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Summary

Ada Stewart Gates, born on May 31, 1926 on Neves Avenue on Upper March Road in Belfast, Ireland; after German bomb set church near their house ablaze at the beginning of World War II, Ada moved to Millisle to live with her mother and grandmother in a rental house they often took for the summer; father also moved to Millisle and commuted by bicycle to aircraft work in Belfast but returned to their home in Belfast when commute proved difficult; Ada and her sister were sent to the "Jewish Farm" three times by their mother to buy vegetables but these visits stopped when younger sister had to return to school and Ada at age 14 took a job as a stitcher and shipper at the Belfast factory RW Muir; at the farm Ada became acquainted with the Jewish refugees Mrs. Kisener and her son, Larry, developing a friendship with Mrs. Kisener who she describes as lovely, friendly and nice to talk to, petite with very dark hair, with an accent but easily understood; was told at that time by others that Mrs. Kisener's husband had died in a camp and later that Mrs. Kisener left Millisle for Donoghadee to marry and that Larry became a touring concert pianist; Ada recalls that during the war she heard wireless reports of atrocities against Jews and saw newsreels in cinemas depicting Jews in camps; mother died at age 57; Ada stayed in Millisle, marrying in Belfast in 1945 at age 18, husband was 22 but returning to live in Millisle where they had four children; still lives in Millisle; predominantly Protestant Millisle did not experience many "troubles" according to Ada.