

Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

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

Name of interviewee: Bayne, Ingrid

Date of interview: 4/17/2002

Summary: Ingrid Bayne was born on March 28 1931 in Bremen, Germany. Her parents were Wilhelm Meyer and her mother's maiden name was Rennberg. She had two brothers and a sister, Ludwig, Rolf and Lilo. She was only seven years old when World War II started but she remembers everything that she saw and experienced throughout the war. Her family had decided not to leave Bremen because they thought that nothing bad was going to happen to them, especially since her grandfather belonged to the German army and had fought in World War I. They soon realized that they were wrong and that their lives were in great danger. Consequently, they tried to immigrate to the United States and other countries, but were unsuccessful.

Ingrid's grandparents and her cousin Kurt, with the help of her father, were the only ones who successfully emigrated to Belgium. Regrettably, her grandfather and cousins were both shot in Belgium when the Germans took over, while her grandmother stayed hidden with the help of a kind woman and eventually returned to Bremen after the war. Sixty-five family members from her mother's side, were killed during the war. Ingrid, her parents, sister and two brothers survived.

She clearly remembers when the war first started as well as when it ended with the English and Americans marching through Bremen's streets. However, before it ended she remembers that a lot of the Jewish people, her father included, were sent to work camps or extermination camps. She recalls that most Jewish people over the age of twelve years old wore a Jewish star on their arms. During the war, there were a lot of buildings that were being destroyed, her family home included. She remembers that her family had to move frequently. Eventually the war ended with the English and Americans marching through the streets of Germany, and whom her father greeted thankfully, with tears of happiness in his eyes.

After the war ended, Ingrid's father rebuilt the house in Bremen and she stayed there for a couple of years, but she then immigrated to the United States. She worked for two years and tried to learn English before going back to Bremen and help her father with some financial problems.

Once she had helped her father she returned to America and got a job as a flight attendant where she eventually met her ex-husband. This way she was able to travel the world over, as she had always wanted to do. She continued to visit her family in Bremen and sometimes they would visit her in New York. Later on, she sponsored her two brothers to move to New York. Her sister got married and also moved away from home, leaving just her parents in Bremen. Her father died of cancer in 1968 and her mother died twelve years later. After the loss of both her parents, the family decided to sell the house in Bremen.

Ingrid remained in the U.S. with her husband and they had a daughter whom

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they named Heidi. Ingrid is now divorced, has two grandsons, and lives in New York. However she maintains a good relationship with both, her ex-husband and her daughter.