

**SHORT STORIES ABOUT THE ŁÓDŹ GHETTO, 1992**  
**RG-05.010; 1994.A.0307**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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**Descriptive summary**

**Title:** Short Stories about the Łódź Ghetto

**Dates:** 1992

**RG number:** RG-05.010

**Accession number:** 1994.A.0307

**Creator:** Salomea Kape

**Extent:** 1 microfiche; 1 identification card; 53 pages; 67 digital images (JPEG, 95.9 MB)

**Repository:** United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126

**Languages:** English, German

**Administrative Information**

**Access:** Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

**Reproduction and use:** Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

**Preferred citation:** (Identification of item), Short Stories about the Łódź Ghetto, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

**Acquisition information:** Salomea Kape donated her collection of short stories to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives in October 1993.

**Related archival materials:** Please see also 2005.250, the Salomea Herszenberg Kape family collection.

**Biographical note:** Salomea Herszenberg was born in May 17, 1926, in Lodz, Poland, to Calel and Roza Toronczyk. Her father delivered textiles to factories in Lodz. Her mother was a nurse/midwife, as was her twin sister Anna; Roza also had a brother Mel. A few months after Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, her family was imprisoned inside the ghetto with the other Jews of the town. Both parents continued to work the same jobs. Roza took over Anna's job at the ghetto hospital when Anna escaped to Russian territory in the east. Salomea attended the ghetto high school, where the headmistress, Stella Rein, maintained the normal curriculum and provided a daily bowl of soup for students. Salomea was often very hungry, but a rule of the ghetto was that you did not talk about hunger. Her paternal grandmother, Cerka Herszenberg, died of starvation in 1941. In the fall of 1942, her friend, Stella Szafir, told Salomea that her family had been taken by the Gestapo; a few days later, Stella turned herself in and was taken to Chelmno killing center. In the spring of 1944, the Germans decided to destroy the ghetto. The residents were told that they were being transferred to work camps, though most were being shipped to Auschwitz death camp. Salomea's mother decided that the family must hide and avoid the deportations. Roza's brother, Mel, had been assigned to the group of about 600 residents that the Germans kept behind to clean the ghetto and sort the remaining belongings. He was part of the work detail that cleaned stables, and he was able to get Roza and her family jobs in his group. They stayed in the ghetto until the liberation of the city by the Soviet Army in January 1945. After liberation, Salomea enrolled in medical school and received her degree in 1952. In 1957, she and her husband, Mendel Kape, whom she had married in 1951, left Poland for Israel where their son was born. In 1966, the family emigrated to New York. Salomea's parents and aunt Anna joined them in New York in 1966. Her father died in 1972/3 and her mother passed away in 1975.

**Scope and content of collection:** Contains short stories relating to the Łódź Ghetto and its inhabitants by Salomea Kape. Also contains a photocopy of a worker identification card from the ghetto.

### **Inventory:**

**“The Midwife from Lodz”:** Rose, the only midwife remaining in the Lodz ghetto in the autumn of 1944, delivers one child in hiding, and other in the camp.

**“Arbeit macht frei”:** Sally uses her voice to brighten up the lives of the women working at the coat factory in the Lodz ghetto.

**“In the ugly city of Lodz”:** Two friends, Stella and Molly, do their best to make Lodz a bit less ugly in their eyes.

**“Biebow from Bremen”:** Sally thinks back on Hans Biebow, the man in charge of liquidating the Lodz Ghetto, as she prepares to dissect his body during her first year at medical school.

**“Designer Genes”**: Sally and her friend Ola (a Jew who passed for Aryan) meet up again years after the war in New York City.

**“Vanya from Solna Street”**: Mendel, who grew up in Lodz, escaped to Russia after the Germans invaded Poland and joined the Red Army.