

Interviewee: TISCHLER, Aline
Interviewer: Lucille Fisher
No. of audio tapes: 2 English

Date: September 17, 1981
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SUMMARY

Aline Tischler, nee Zander, was born in 1912, in Pommern, a small town in Silesia (Schlesien) with only 10 Jewish families. Her father served in World War I and had a dry goods store. Aline briefly describes how she was able to observe the Jewish holidays and get a Jewish education. Antisemitism was prevalent and got much worse after 1933. Because of this, she went to live with relatives in Berlin in 1937, where she met and married her husband. Her parents followed in 1938, after the Nazis confiscated their business.

During *Kristallnacht*, the *Gestapo* came to arrest her father. He refused to flee and was taken to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Her husband was hidden by a non-Jewish man who worked for him. Her father was released in January 1939 and the family knew they had to leave the country. Helped by the Jewish Family Service, they left for Shanghai on March 25, 1939.

She describes her life in Shanghai, terrible conditions in the refugee camps, epidemics and Chinese people she met. Aline and her husband opened a lending library. She mentions the Kadoorie School, religious services and American bombing attacks briefly.

After the war, Aline and her family could not leave Shanghai until November 1947, when they finally got an affidavit. They went to Philadelphia, again helped by the Jewish Family Service. Her husband started a business and she worked as a sales lady. She talks about family members who died as well as those who survived.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) - Personal narratives, Jewish
World War, (1939-1945) - Personal narratives, Jewish
Pommern-Silesia (Schlesien)
Jews - Relationship with Christians
Antisemitism
Sachsenhausen (Concentration camp)
Jewish refugees - Shanghai
Refugee camps - Shanghai
Jewish Family Service
Postwar life - United States