

DORIS FOGEL
RG-50.228.0005 (1990 Ft Wayne)

Doris was born in 1934 in Berlin, the only child in a banking family. Her father died when she was very young. Her mother hasn't told her much about this time in Germany. When she was 5 they went on a ship with her aunt, uncle and cousin to the US, but they were refused entry and their only other option was to take a ship from Rotterdam to Shanghai, where there were about 20,000 refugees. They were all put in a refugee camp. The Chinese people were fine to them, but then the Japanese conquered Shanghai and things were much harder. She mentions that the Japanese placed their ammunition around the camp so that when the Allies bombed some of the people in the camp were killed. They had little to eat, mostly soup, and they lived in squalor with rats, cockroaches and sickness. Doris mentions a Japanese administrator named Goya who was especially brutal. A man named Harris Kaderii built a school in the camp, and there were religious observances. The worst day in the camp was July 17, 1945, when the Americans bombed Shanghai and many of the refugees were killed.

After the war ended Doris and her mother, with her aunt, uncle and cousin, went to Peoria. The relatives had got a rich family, the Hellers, to sponsor Doris and her mother. They landed in San Francisco in April 1947 on the SS Gordon and then went to Peoria. Things were difficult at first Her mother wouldn't take charity and worked in a dress factory. Doris had a paper route and eventually went to college on a scholarship

Doris remains close to several of the refugees. There have been several reunions, one in Oakland and one in Israel in 1988, where many of the survivors had gone to live. One friend revisited the site of the internment camp, but reported that nothing remains of that time. Doris said that she visited Dachau with her daughter, where some of her relatives had died. It helped her lay to rest some ghosts.

Through a German language holocaust survivor newspaper, the Aufbau, Doris recently learned that her father's two brothers had survived and were living in New York.