

Interviewee:	<u>GREIS</u> , Carla T.	Date:	October 15, 1999
Interviewer:	Josey G. Fisher		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Carla T. Greis was born in Shanghai in 1923. She was the only child of a Protestant German family; her father was a diplomat and had arrived in 1896 from Germany and her mother arrived from Dresden in 1909. They met in Dresden and were married in Hong Kong. The family lived outside of the French concession on Avenue Haigie in a large home with several servants. At home the family spoke German and English.

On December 8, 1941, once the United States entered the war, Europeans were put in detainment camps by the Japanese. For Carla and her family, who identified as German, life continued as usual. There was a German Nazi party in Shanghai but her parents opposed it and her father never joined. There was a Hitler youth program; joining it was mandatory and Carla did join. The Nazi flag was flown and the Nazi salute, *Heil Hitler*, was also practiced. The family did not try to help their Jewish employees, but when their Jewish and Dutch friends were put in detainment camps, they befriended some Portuguese immigrants.

Carla's parents spoke little about the war, and afterwards Carla worried about being German and regretted that she did not question more. She married and moved to the United States. She got her parents out of Shanghai in 1949 just before the Communist takeover. Many Germans were repatriated to Germany, but since Carla's family had lived in Shanghai so long they were no longer considered German. Carla and her husband, William F. Greis, both identify with the refugee experience in Shanghai and attended the Shanghai reunion in Philadelphia.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War 1939-1945 - Personal Narratives- Protestant
Germans in Shanghai