

# EVA SAFFERMAN

## BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE



Eva Safferman was born to Zachary and Anna “Hanka” Zysman in Lodz, Poland on April 15, 1928. Eva grew up in a family that kept kosher, but was not very religious otherwise. Her father

owned a men’s clothing manufacturing business and worked as an accountant for a large Jewish-owned company.

In 1939, at the age of eleven, Eva recalled there were dramatic changes in her life brought on by the outbreak of the war. Eva had to wear the Yellow Star on her clothing, had a curfew, was restricted on where she could go, and she and her family had limited access to food. That same year, Eva remembered a German raid in which her paternal grandparents and some of her aunts and uncles were taken away; she never saw them again.

In early 1940, many Jews, including Eva’s family, were forced into a ghetto in the northeastern section of Lodz, where Eva’s father worked for the local Judenrat. For a short time, Eva continued going to school inside the ghetto; however, after all the schools were closed, she worked in a carpet factory and later in another factory making uniforms for the German Army.

Eva remembered having a constant fear of daily round-ups, which was worsened after her father, was arrested and deported to an unknown location. In 1944, Eva recalled that her name was on a list to be deported but that she was able to avoid being taken by hiding under some beet plants.

In late summer of that same year, Eva and her family boarded one of the last transport trains to Auschwitz. Upon arrival, Eva and her mother were separated from her aunt and cousin, who were sent to the gas chambers. Eva and her mother were sent on to Auschwitz-Birkenau and then to Poppenbüttel-Sasel, a satellite labor camp of Neuengamme. In early 1945, Eva and her mother were transported from Poppenbüttel-Sasel to Bergen-Belsen, where they were liberated by the British military on April 15, 1945.

Later that same year, Eva and her mother went to Sweden, where Eva met her future husband, Henry. With the help of family in the United States, Eva and her mother obtained documents to emigrate and on January 16, 1949, they landed in New York. In June 1951, Henry arrived and he and Eva were married. Later, Eva and Henry moved to the Bronx, New York with Eva’s mother and in 1956, they had a daughter, Lori, followed by a son, Allan in 1959. At the time of Eva’s interview in 1996, she and Henry were living in New Jersey and had two grandchildren, Rachel and Brooke. ■



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