

## **RG-50.407.0238**

### **Summary**

Sonia Delander, born circa 1920 in Germany. Moved to Berlin at age one. Father, Albert a banker and mother Ilma. One sister Ina. Parents from small families. Spoke high German at home. Observant but not Orthodox and did not keep Kosher. She went to elementary school and a girls' gymnasium. Apparently at the gymnasium, one of the teachers wore a Nazi uniform even before the Nazis came to power. She saw demonstrations which frightened her. She had to sing in school about "Jewish blood spurting," and knew the Nazis wanted to hurt the Jews. She belonged to Maccabi youth group. Her parents wanted her to leave Germany (although they never did and likely died in Auschwitz). Sister made it to the UK (unclear) although Sonia never saw her again as she died in 1967. In 1936, she left for Palestine and lived on Kibbutz Kiryat Avonim (?) with Czech and Austrian Jewish refugees. 1936-1939 she took care of children in the kibbutz. She became involve with Haganah but could not recall details, although she said, "I didn't shoot anybody." She says she was shot at from a nearby road and declares that it was "ironic" to be fighting another enemy in Palestine after escaping from Germany. She was in the British Army April 1942-August 1945, stationed in Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt where she translated and censored mail. At war's end, she traveled 23 days by boat to Australia. She divorced and remarried and has a daughter. She and her husband went to Theresienstadt in 1962. She worked as an ad copywriter and translator in Australia.