

-TITLE- DORRIS FOGEL
-I DATE- 1991
-SOURCE-FORT WAYNE JEWISH FEDERATION
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND QUALITY- EXCELLENT
-IMAGE QUALITY- EXCELLENT
-DURATION- 1 HOUR
-LANGUAGES- ENGLISH
-KEY SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC NAME-
-PERSONAL NAME-
-CORPORATE NAME-
-KEY WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-
Age 4-13

1:03:00 Dorris apparently was born in 1934. She does not remember Berlin, says she "shut it out completely." Left Berlin in 1939. Father died when she was 1 1/2 (1936). Death not explained.

1:04:00 Her party was hoping to come to the US when they fled Berlin in 1939.

1:05:00 Her grandparents decided to remain in Germany (felt themselves too old to leave). Left Germany with mother, close friends of the family hereafter referred to as Uncle, Aunt, their son. Five member party. Departed from Rotterdam, refused entry into US, Shanghai was the "only port open" to Jews in the world. 30 day voyage to Shanghai, interred in refugee camp with 20,000 other Jews.

1:08:00 Not generally permitted to leave camp. They had brought very little with them. After the Japanese occupied Shanghai, the Jews were confined to a small Ghetto. The Japanese placed ammunition dumps around the camp, so as to deter aerial attacks. American air raids later killed some Jews of the camp.

1:11:00 D. Vogel learned English, French, Japanese, and Chinese at the camp. Has forgotten all but English and her native German. Was at camp from 1939 to 1947. In 1947 she came to the US at age 13. She recently returned to Hong Kong for a reunion of camp inmates.

1:14:00 Her mother's father committed suicide rather than be taken by the Nazis. Her father's parents were killed at Dachau. She recently visited Dachau with her daughter. Felt it was something she "needed to do."

1:16:00 She does not know who administered her internment in Shanghai. Her "Uncle's" family in the US sponsored her emigration to the US. She and her party were brought over on a US Army transport.

1:18:00

1:20:00 Mother has mentioned only wearing of yellow stars regarding years of persecution in Berlin. D. Vogel remembers nothing of Berlin.

1:21:00 Hearing Israeli air raid sirens on TV during Gulf War evoked memories of air raid sirens in Shanghai.

1:22:30 17 July 1945 was worst American bombardment of Shanghai. Terrifying experience. She was kept at school for two days, wondering whether or not her mother had survived. She did. On arrival in Peoria, IL., she was acutely aware of her impoverished position. Her mother worked as a can welder; she had a paper route.

1:24:30 She and her mother, on arrival in Peoria, were the only poor Jews in the community. She noted at Shanghai reunion that "90%" of former inmates were "well-off." Describes former inmates as industrious.

1:25:30 Notes that Jews in her camp were highly educated. In the camp, she was prepared (socially) for her arrival in the US.

1:27:30 Two years ago D. Vogel attended a camp reunion in Israel. Many had emigrated to Palestine in 1949 (which entailed further struggle). In camp, treatment by the Japanese was brutal; by the Chinese "OK." She mentions "Ghoya" (ph), an important and cruel Japanese administrator of the camp, who exploited his position at the expense of the Jews for his personal gain. Her mother has recounted this to her.

1:29:30 To a limited degree, some Jews were allowed to work outside the camp for wages. D. Vogel believes the colony received no help from the outside world, but does not know where the food came from. Had little to eat, mostly soup.

1:31:30 She lived in squalor, among cockroaches. There was no indoor plumbing. Her party of five shared one small room, but they were glad to have a private room rather than live in a dormitory. Notes the presence of rats, malaria, and typhus. As a result of squalid living conditions, she contracted rheumatoid arthritis at age 10, and has had it ever since.

1:33:30 As a result of arthritis, she had to relearn walking. She received medical attention from Jewish doctors in the camp. Believes they had some medications.

1:35:30 After arrival in the US, she wanted nothing to do with foreigners.

1:36:30 She made a strong and successful effort to lose her accent. Happy to become a naturalized citizen in 1954.

1:37:30 She wanted to share her story because she feels it is different from that of most Holocaust survivors, and is therefore important.

1:39:30 She was given a lot when she got here (US). She likes to have money, and attributes this to a reaction from having had so little. Holidays and birthdays were observed in the camp. The children always received some small present. Friday religious services were held.

1:40:30

1:44:30 She attended a reunion in Oakland, at which former inmates wore pictures of themselves from 1947, so that they might recognize each other. She recognized many people in Oakland, and again more recently in Israel.

1:46:30 When asked how they obtained film and cameras inside the camp, D. Vogel explains that those who worked outside the camp were able to obtain a variety of goods. She has visited the site of the camp, and says that no trace of it remains.

1:48:30 Her trip to Dachau allowed her to "lay to rest some ghosts." Through the Holocaust survivor newspaper Aufbau, she was recently able to locate her father's two brothers, who had been living in South America.

1:50:30

1:51:30

1:53:30 D. Vogel explains that the Jews who had been at Shanghai longest treated the new arrivals with contempt.

1:55:30 For a long time, she had trouble admitting to her former status of refugee. She gave this interview in order to inform people of the plight of the Shanghai Jews.
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