

## Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

P.O. Box 25506, San Mateo, CA 94402

**Name of interviewee:** Ballin, Hannelore

**Date of interview:** 12/13/2000

**Summary:** Hannelore Ballin was born on February 15, 1921, in Essen, Germany and lived there until 1936, when she had to move closer to the Dutch border and live with her aunt. Once the war began, she could no longer speak with her German friends for fear that they would get in trouble for speaking to a Jew. She was very restricted, but her neighbors were never cruel to her or her family. Her father's business was eventually shut down, and it became difficult for her father to get money for food. Although Hannelore Ballin was never sent to a concentration camp, she had to emigrate and start a new life away from her home in a foreign land. In 1936, she immigrated to London and then to the U.S. in 1939. She and her family were dispersed throughout the world. She is now a widow with two children. Hannelore has shared her experience and told her story to the Jewish Family Service.