

Adriana Pacifici

RG-50.106*0006

July 28, 1923 - born Adriana Funaro in Rome, Italy

Paternal grandmother was Catholic, grandfather was Jewish - whole family, except

Adriana's father who was away in the army, perished in 1915 earthquake in Abruzzi

1935 - celebrated her Bat Mitzvah

1938 - expelled from public school, went to Jewish school, then to private French Catholic school. Father decided not to emigrate

September 26, 1943 - had to turn in all their jewelry

Father heard that there would be a roundup of men, so he went to the hospital to have a hernia operation to stay in hiding. The doctor purposely kept the wound open

October 16, 1943 - neighbor warned family that German SS were nearby

Mother went to hospital to be with the father. Adriana and her pregnant sister went to a Dominican convent in the San Lorenzo section of Rome where they were hidden, other Jews there got false ID papers to change her name from Funaro to Fumaro, a non-Jewish name

Church tried to convert them - had to learn prayers

Lived in a dormitory - no fuel for heat, little food

Belonged to partisan resistance group - carried messages

April 5, 1944 - sister left convent to give birth under a false name, Adriana now alone, had typhoid fever

May 1944- heard that the Allies were advancing towards Rome

June 5, 1944 - went to see sister and nephew who had been living under false names

told she couldn't stay so ran back to convent

June 6, 1944 - American soldiers arrived, went back to family's apartment

1947 - married a childhood friend

September - moved to California

Still has nightmares about loss of relatives