

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Archives

Oral History Interviews of the Kean College of New Jersey Holocaust Resource Center

**Interview with Mina Zuckerman
1983
RG-50.002*0030**

PREFACE

In 1983, Mina Zuckerman was interviewed on videotape by Sidney Langer on behalf of the Kean College of New Jersey Holocaust Resource Center. The interview took place in Union, New Jersey and is part of the Research Institute Archives of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of oral testimonies.

Kean College of New Jersey Holocaust Resource Center created a summary and time-coded notes for the interview. The reader should bear in mind that these finding aids attempt to represent the spoken word in the recorded interview, yet have not necessarily been verified by the interviewee. The finding aids should not be used in place of the interview itself.

Rights to the interview are held by the Kean College of New Jersey Holocaust Resource Center. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum houses a copy of the interview as a result of a contributing organization agreement with the Kean College of New Jersey Holocaust Resource Center. Details concerning the Museum's rights to use and reproduce the interview are contained in the contributing organization agreement.

Summary of the
Interview with Mina Zuckerman
1983

Millie (Mina) Zuckerman was born in Humniska, Poland in September, 1925. Millie's father ran a grocery store in Humniska. Millie and her older sister attended public school until Hitler took over Humniska in 1939. Millie's family remained in Humniska until 1942. During this time, Millie was taken to the nearby town of Brzozow, Poland to carry stones for road work. In 1942, all of the Jews were moved from Humniska to Brzozow. Millie continued to work moving stones. When it was announced that all of the Jews in Brzozow would be sent to a labor camp, Millie's father decided to bring the family to the house of Michalina Kedra to hide. Mrs. Kedra's daughter, Helena, was a school friend of Millie's. Millie's family hid in the Kedras' attic and stable. Millie recalls that both money and food were hard to come by during these years.

Brzozow was liberated by the Russians in August, 1944. After one month of receiving support from the Russians, Millie's family went, by train, to a displaced persons camp in Budapest, Hungary. In this camp, nobody worked and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) or the Red Cross furnished food and clothing. From Budapest, Millie's family relocated to Bindermichl displaced persons camp in Linz, Austria in May, 1945. Millie met her husband, Abraham Zuckerman, in Bindermichl in 1947. They remained in the displaced persons camp until 1949, when they came to the United States.

**Time-coded notes of the
Interview with Mina Zuckerman
1983**

01:00:00

Born September, 1925 in Humniska, Poland. Millie (Mina) lived with her father, mother, and sister (who was eight years her senior). They were one of about 20 Jewish families in Humniska. Humniska was near the larger town of Brzozuw (Brzozow), Poland. The total population of Brzozow was about 2,000, approximately 1,000 of whom were Jews. There were 500 Jews buried in Humniska. Millie's father ran a grocery in the village. Millie and her sister attended public school. The Hebrew teacher gave lessons at home. Millie was 14 years old in 1939 when Hitler came to Humniska. After 1939, Millie was no longer permitted to go to school. She was taken to Brzozow every day to work, carrying stones for road work. Millie recalls air bombings of nearby refineries in 1939.

01:10:00

From 1939 to 1942, Millie and her family still lived in the little town. In 1942, all Jews moved out of Humniska to Brzozow. Millie's family was one of 10 families who moved into a school in Brzozow. Millie worked with her sister and her father moving stones. They did not work on Shabbat. All the Jews were sent to the stadium. They were told that they were going to a labor camp.

01:20:00

USHMM Archives RG-50.002*0030

2

Millie's father decided that the family should go to Mrs. Michalina Kedra to hide. A big grave was dug. The Germans killed all 500 Jews who were living there, including Millie's grandmother, aunt, and uncle. Millie had attended school with Mrs. Kedra's daughter Helena. Mrs. Kedra was a widow with four children. Millie's father gave money to Mrs. Kedra as long as it lasted. They hid in an attic and sometimes in the stable. Mrs. Kedra's boyfriend built a false wall in the stable.

01:30:00

Millie recalls that Poles couldn't be trusted. In 1943, Millie's father went to Mr. Krekovsky, a Pole, to ask for and receive money. Millie's father gave Mr. Krekovsky a ring. As the money was used up for food, Millie's father went back to Mr. Krekovsky. In August, 1944, Russia liberated the area in which they were living.

01:40:00

The area was evacuated. After four days, Mrs. Kedra came back with some food. The Russians brought Millie's family to their old house. A Pole was there. The Russians put the family in a house and gave them clothing and food. After one month, in September or October 1944, they went by train to Pest (Budapest), Hungary. Jews from all over were in one camp. Nobody worked. Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) or the Red Cross furnished food and clothing. In 1945, Millie was 20 years old.

01:50:00

USHMM Archives RG-50.002*0030

3

In May, 1945, Millie's family went to Bindermichl displaced persons camp in Linz, Austria. Millie met her husband, Abraham Zuckerman, in the displaced persons camp in 1947. Millie was in Bindermichl until 1949.

HELENA BOCON, VISITING FROM POLAND, DAUGHTER OF MICHALINA KEDRA, THE WOMAN WHO HID MILLIE, INTERVIEWED BY DR. SIDNEY LANGER.

02:00:00

Helena was a school friend of Millie's and often visited Millie's father's grocery store. Helena couldn't go to school after the Germans came to Brzozow in 1941, but she learned in a hidden way. Helena was 13 years old when Millie's family came to her house and hid in their attic. Helena's family feared Ukrainian police who were looking for thieves from the nearby refinery.

02:10:00

Helena was religious and wanted to reciprocate favors from Millie's father. Rewards were offered for information about Jews. Even with money, it was difficult to get enough food for 10 people in one house. There were four members in Millie's family and six in Helena's family. The Germans were also taking non-Jewish Poles for forced labor. When the Germans searched Helena's attic, they found evidence that a family had been there, but were unable to find them.

02:20:00

USHMM Archives RG-50.002*0030

4

When Millie's family was liberated, they were not starved. Helena brought letters to Kraków, Poland and to Millie's sister. The Germans had quotas for Poles to be collected for forced labor.

02:30:00

At first, when the Russian's came, Helen's house was in a "no man's land." Helena was happy to have the Russians come and the Germans leave.

BLANK TWO MINUTES

02:40:00

MILLIE ZUCKERMAN AND HELENA BOCON TOGETHER

Millie and Helena recall the story of how Millie was almost found, while in hiding, by the Germans. A Jew was killed by Poles in the middle of a Brzozow street after "liberation."