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|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Interviewee:  | GREBENSCHIKOFF, Betty | Date:       | September 19, 1993       |
| Interviewer:  | Natalie Packel        |             |                          |
| Audio tapes:  | 1 English             | Transcript: | 1 vol. (unpaged) English |
| Restrictions: | None                  |             |                          |

## SUMMARY

Betty Grebenschikoff was born in 1929 in Berlin, Germany and shares her childhood memories of life in Germany and their relocation to Shanghai. She recalls fond memories of family and synagogue life during her childhood. She describes changes that started in the mid-1930s: former friends, now Hitler Youth members attacking her and her sister, having to change schools, and decreased freedom to travel. She describes the difficulty her father had finding a country of refuge and also describes some family members staying behind because they thought things would not get worse.

In 1939, her family, and an aunt and uncle left for Shanghai. Betty details the long voyage. She describes Hongkew, a very poor section of Shanghai where they lived in a one room apartment. Aided by ORT, the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Sassoon and Kadoorie families, they attended Jewish services and enjoyed Yiddish cabarets. Betty attended a Kadoorie school and the Shanghai Jewish School. She details the wartime difficulties, when she was ill with hepatitis and her father suffered from malaria and later when her mother had an intestinal parasite and she quit school to nurse her. In 1948, she married a gentile Russian teacher. They had five children and emigrated to Australia, aided by Sir Horace Kadoorie. They moved to the United States in 1951 and settled in New Jersey. Except for three survivors, all of Betty's extended family who remained behind died during the Nazi regime.

In her interview, Betty says she was born in 1939. However, her memoir, *Once My Name Was Sarah* (Original Seven Publishing Company, 1993) states that she was born in 1929.