

Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

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

Name of interviewee: Feldbrill, Mary

Date of interview: 4/1/1998

Summary: Mary was born in Poland, in a small city. Her father was a successful baker with a shop. Experienced anti-Semitism early on; was called a dirty Jew, remembers being always afraid. Remembers Germans taking over her town. The town became home to a ghetto. She and her brother were separated from her parents during a selection, and sent to work in a factory. Did forced labor in several factories. Had some smuggled jewelry with her, which she eventually had to leave behind during an unexpected forced relocation to another factory.

Parents and other relatives eventually were deported to Treblinka and murdered there. While she was working in one of the factories, she was relocated to a second, small ghetto. During that time, she witnessed the Nazis shoot and kill 15 Jews who did not have work assignments.

Remembers the Russians liberating her town, saw many dead Russian soldiers in the streets. Married in 1945 to a man she met in one of the factories, and they moved to Israel in 1949. They struggled and lived in a tent in Israel, and eventually immigrated to Canada in the 1950s. Her brother, meanwhile, had emigrated to the U.S., and he was able to help bring her and her husband to the U.S. (Includes photos.)