

Dolly Bestandig

RG-50.106*0073

Pre-War

Born in Vilna, Lithuania on July 24, 1939

Large, educated, cultured family

Wartime

Vilna Ghetto - mother active in resistance giving out pamphlets, stayed until end of
1942

Minsk - father laid railroad tracks until winter of 1944

Auschwitz - mother brought diamonds and jewels inside a sponge.

Dolly hid inside garbage can when mother went to work sewing uniforms

Bergen-Belsen - Arrived in the beginning of 1945 - mother made shoes

Again Dolly hid inside garbage can

Liberation on April 15, 1945 by British

Post-War

Dolly had typhus, TB and an open palate from being beaten by a capo

Went to Stockholm, Sweden at invitation of King, put in hospital where mother cleaned bathrooms

Mother got money from Jewish Committee for operation on her palate. Other women wanted to touch
Dolly because they had lost their own children

After Dolly healed she was able to talk for the first time.

Early 1947 went to New York and then to Mexico City

Dolly slept under her bed, had difficulties in school, mother hid food for months

Married in 1960 - depressed that she had no children, was diagnosed in NY for TB

Went to psychiatrist who helped her remember the past - camps, garbage can, the dead, the shouts, but
no memories of her father

Adopted 2 children, teaches in a Yeshiva in Mexico