

REGINA EISENSTEIN

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE



ECHOES & REFLECTIONS

TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST. INSPIRING THE CLASSROOM.



Regina Eisenstein (born Regina Oksenhendler), daughter of Moses and Machela, was born on October 26,

1925, in Działoszyce, Poland. Regina grew up in Bedzin, Poland, and had an older sister, Jenny, and a younger brother, Lemel. Moses was a kosher poultry merchant and the family members were traditional Jews. Regina attended public school and was a member of Ha-No'ar ha-Ziyyoni, a Zionist organization that advocated for an independent Jewish state.

On September 1, 1939, German forces invaded Poland and World War II began. In 1940, the family was forced to live in the Bedzin ghetto. While there, Regina worked sewing gloves, hats, and army uniforms. In the fall of 1943, Regina was deported to the Auschwitz camp complex in Nazi-occupied Poland. While Regina was a prisoner at Auschwitz, she dug ditches, sorted clothing, and worked in an ammunition factory. On January 27, 1945, Regina was liberated by the Soviet armed forces. Regina's parents and sisters survived the war, but her brother perished at Auschwitz.

Regina was in a displaced persons' camp from August 1945 until December 1948. She married Ben Eisenstein in 1945, and the couple had two daughters and one son. At the time of her interview, Regina had two granddaughters and four grandsons.

This interview was conducted on August 31, 1995 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.