

## **RG-50.031.0155**

### **Summary**

Halina Rosenberg born in 1918 in Warsaw, Poland, discusses being named after a Polish opera singer, brother Ludwig after Beethoven; Halina discusses extended family, including family in US during war; religious observance; after Halina's father dies young, mother becomes seamstress; Halina attends Polish public school where teacher hits her & calls her antisemitic name; enrolled in private school (studies Latin & German) until mother can no longer afford school, change of school again; at 17 years old, Halina takes sewing classes while enjoying work in perfume shop; enduring September 1, 1939 air bombing; forced to wear arm band to identify as Jewish; Halina returns to discussion of years leading to war, brother recruited in Russian Army & for 13 yrs., Halina does not know if he had survived war, later found alive in Israel, learning that brother had also served in Polish Army, survived Siberia, post-liberation travelled world in English Army; Halina's US immigration; Halina returns to war time discussing dire conditions in Warsaw Ghetto, starvation, typhoid, lice, mother's efforts finding some food, discovering dead woman near apt who had jumped from 5<sup>th</sup> floor; ghetto's younger generation sent to slave labor; Halina & Mother escaping ghetto, having blonde hair able to find room on farm under guise of Polish; fleeing to another farm; Halina returns to parfum shop & its owner finds maid work for Halina with a friend (mother also finds work as a maid elsewhere); Warsaw Ghetto uprising; mother becomes suicidal because her landlord had become suspicious that she was Jewish - woman Halina works for allows mother to bunk with Halina in closet size boarding room; bombs fall in Polish underground rebellion against Germany, Halina is hit by cement wall, mother survives, everyone else killed; Halina emerges from wall, sees 2 yr. old covered in debris, child's father carrying deceased wife; Halina & mother in SS forced walk, end up at Polish airport, Nazis begin selection, Halina & mother placed in cattle car; train arrival to Leipzig for slave labor, making bulbs & airplane parts, slept in bunks, given cabbage soup 1x day; April 1945, fleeing slave labor, finding German farm that allowed them to sleep but no food; liberation American Army, soldier gives Mother a watch taken from German woman; receiving nutrition; Mother & Halina's recovery in DP camp, finally able to reveal that they are Jewish; Mother & Halina's happiness on voyage to US; finding Halina's brother; Halina meets Harry Rosenberg/50 years marriage, 3 children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren; Halina's mother lives to advance age; Halina's brother married woman who had lost her mother in Holocaust; Halina shares photographs of parents, of ship to US, photos of DP camp (Halina worked in pharmacy).