

## Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project

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

**Name of interviewee:** Beyer, Anna & Kemper(her daughter)

**Date of interview:** 8/7/1989

**Summary:** (This is a joint interview with her daughter.)

Born in Bulgaria in 1898, Anna and her husband, a World War I veteran, settled in Elberfeld shortly after their marriage in 1922. The couple had two children, and he was a salesman until his deportation to Dachau in 1938. The community had a large Jewish population, and the Beyers belonged to the Conservative synagogue. Anna recounted spending "*Kristallnacht*" with a few other Jewish families at a friend's house, shortly after her husband was deported. Her son left Germany for the U.S. in 1937, and lived in Lowell, Mass. Her daughter left for England in 1939.

Anna got her husband released from Dachau after she secured a permit for him to travel to Cuba. The entire family was supposed to go, but couldn't be ready quickly enough, so her husband went alone. Anna, her mother, and her daughter were prepared to leave on the next boat, but couldn't get tickets. The boat, the *St. Louis*, was not allowed to dock in Cuba, and Anna considered their inability to get on the ship incredibly lucky.

After her daughter left for England, Anna did piecework in a factory and waited for her emigration number to come up. She had an affidavit from a friend in the U.S., and left Germany in 1940. She arrived in New York on Jan. 8, 1941, and was reunited with her son that week. Her husband and daughter also made it to the U.S., and lived in Massachusetts before moving to California. Anna's husband died in 1973.