

Tilda Finzi Cohen

RG-50.106*0096

Born Mazel Tov (Tilda) Finzi in Split, Yugoslavia on July 11, 1933

Early 1941 - Germans passed through city, father called into army, returned 1 month later

Italians occupy Split - businesses closed, 5:00 curfew

Fall 1941 - Not permitted to go to school, community Jewish school formed in different locations around city, children taught by expelled teachers

Uncle imprisoned, Tilda took food to prison

September 1943 - Italy capitulates,

Family joins other people fleeing to partisans in the mountains
Family stays one week. Tito decides Jews should go to islands off Dalmatian coast

Tilda and mother go by truck, then by foot because of approaching Germans

September 11 - To Brac Island, to Vis Island and then by hiding on the bottom of a boat with Red Cross flag, sail to Bari 2 days before Yom Kippur

Lived in camp, then father got rooms in private house

December 2, 1943 - Germans dropped bombs on ships, releasing poison gas
Family moves to village near Bari, went to school

Spring 1944 - Says 4 Questions at seder in Biteto arranged by the Jewish Brigade of the British Army

After war - no celebration, relatives tell of camps and atrocities and advises family not to return to Split

1948 - Family moves to Milan

1950 - Family comes to US, she finishes high school, marries after 2 years of college

Feels not a part of any country and that she will be a displaced person the rest of her life, that she lost her childhood