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Summary

Eva Luedecke, whose father died while defending Germany during WWI, describes growing up in Berlin, Germany where she had a large extended family; meeting her future husband and belonging to the Judischer Kulturbund while in high school; being unable to find a job as a chemist after graduating from a technical school in 1935 and working as a dental assistant for a Jewish dentist until she was hired as an analytical chemist by a Jewish company; her sister and many relatives moving to Palestine in 1935; getting married in March 1938 and deciding to move to Shanghai, but not being able to convince her mother to leave Germany; traveling to from Trieste to Haifa in September 1938 and remaining for three weeks to visit family before boarding a French liner to Shanghai via Marseille; teaching chemistry to a salesman in Shanghai, teaching German and French to the wife of the British consul, and working in a lab while her husband worked as a salesman and later as an employee of the International Settlement government; living in the International Settlement where there was a large Russian Jewish community, a large Jewish community composed of Jews from Iran, Iraq, and Syria, and a community of Jews from Germany and Austria; enjoying a good life in Shanghai until the Japanese took over in 1941; being forced into a ghetto in 1944; buying a small home which they shared with two other families; being fortunate to have money to buy enough food, sending packages to some British friends who were in internment camps, and knowing other Jews who relied on aid from the Joint while living in refugee camps; being afraid when the Americans began to bomb Shanghai; moving back to their old neighborhood when the war ended, and her husband enjoying success as a partner in an architecture/interior design company; learning that her mother had died after being deported to a camp in Minsk; her daughter's birth in 1939; applying for VISAs to the U.S. in 1948 but not receiving them because the Chinese closed U.S. consulates; leaving Shanghai in 1950 due to the rise of communism; arriving in San Francisco together with 110 other Jews without VISAs; being sent by train to Ellis Island and, in spite of political efforts to let them remain, being sent to Bremen, Germany; living in an apartment in an international refugee camp for 1 ½ years before immigrating to the U.S. in 1952.