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Interview with Jadwiga Gumprich Nadolski

Melbourne, Australia, February 2, 2004

Summary

Born in Vienna, Austria, October 3, 1914, an only child.

Father - Adolph Gumprich, attorney in private practice in Krakow. Mother - Ella Gottlieb.

Mother had 2 brothers - Gabriel and Henryk (a renowned painter), mother's father was a private banker in Krakow. Grandmother's mother's maiden name was Tilles.

Father's family was from Krakow, he was 1 of 6 children - 2 brothers, and 3 sisters.

She attended government schools in Krakow, and then went to University to study law. Family was non-observant, didn't keep kosher or observe the Sabbath

The family spoke Polish at home, German to the grandparents. They traveled throughout Europe on holiday - particularly to Viareggio in Italy

1933 - first evidence of change were the restrictive laws. Father lost many non-Jewish clients, Jewish attorneys disbarred within a year.

1937 - she finished her law studies and worked for father as an apprentice

1939 - Married - Nadolski - also an attorney who spoke many languages. He left Poland in '39 and remained abroad (Balkans, Turkey) for 8 years. She didn't see him until after the War.

August 9, 1939 - went to Lvov with mother to get away from advancing Germans and air war.

Stayed in Lvov with parents in hotel. Worked in wool shop, knitting, until deportation,

July, 1941 - deported to Siberia with parents. They were among the first because they were foreign Jews. Put into trucks and taken to railroads, then into cattle cars.

First stop was Sverdlosk on Russian border, then continued on train for 3 - 4 weeks until Siberian camp reached. Camp was near a river leading to the North Sea.

There for about 1 year, then, as Germans advanced, she and parents were put on train going south, to Bukkara, Uzbekistan. 3 years in Bukkara, where she taught in a public school.

1944 - Father died of typhoid in Bukkara.

1945 - End of war announced on radio. She and mother go back to Poland, her in-laws, who had hidden in Poland during the war, were still alive. But nobody else she knew in Lvov or Krakow was still alive.

In Krakow, reunited with husband. He finds job at Ministry of Foreign Commerce.

They changed their name to Nadolski from Nadel (everyone did to sound less Jewish and more Polish).

Husband is posted through the Ministry to Istanbul. She was pregnant with her oldest daughter, who was born in Istanbul. Mother stays in Poland.

July, 1950, she, her husband and daughter immigrate to Australia - because that's the only place they can find to take them. Too difficult to get into US.

Second daughter is born in 1954, Husband imports handkerchiefs from Europe. They move into the same house in Melbourne she resided in in 2004.

1959 - Mother immigrates to Australia from Poland and lived with them, until she moved into a nursing home.

Daughters' names were Georgia and Erica - 1 died in Australia.