

Oral History: Anna Lustman, May 9, 2000

Anna Lustman, born December 12, 1913 in Drohobych, Poland (present-day Drohobycz, Ukraine) to Rosa and Michael Freyman*, describes: being orphaned at an early age and being raised in an orphanage for about fifteen years; receiving a Jewish education; being well cared for in the orphanage; having little contact with the Polish community; not being subjected to anti-Semitism before the war; having four sisters and three older brothers, only one brother being raised in the orphanage; meeting her husband, a dentist, and having a son; never anticipating the Holocaust; the Soviets occupying her part of Poland and her husband being drafted into the Soviet army; the German occupation and creation of a Judenrat; increasing restrictions imposed by the Germans; being moved into a ghetto; sharing a room with eight people; mass killings of Jews, followed by a roundup and train transport; escaping from the moving train with her baby and returning home; hiding in a cellar and in a forest during further German actions and transports; losing her son and not wanting to talk about it in the interview; being arrested and sent to a ghetto in Borislov* (possibly Bratislava?) for two months and then sent to Auschwitz (timeframe unclear, but context suggests late in the war); being tattooed; suffering extreme hunger; being sent to "Canada" block within Auschwitz and then to Kratzau, (Chrastava, Czech Republic), where she met a kind guard who sent her to work at a factory making gasmasks; being liberated by the Russians; going to Krakow and being told by the Jewish committee that her husband was alive; returning to Drohobych and reuniting with her husband; moving to Bratslov*, where her husband worked as a dental mechanic and they remained for ten years; moving to Bialystok; having a son in 1947; immigrating to Australia in 1962; having three grandchildren. Shows old photos.

*As heard/transliterated