

BRONIA S.

Bronia was born on July 12, 1915, in Zloczów, Poland (now Ukraine), to a secular Jewish family. When she was a baby, her family moved to Vienna where her father worked in the family textile business. Her sister Paula was born in 1919. In 1933, they started hearing about Hitler and the Nazi party, but they never considered emigrating until Vienna was invaded in 1938. After being evicted from their house, Bronia's family escaped to Poland and applied for visas to the United States.

In September 1939, the Germans invaded Poland and the family was forced into the Łódź ghetto. Bronia was appointed as secretary for Mordechai Chaim Rumkowski, the chairman of the Jewish Council. She was married in September 1943, before the ghetto was liquidated in August 1944. Bronia's family was transported in cattle cars to Auschwitz, where the men and women were separated upon arrival. Bronia and her family spent six days at Auschwitz before being moved to Stutthof, where she was reunited with her sister Paula. Bronia's husband did not survive Stutthof.

Bronia, her mother and her sister were moved to Dresden where they worked in a munitions factory. Bronia was appointed to work in the office after being recognized from the Łódź ghetto by Hans Biebow, who was then director of the factory. On February 13, 1945, the Allies bombed the city and the prisoners were evacuated. In April, they were forced on a twelve-day death march to Theresienstadt. The camp was liberated by Russian troops on May 8, shortly after Bronia's arrival in the camp.

Bronia went to Prague after liberation and started to work for the Joint Distribution Committee. She met her second husband in Czechoslovakia, but they ultimately decided to leave for Israel, where their son was born. The instability in Israel at the time led Bronia and her husband to immigrate to Vancouver in 1950 with the help of her brother-in-law. Their daughter was born in Vancouver. In 1952, her husband was killed in an automobile accident. Bronia went to work for Alaska Pine Company, and raised her children with her mother's help.

SEE THE TESTIMONY RECORD OF [BRONIA S., 1990](#) IN THE VHEC'S COLLECTIONS FOR RELATED HOLDINGS AND FOR INTERVIEW DETAILS.