

Hella R. Fluss

Wartime Experience: Fled to England

I was born in Nurnberg, Germany, March 31, 1926. My father's name was Alfred Sadler, born near the Czech-German border in 1899. My mother was Else Sadler, born Else Appel in a small village near Nurnberg.

We lived in Coburg, a small town in Bavaria, which had a Nazi mayor since 1932. My father had a PhD in chemistry and owned a small factory manufacturing electrical accessories. My mother worked at home until Hitler came to power when she began to help my father in the office.

I was ten years old in my fourth year of school and experienced a great deal of anti-Semitism from children as well as the teacher in my class. My parents had been preparing to leave Germany for a long time, at least a year. This was done in secret. I knew nothing about it.

We crossed the German border into Czechoslovakia and from there we traveled across Europe to England. We lived in England during the war. I went to school, college and medical school, where I met and married my fellow student, Zdenek Fluss, an emigrant from Czechoslovakia.

We got our medical degrees and came to California in 1951. By then we had one daughter. My husband became a pathologist and I stayed home for a few years. We had two sons. In 1964, Zdenek was killed in an automobile accident. This changed my life completely. I went back into medicine and took a residency in psychiatry.

I now work part time as a psychiatrist, spend time with my children and grandchildren, write stories, and enjoy hiking. The photograph was taken on a beach near Point where I often like to hike.