

Interviewee:	<u>VAN DYK</u> , Elizabeth <sup>1</sup>	Date:	March 24, 1992
Interviewer:	Marian Salkin		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

## SUMMARY

Elizabeth R. Van Dyk, nee Roubicek, born in Vienna, Austria on September 11, 1927, was an only child in an upper middle-class Jewish family. She completed five years of high school and one year of *Gymnasium* in Vienna. Her father, after *Kristallnacht*, obtained visas for Shanghai, where the family arrived on May 15, 1939. They were given rooms in Chaoufoong Camp, also known as the *Heim*. Her parents shared space with 15 other married couples; she was with 15 other girls in the same building.

Mrs. Van Dyk attended a free Kadoorie school and a private secretarial school. Her father had gold crowns removed from his teeth to pay for her tuition. She also volunteered at a refugee hospital where, without a nursing degree, she learned to give inoculations.

She mentions cultural activities in the ghetto – operettas, plays and ballet, and recalls her membership in a Zionist organization that met for social purposes and rivaled the more serious Betar Revisionists. The family arrived in the United States on September 10, 1947 under the Czech quota. After arrival she and her mother found work but her father was ill and needed surgery, paid for by the committee that helped settle them in Philadelphia. There she married Meno L. Van Dyk on October 29, 1950 and they raised three children. Mrs. Van Dyk also completed two years of college education in Philadelphia.

<sup>1</sup>Additional first names, Liesel, Liesl.