

Romana Koplewicz

RG-50.106*0120

Born in Warsaw, Poland on April 26, 1919

Father owned a textile dyeing factory

Went to law school, met future husband, male students beaten

September 1, 1939 - Germans bombed courtyard, Poles robbed stores and killed Jews

January 1940 - father denounced by janitor, arrested for 3 days, released

Ghetto formed - worked in German couture shop sewing uniforms, mother hid in closet all day, frequent selections, mother taken away while cooking soup.

Got false papers as a Catholic, moved but worked in ghetto in order to see father

Passover 1943 - uprising was in different part of the ghetto. Polish woman threatened to turn her in, got job in country using name Stefania Dolinska, wore a cross, said she was born in Czestohowa

May 1943 - after father escaped through sewers sister visited him, Polish police arrested them and killed them

Got work papers and document to live in occupied Poland. Worked as a hotel chambermaid in Otwock, near Warsaw

Spent 3 months in convent in Grodzisko Mazowiecki - priest was hiding Jewish children and felt she was jeopardizing them

Went back to Warsaw - sewed dresses in a salon

August 1, 1944 - Polish uprising

Worked in Wedel Chocolate factory, ate dog food

October 5, 1944 - Warsaw was evacuated - went by train to Piastow, worked on a farm

January 8, 1945 - liberated, went back to Warsaw, house demolished

Went to Lodz - worked as a Jew in the morning, as a Catholic in the afternoon husband found her in Lodz

November 1945 - went to Berlin, then to Eggenfelden - husband learned auto mechanics through ORT

May 1949 - came to US on the "General Haas"

Earned Master's Degree in Social Work. Works with new immigrants.

Thinks of her sister daily