

## Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

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

**Name of interviewee:** Broclawski, Irma

**Date of interview:** 11/14 & 12/19/1991

**Summary:** Irma Broclawski was born on January 26, 1925 in Wisznich Norway (sp?), Poland. Her name at birth was Irma Ferber Roufna. She was 14 when World War II broke out. She survived by changing her identity. A friend of her father's gave Irma and her mother false identity papers. Her name was changed to Bronislava Yadovietska.

Irma grew up in an old Polish town near the Palace. She was raised with many Orthodox Jews, but her family didn't practice Orthodoxy. She states that she had a "happy childhood," not facing much anti-Semitism. Her first memory of anti-Semitism was when her father was beaten for being Jewish.

One of her earlier memories was hiding in a friend's barn, just before they received their false identities. Once she and her mother were found, they were moved to Berlin, Germany in 1941 to work in a labor camp. In the labor camp in Berlin, she was forced to work in a factory as a "Spinner". She would escape 7 months later to visit her brother Arthur in Vienna. They both then stayed there and live with false identities. She worked as a maid in a factory. She would keep in touch with her mom by writing letters to her in Berlin. She and her brother then went back to Berlin to be with her mother. They would then move to Dormagen, a town right outside of Berlin. She states having to hide in cellars and barns in order to escape capture.

In the 2nd interview, Irma is asked questions about her experiences and to elaborate on information mentioned in Tape 1.

She also describes life in postwar Krakow where she lived for four years with an uncle and aunt who survived.

Irma's parents did not survive and a brother was murdered by the Ukrainians. One brother did survive and returned to Poland after the war.