

Summary of Interview with Gerda Samuel (HHP)

Ms. Samuel lives in Honolulu. She was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1921. Her father was a printer and owned a large printing press. 1931 - Went to a Jewish school for girls.

1934 - The SS came and took her father and she never saw him again. They closed the shop and put the family into the ghetto, surrounded by a gate . There was no bathroom, there was a bedroom and a living room. They had no money. They had to go once a week to get food .

It was a horrible place. They would arrest someone everyday. Jews owned big stores and went to school. Teachers would be missing. People with money would be able to leave. Newspapers talked about jews. (Newspaper- "the Strumer?").Her father's brother was hanged because his non-Jewish girlfriend talked.

1933 -High school for girls. Everyone was afraid of Hitler. The jews were very German and never thought anything would happen.

1935-37 - In ghetto, horrible. Couldn't find father. Jews were not allowed to go to the movies or to the coffee house. They stood in line for food. The Jewish population was small in Hamburg. Not Aryan. Her mother was very scared . Jews kept to themselves. (Quakers were nice???)

She had been a happy person. She used to laugh a lot. Horrible youth - people knew where jews lived . She had no rights and has an inferiority complex today. 75% of the population were Nazis. They were hard on the catholics to. She never knew where her father was taken.His father's sister married a non-jew. He was in the German army. Most people who were 1/2 Jewish would not admit to it.

1938 - 500 children were sent (jews and quakers)to England. Then they were sent to Belfast and she was adopted. She never saw her mother or her aunt again. They were not allowed to write. A Jewish family in Belfast adopted her. Their son raped her, and she was never allowed to tell anyone.

1941 - Joined British army. Learned English in Belfast. She didn't hear about the concentration camps until after the war. She found out about her relations through the Red Cross. She went to London

and became a waitress after she left the army. She had a friend from Belfast who went to the U.S. and got her an affidavit.

1948 - Met man. He was the Chief of Police in Singapore. She went there with them but then he would not marry her. --strict there-- A man, the director of the KLM, gave her a job. She worked for five years at Headquarters of Japanese.

1952 - Went to New York. She got a job as a waitress, then got a job at KLM for thirty two years. learned computers.

All girls were in the same boat in London. Nazis spit at Jews . Mother always said not to talk on street. They had some non- Jewish friends who went to Belfast with her . She became a catholic and married a catholic. Unless you were in a camp you can't imagine what it was like. There are still many Nazis in Germany. In Hawaii they ran into people who did not like jews. German jews are still very German. Some people in Hawaii don't know what Jewish is.

She doesn't want to think about childhood. Even before Hitler they weren't rich. During the depression, they ate a lot of soup and herring. They never saved anything, only the birth certificates of their parents. She is happy to be in Honolulu, it is part of a free country. There is, however, anti-semitism and she hates discrimination.