

Hedi Pope

RG-50.106*0083

Born Hedi Politzer on March 18, 1920 in Vienna, Austria

Well established family, not religious, she did not feel Jewish

Loved to dance from age 5

Went to Gymnasium, studied French, Latin, English

Saw Hitler when he came into Vienna on March 11, 1938

Graduated from Gymnasium - hated seeing swastikas and saying Heil Hitler

Applied to US Embassy for quota number

November 1938 - On Kristallnacht saw devastation, Jew being beaten
father taken away to Dachau, never saw him again

January 11, 1939 - left with sister through Rotterdam. Arrived in New York and
went to Newark, New Jersey to live with 2 cousins.

Worked in a refugee theater group sponsored by Irving Berlin, Edna Ferber and
George S. Kaufman

Scholarship to Miami College in Ohio

Converted to Protestantism after hearing of father's death, became a Presbyterian

Scholarship for Master's Degree at Wellesley

Taught in South Carolina, married in 1946

Moved to Washington, opened children's dance studio

Doesn't feel Jewish, doesn't want to talk publicly

Museum work is therapy but talks very little to other survivor volunteers

Lost relatives in Auschwitz and Theresienstadt