

**RG-50.462.0465**

**Summary**

*Note that the recording is silent from timestamp 00:31:10 to 00:32:50.*

Rita Rappaport (née Blum) was born May 27, 1937 in Vienna, Austria; she had no siblings. Her father was a barber, and her mother was a legal secretary, who also helped in the adjacent barber shop. She describes her homelife in Vienna from the recollections of others due to her young age and some flashbacks.

She and her mother came alone to the U.S. in 1939 on *The Aquitania*. Her father died in Auschwitz, possibly after a time at Theresienstadt, and 41 other relatives perished during the war. They were married just three years. Her father's cousin in the U.S. provided affidavits for their U.S. visas, but Austrian authorities would not issue one for her father. Her mother last heard from her father by letter in 1941. She recalls her mother telling her that she experienced more anti-Semitism in the U.S. than in Europe before the Anschluss.

They lived in Philadelphia in Strawberry Mansion. They were Orthodox in the U.S. Her mother worked in a factory as her English skills were limited.

Rita describes people in a family photo album. She describes her synagogue affiliations as an adult, and support for Israel. She has two children, a son and daughter, who identify as Jews.