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Summary

Paula Boltman; remembers huge flags hanging from all the buildings; born on January 3, 1929 to Mendel and Dora Kochen nee Prezutski, orthodox, kosher household; Father came from Poland to Germany to escape army, married in 1932; sisters were Margot and France; father was a house painter; 1936 celebrated 250th anniversary of Hamburg synagogue, Dr. Joseph Carlebach was the speaker; 1938 after Kristallnacht when Hamburg synagogue was destroyed people from Hamburg came to local synagogue; attended a Jewish day school, German state school for only Jewish children; Spoke German, belonged to blue-white sports organization; Samuel Wynn family, owned wineries in Australia and were relatives, aided in bringing family to Australia; October, 1938 received telegram they would receive a visa, on the same day father was arrested and in prison for 18 months; family moved to Jewish community house; July 1939, went to England through Holland, held up at the Dutch border with Germany; overnight in Rotterdam and then took boat to England, in England stayed at Jewish refugee house for a few days; end of August 1939 arrived in Perth, Australia and then Melbourne, Australia; younger sister and Paula were sent to Larino, Jewish children's home run by Jewish welfare society in Balwyn, Australia, 17 German-Jewish refugee children lived there, remained there for 7 or 8 years; father arrived in Australia March- April 1947; mother was housekeeper for Samuel Wynn, mother and sister lived in Wynn home, Wynn remarried Ida Wynn; went to Balwyn state girls' school, Hebrew teacher, Mrs. Hertz, founded Beth Rivkah Ladies College; went to Shabbat services at synagogue with Rabbi Dengler ; Rokhi Holzer was her Yiddish theater teacher; Belonged to Haggam; 1948 began living with her parents in Thornberry, began working with a jeweler while going to school night at RMIT to study art; went to the Modern Dance School; Some girls went to Mac.Robertson Girls' School; Husband grew up in an orphanage in London, England, in Australia was in merchant marine and army, Studied at Perth University and finished studies in Melbourne; birth of children 1957 – Shohannah, 1959 – Michael, 1968 – Ruth; 1976 - opened Sunflower book shop on Glen Huntley Road, Melbourne, Stocked Holocaust related books as much as possible; 1988 – father died, belonged to Mizrachi shul in Melbourne, forced into labor camps in Russia; believes being Jewish is very important and children should always remember where they come from and should hold fast to Judaism.

Larino school was re-named Frances Barkman after the war, Frances Barkman was a very strict and aloof lady, corner of Whitehouse Rd and Molina Avenue, described life in home, Shabbat services, wore uniforms.

She shows family photos.