

## DORA FEIT RISS

### Background:

Dora was born in Pruchnik, Poland. Her family name was Feit and her Mother's maiden name was Ruipel. Her grandfather was very wealthy and her parents owned a lumberyard. She was one of nine children - six brothers and three sisters.

### Warning of War:

Because the grandfather was very wealthy they lived in a big house. This house was confiscated by the Gestapo who in turn warned them that if they wished to survive all together as a family, they should leave Poland, the sooner the better for them. They were a very close family and all left together.

### Avoiding War:

Their choice was to stay in their hometown or go to Russia. Grandfather decided on Russia and that was what saved them. On the way to Russia brothers, fathers, husband and brother-in-law were taken by Germans. Some rich people paid for their release and they continued their journey to Russia. They were taken at night and put on a train (cattlecars) and conditions were very poor. They were fed but the train only stopped every other day. All had to use same toilet facilities. They left all their belongings with a neighbor and never returned or wrote to them. Also left their lumberyard. Dora had a five month old child and it was very hard to feed and care for him. The whole family took turns cleaning and caring for him. At first they were in Vlastock in barracks but there were too many people and they were sent to a work camp in the Urals. The whole family worked. Her husband was an accountant so he worked in the office. Her six brothers were woodsmen. En route she lost her teeth because of poor nutrition. Fifteen people, three families, lived in three rooms of an apartment. Because it was so cold, they slept longer in the mornings. This was also in order to eat less. Most of what they had to eat was potatoes. Finally they went to Lvov, Poland and then spent two years in Germany. Then they spent one year in Paris waiting for a visa. Finally they went to Ecuador to stay with an Aunt on her husband's side from 1948 until 1951. After that they went to America. The entire family survived and never returned to their hometown.

### Notes:

On the Oral History Sheet she has written that she was liberated in Ziadin in 1944. Also that she spent the post-war in Eshwege D.P. Camp.

The Interview is interrupted part way through because Dora asks that the microphone be shut off when she speaks of anti-semitic acts.