

## **RG-50.407.0293**

### **Summary**

Inge Friedlander, born August 7, 1924 in Sosnowiec, Poland. Father Lieb, mother Chaya. Grandfather went to America, leaving pregnant wife behind. She did not follow because her rabbi told her that if she went, "she'd become a goy." They divorced and grandfather remained in the US. Her father first married a rabbi's daughter but she died within two years, Chaya becoming his second wife later on. It was a religious home where Yiddish was spoken. Mother more religious. Father worked in family hat factory. She went to a Jewish school. Sosnowiec was approximately 50 percent Jewish. They lived in a poor neighborhood. When war came, their neighbor Max Besser, fled to Russia because he owned one of the few cars in the community. Before the war there was some discussion of going to Australia but no one went. When the fighting started they were scared by the roaring motorcycles driven by German troops. After occupation the Germans took everyone's valuables. Jews wore yellow stars front and back. She did see Jews hanged by Germans as they were forced to watch. When the ghetto was established, the family moved in. A cousin was head of the Judenrat but eventually was killed. Her father was taken for deportation (date unknown). One woman bribed the Germans with diamonds and escaped to Germany disguised as a Pole. Others escaped to Russia, including an uncle who was later denounced and killed by the Russians. Inge was taken to a nearby labor camp where there were 800 other girls and where she worked in a clothing factory. Her mother and sister, who was suffering from typhus, was sent to Auschwitz, where she died. She saw another cousin, a doctor, brought in to camp where he treated a German for a rash. He was killed 4 days before liberation. Apparently, another cousin worked for Mengele at Auschwitz. Inge worked 7 days week, 12 hour a day with very little food (Soup and potatoes). Her German supervisor was "cruel," and she never thought she'd survive, even working through nearby bombings. She thought "God punished us," and "god was asleep." Near the war's end, she was marched out of camp with 600 other girls for several days until 5/8/45 when they were told the war was over. The Russians gave them soup and bread. She was put in a hostel of sorts, apparently provided by the Jewish Committee. She and a German cousin were smuggled out and ended up in Munich where they rented rooms and she met her husband whom she married June 29, 1945 (?) after a brief courtship. He wanted to go to Australia and they went by ship from Genoa, taking six weeks to get there, arriving March 19, 1946 (?). They have two sons and ran a business in Australia. She says Israel is very important to her as there is no future for Jews without it.