it for real as a person then you know what war and violence really is. It's not glorious. Well, since you had lived in Germany all of your life, all of your thinking and remembering life, when the war was over and you finally got to go to the United States how did you feel then? Did you go to relatives that you knew or were you just on your own?
Bauman	Well, no, no, my parents got notified. I think I must have had their address. Or my Grandmother had it, I don't know. They were notified that I was still living. I got a little card here that we were given. Let's see if I can find it. Well I don't want to use up all your time
Myers	I can stop this while you look for it.
Bauman	Ya, stop.- It is a displaced persons field post.
Myers Postcard to parents	Ok, so you found this card that you got from the consulate and this was sent to your parents. It says, "Do not alter or add to printed message. Date 1945." I guess it's September 14th, 1945. "Dear Parents, I am well and safe will write as soon as possible. Expect to be home soon and signature." So this was sent to them to let them know that you had survived and that you were coming.

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

	And it is sent to Arthur Weitze, 13 Nelson St, Elmont, New York.
Bauman	That's were my parents lived.
Myers	So that's where they were at the time?
Bauman	That's were I went.
Myers	So you came by boat?
Bauman	Yes, a troop transporter.
Myers	A troop transporter.
Bauman	Nine thousand ton troop transporter from Bremnhafen. I think it took us ten days.
Myers	You arrived in New York, New York Harbor?
Bauman	Ya and they had food, Navy food, Army food whatever, big, big jars of peanut butter, jelly, and butter I mean stuff we had never seen before.
Myers	You had never seen peanut butter?
Bauman	No.
Myers	Oh, my gosh!
Bauman	We ate and we got sick. We got sick from the food and seasick for several days, until finally our stomach settled. But you know, seeing food after what, five, seven years, you know, that was quite something.
Myers	That is amazing. So what did you think of the United States after you finally arrived?

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Bauman	Well,...
Myers	Was it hard to adjust?
Bauman Met parents	Our ship was late because there was a hurricane along the coast, so the people could not meet the returnees at the pier. We got off there and then the bus took us to the welfare office on Broadway in New York. I met my parents. I hadn't seen them since I was seventeen months old. When the bus got there a bunch of people were standing outside and I spotted my Father, but I had never seen him before.
Myers	You knew.
Bauman	I knew right away, this was my folks, see.
Myers	You had seen pictures of him probably.
Bauman	No, not lately, no.
Myers	Isn't that amazing! You knew that was your Father. (Baumann)
Bauman	Then there were lots of people. They made us walk into the building and then there was a woman, when she saw me, she called my name. So she recognized me.
Myers	Was that your Mother? So she recognized you?
Bauman	Yeah, then they took me home, but it was like living with strangers.
Myers	So it just didn't work out huh?
Bauman	No, no.
Myers	You all couldn't adjust to each other?
Bauman	My Father and I, we could have gotten along pretty well, but not my Mother. My Mother must have had some thing wrong with her mentally, I don't know.

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Myers	Was she hostile to you?
Bauman	Oh, yes, she wouldn't even talk to me. She wouldn't take me with her to the grocery store or buying clothes or anything. No.
Myers	But she didn't act that way to your Father? Or to other people.
Bauman	Oh, Yeah they kind of, Oh I just don't know.
Myers	So how long did you stay there? Did you strike out on your own or get a job?
Bauman	I came back in 46, my Grandmother came in 48, and I met a fella in 1950 and he was of German decent too. His parents were German and his Mother took me in like a daughter, you know. I made the mistake by marrying him. I married him because of his Mother, I guess.
Myers	He wasn't as kind as his Mother?
Bauman	No, no, he was sick man.
Myers	So did you stay with your parents until your Grandmother came? Did you stay with them that long?
Bauman	Yeah, until 50. I came back in 46, Granny came over in 48, I got married in 50 and then in 55 I got unmarried. My Grandmother came to live with me for about twenty years.
Myers	Wow. So you had a nice long time with her in the United States. In good conditions.
Bauman	Yeah. Granny lived with me for twenty years and I had lived with her from 1928 to 1946.
Myers	Wow
Bauman	She was really my Mother to me.
Myers	Yes, I'm glad she got to have some good life.
Bauman	Well.

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Myers	Did she like it in the United States?
Bauman	No, because she couldn't speak English. See when I got married in 50, my Grandmother was living in my Mothers house, my Father's house and my Mother didn't want my Grandmother neither. She didn't want me; she didn't want her Mother. So finally I got my divorce and my Grandmother came to live with me in 1955.
Myers	So she was happy with that, I guess.
Bauman	Yeah, It was a much better life for her.
Myers	That must have been sad for her though, for her daughter to treat her that way?
Bauman	I don't think it bothered my Mother. I think my Mother was glad to get rid of us.
Myers	That's really sad
Bauman	Yeah, It is.
Myers	So then did you get a job here in the United States?
Bauman	Oh, Yeah, I worked. Office work. I worked for Guaranty Federal for thirty years.
Myers	What company? Guaranty Federal.
Bauman	Savings and Loan
Myers	Well, that sounds like a good job.
Bauman	I retired from there after thirty years.
Myers	Where were you working? Did you stay on the East Coast?
Bauman	No. I came to Dallas in 55, no, 1950, my Grandmother in 55 when I got my divorce and came to live with me.

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Myers	So what brought you to Burnet?
Bauman	Oh, Just looking for a place. I wanted out of Dallas. I wanted to get out to the country. I had prepared myself already for many years.
Myers	Well, let me see here. We talked about your school and your living conditions. Did you have a radio when you were in Germany? Did you listen to anything, what is that; the American Forces were putting out. Like America Radio Free Europe or any of that.
Bauman	No, they came up after. Radio Free Europe came out after the war.
Myers	So, the only thing you could listen to was the Germans.
Bauman	Propaganda and music.
Myers	You didn't here of any of the advances of the Americans or the allies or anything. You didn't know that they were coming closer.
Bauman	Oh Yeah we heard, you know through word of mouth, you know. We could tell when the air raids started.
Bauman	Air raids started coming because that's when the radio stations would go off the air. Then we knew. Sometimes we were just waiting for the sirens to ring. Get ready to go to the shelter.
Myers	Well, from what I've heard though there was propaganda put out to the citizens and the soldiers right up to the very end, that they were still winning.
Bauman	I was living in a little town.
Myers	Until it was over.
Bauman	Until it was over. In fact we could hear the Russian guns already and that's when we started to prepare ourselves to leave.
Myers	That's right you were up in the mountains working when the war ended. I guess you were just fortunate your Grandmother was in the American sector or you would have been like a captive in the Russian sector. You wouldn't have been able to get out. Would you?

World War II Memories of
Millie Bauman

Bauman	Yeah, Right, right, that's exactly what would have happened. If where we used to live would have been Russians, they might not have let me out.
Myers	You said you had been beat up by Russian soldiers and that was in the mountain area where you were before you got out?
Bauman	No, that was when we got back to Berlin.
Myers	So they were in that American Sector? Or was it when you were coming through?
Bauman	No, that was the Russian Sector, the Russians came to where we lived, and we had to walk about two and a half weeks. When we did get to Berlin the last few miles we got a freight train just to take us into Berlin. Just the last few miles, to the American Sector. They had just gotten there a week or so before.
Myers	So it was during your journey
Bauman	Yeah, during the journey. We were just walking, like a highway like 29 and when this Russian soldier came along on his motorcycle and cornered me and tried to rape me, but my friends they beat him up instead. I got cut, my glasses broken, my eyebrow cut, I was dripping blood like a pig, you know being slaughtered.
Myers	Wow.
Bauman	Then when we came to the nearest little town there were some Russians in one of the houses, you know that they occupied and they cleaned me up and taped me up. When I came to meet my Grandmother there I had this great big bandage on my eye and I didn't even know if I'd lost an eye or not.
Myers	I would imagine whenever you would see a Russian soldier you would be afraid then? It was traumatic, very traumatic.
Bauman	When I see a uniform I don't know.
Myers	Well, that's about all I have to ask you that pertains to that. Is there anything else you'd like to add that we didn't cover?
530 Bauman	Oh, I can't think of it right now, I think it's horrible enough, you know.

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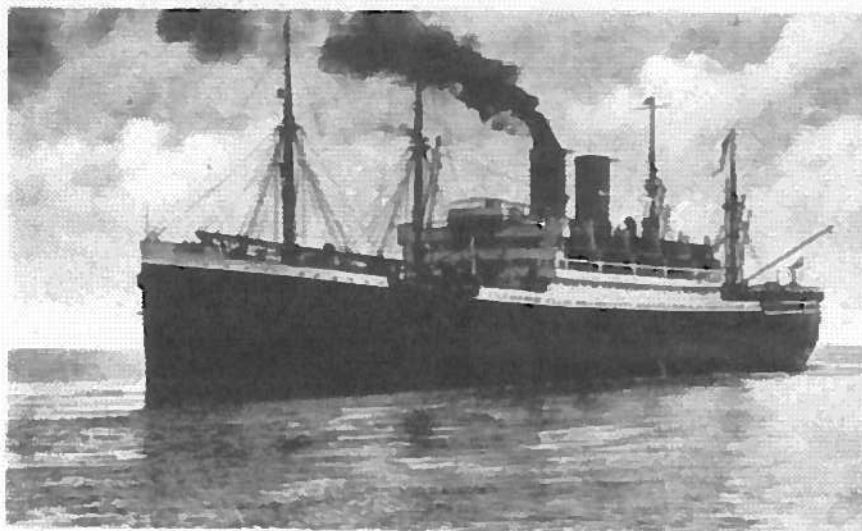
Myers	Well, I'm really glad you came in and told me your story I think it's a story that need to be told and people need to understand that happened over there.
Bauman	<p>Only there is a double story in here. A friend of mine gave me one of those Ryman Publications and there was a lady, she had her ad in there, she was looking for someone that had been in Germany as a child, during Hitler's time and the war and I wrote to her. Told her where I was living and you know she was living in the same town for two years but we never met.</p> <p>Her Grandfather had a restaurant and a hotel in that little town where we would go eat. See her Mother took her, her Mother came to the United States, the Grandparents never left, just like in my case. She was the first Grandchild so her Mother took her over there to meet her Grandparents. . She never came back. Then the husband came after them and wanted to bring them back before the war.</p> <p>They wouldn't go. Then the war broke out, then they couldn't go back and there are some horror stories in here that she has been telling me. So if I could find somebody to publish this book not just on the local level. I would like everybody, the whole country to know about it.</p>
570 Myers	Well, I'm sure somebody would be interested in helping you do it, I don't know how to get you in touch with somebody that would help you put it together.
Bauman	I left copies of this with somebody in New Braunfels. Maybe they can do something with it. If not that's all right too.
581 Myers	Well, I'm really glad that you came in. I happy to hear your story and it will be here for people to read and remember. Thank you very much



October 1918.
Millie's father on right



Millie, 17 months old



Nordseestad Cuxhaven

Übersiedlungs-„Albert Ballin“

Ship on which Millie traveled to Germany in 1928



Ship Stewardesses who took care of Millie on voyage



Captain of Ship
holding Millie



Grandparents



Millie and dolls



Christmas
with
family in
Germany



Millie's
school
group



Millie with her dog





School Days



School Days



Snow Days

Displaced Persons
Field Post Card

FOR ADDRESS ONLY
SEULEMENT L'ADRESSE
UITSLUITEND VOOR ADRES

TO *Mr.*
A
AAN

Arthur Weisak
13 Nelson Street
Selmonk N.Y. (S-3)
U.S.A.

1945 received

Post card sent to parents after the war

DO NOT ALTER OR ADD TO PRINTED MESSAGE
NE RIEN CHANGER NI AJOUTER AUX MESSAGES IMPRIMÉS
VERANDER NIETS OF VOEG NIETS TOE AAN HET GEDRUKTE BERICHT

Date : *14 9 1945*

Datum : _____

Mark the sentences below thus :

Cocher les phrases ci-dessous ainsi :

Dear *parents* :

Cher _____ :

- I am well and safe.
- Will write as soon as possible
- Expect to be home soon
- Do not write.

- Je suis sain et sauf.
- J'écrirai dès que possible.
- J'espère revenir bientôt.
- N'écrivez pas.

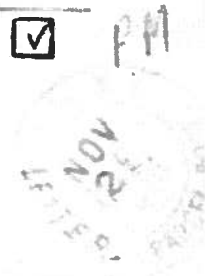
Signature : *Arthur Weisak*

Signature : _____

Mark onderstaande zinnen met een merkteeken :

- Ik maak het goed en ben veilig.
- Zal zo spoedig mogelijk schrijven.
- Verwacht gauw thuis te zijn.
- Schrijf mij niet.

Handtekening : _____





Millie Bauman, 2005