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Summary

Ida Rozen (née Cohen) was born April 13, 1908 in Yomolints (?), Ukraine. Her parents were Alan Cohen and Gitl Cohen (née Rosen). Her maternal grandfather was an affluent grain miller, "the richest man in the shtetl"; her father was a shopkeeper. Her father was religious, but she and other siblings rarely attended synagogue and she is not religious. She had five sisters and two brothers. The family had a full-time maid who slept in the kitchen. The family spoke Yiddish at home in Simferopol.

Ida discussed aspects of the lawlessness that prevailed during the Bolshevik revolution, where her family lost most of its wealth and belongings. Relatives from America provided some financial assistance. Her father considered migrating to Palestine after the Balfour Declaration, but his parents argued against it. Ida got a job in a sewing factory in the finance department, while successfully studying to become a senior inspector. She was married; her husband was a dental technician. Her brother and sister both visited her from America. Her father was also importing goods from America, but was arrested and fined.

Ida heard very little about Hitler's rise to power in Germany. She felt little impact from the German/Soviet invasion of Poland other than fewer goods in the shops. After the German invasion of Russia, they initially stayed in place. Some Jews were marched to Yalta and killed. Ida withdrew to a town farther east (Armenia?), continuing to work for the government. After the war, she returned to Simferopol with her husband and son, William. They, then, immigrated to Paris via Grodna, Poland, since her husband was a Polish citizen. During the Korean War in 1951, they decided to go to Australia as her husband's brother lived there. UNRAA provided some transport help, but they did not ask anything of Jewish organizations. They lived in Bentley. Her first husband died of cancer in the 1960s and she married Rozen.

(Ida described various incidents between Jews and Nazis told to her by others.)