

REGINA F.

Regina was born in Będzin, Poland, in 1931. She had two older brothers and her father worked as a tailor. There was a thriving Jewish community in her hometown. Regina has fond memories of her childhood and of her early schooling in the pre-war years.

In 1939, when German troops invaded Poland, Regina's family was forced to move into the ghetto. Her mother was expecting a baby, but was never seen again after being taken to the hospital for the delivery. During the winter of 1941, her father heard that the ghetto was being cleared and he hid Regina in a cellar with a group of women. German soldiers discovered them, however, and Regina was sent to Klettendorf camp when she was nine years old.

After approximately a year of forced labour, all women in the Camp, including Regina, were transported by truck to Ludwigsdorf, where Regina worked in a munitions factory for the next two-and-a-half years. In 1945, the Soviet army liberated Ludwigsdorf.

After the war was over, Regina lived with a German couple in the town of Klettendorf before leaving for Feldafing, a displaced persons camp. Through the DP camp, she was reunited with her cousin, but was unable to return to Poland to search for the rest of her family.

As a war orphan, Regina was one of the 1,123 children selected to go Canada. In 1948, she arrived in Halifax and was taken by train to Vancouver. Regina lived with a foster family briefly, but she eventually found employment and paid for room and board with a young couple. Regina attended night school, was married in 1950 and had two children.

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