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Summary

Hanna Shevach was born in November 1940 in Magnetigorsk, Russia. Father Rafal Rafalowicz and mother Tziporah. Father had 6 brothers and sisters who apparently survived the war. Maternal grandparents, Chaim and Chaya (?) died in the Lodz Ghetto. One uncle was hanged in Bialystok as a partisan by the Nazis. Parents moved to Magnetigorsk from Lodz before the Nazis came. Family lived in barracks and father worked in a weapons factory. Sister, Wanda, born 1944. Hanna spoke only Russian and went to school in Magnetigorsk. She was not aware of being Jewish due to her young age. She did see German prisoners brought to town to work. Family returned to Lodz in 6/46 and lived on the edge of the old ghetto. She says the Poles were very "unfriendly." Her parents went to the dedication of the Warsaw Ghetto monument and visited concentration camps. Family moved to Israel March 17,1950. As a Communist, her mother brought busts of Marx, Lenin and Stalin with her to Israel. Hanna went to school in a kibbutz and father worked in a knit goods factory. She served in the army. She says Israelis were "angry" at the Poles for "allowing Germans to kill Jews." Father said that by many leaving before the war, the ghetto was deprived of leadership and he lamented that he had not done enough to save his family. Hanna married and had two sons born in Israel. After her mother died, Hanna and family moved to Australia in 1981. Both sons have returned to and live in Israel.

She displayed a book of photographs of Lodz, her family in Lodz and Magnetigorsk and pictures of a Jewish cemetery where the headstones have disappeared.