

-TITLE- JOE HESS
-I_DATE- 5/20/84
-SOURCE- UCLA HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTARY ARCHIVES
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY- EXCELLENT
-IMAGE_QUALITY- EXCELLENT
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-
12:01:30 Max Hess was born 4-12-01 in Hindesteinaw. In 1902 he moved to Fulda.

1:50 Joseph is the son of Max, born in 1932 in Fulda, Germany.

2:48 Max's father's business was selling cars and houses. In 19?8 his father died. Three sisters in his house were married. He took over his father's business and worked hard.

3:40 Hitler came in 1933. The business was okay the first year, but people were afraid to work with him because he was a Jew.

4:28 In '38 the Government took the businesses away. In November '38 one night they saw a synagogue burning.

5:24 Max's grandparents lived for years in Germany. They were very orthodox. The congregation had over 300 families. He sang in the choir.

7:14 In 1939 they ran away to Frankfort. A nazi stopped them on the street and asked them if they were Jews. They were kept overnight. A soldier told him he'd go into a camp. When he'd come out, he'd be an old man.

9:14 They were put in a car and went to a camp at Dachau. In the morning they have coffee and a little bread and went out and marched all day like soldiers. Then they had a rest. At 4 o'clock they went out and had to run around in the cold. At night they had a little soup.

11:45 One day he got a letter from his wife saying she was going to send the kids to England.

12:23 One morning his name was called to leave the camp. He went to Minsal and stayed in one room. Early in the morning they came to Fulda by train.

13:35 He rang the bell and his wife and children were still there.

14:01 He was let out of Dachau because his brother-in-law paid \$50.00 or so.

14:26 The kids were to leave in March. It was December then.

15:17 They had a girl friend of his younger sister who knew a family who would take the children. He took the children to Frankfurt to take a train to leave.

17:06 On the train he saw the kids off.

17:34 Joe remembered sleeping with his mother the night before they left. He was 5-6 years old. He remembered the train Station. He was by the English family in England.

18:32 They took a letter from the kids in England.

19:01 The first word Joe learned in English was ice box.

19:16 They sent the kids a small box of clothes, a doll, a baby carriage, as often as they could.

20:42 In 1941, 130 people went to Riga.

21:51: The Germans in Fulda were nice to them.

23:01: People were upset about the people being deported to Riga.

23:42 His sister, mother, wife, children and brother-in-law went to Riga. Each was able to have 100 pounds of luggage.

24:25 They all were in a large room. Then they went on a train but never saw their luggage. In Riga it was very cold.

25:13 A German took him with 30 men from one side and went to work.

They walked a lot but couldn't find the camp.

26:12 They stopped at a prison camp for the night.

26:35 The next A.M. they found the camp. They worked hard there. The camp wasn't finished and they worked on building it.

27:44 In Riga, every morning they would bring 400 people from a Ghetto and then kill 400 that were already there. They shot them. They put 800 people in one hole.

29:01 Somebody came to the camp and said his wife in Riga was working in the office as a secretary at Riga.

29:21 25 young people came to camp one day. One of them had stolen something from a butcher factory. The whole camp had to come out to see this. They killed all 25.

30:22 He was 7 months in that camp, then went to Comansheo(?).

31:28 He came to the Ghetto and he had a room with his wife.

32:14 Went to Stutthoof next. The men and women were separated. They slept on the floor.

32:21 He went to ___ next, a camp. His wife and whoever waved goodbye to him. It was the last time he saw them. In 1944 someone told him his mother and wife died. The wife died of Typhus.

34:27 He worked inside the barracks.

34:25 Later, they heard the Russians were coming. They were afraid. He got typhus. When he woke up, the Russians were there. He was liberated in December 1944.

36:23 In the spring Russians took over. He couldn't walk. He was washed and given clothes.

37:20 He was taken to Danzig, then taken to Russia.

38:26 Russians liberated the camp, but he was taken as a prisoner because they thought he collaborated with the Germans and worked for them. He told them he had to and that he was a prisoner.

39:37 For 10 years he was in the hands of the Russians. He walked

from Germany to Russia. He worked very hard for the Russians.

40:52 They were locked up. They were treated the same by the Russians as he was by the Germans.

41:24 He ended up in Leningrad. Then he went to Grodno. He was beaten and tortured to let him to confess to working for the Germans. They believed he was a Jew, though.

44:17 In Grodno, he was in a room where all the people are shot. He didn't care if he was shot as there wasn't much to lose. The people in there talked mostly about food.

45:58 He was together with regular aryan Germans as a prisoner. This was in Grodno in prison. He told about the other people in the prison.

48:35 He kept being told that if he worked for Hitler he'd be killed.

50:13 H was sentenced to 20 years of hard labor. He was sent to Siberia.

50:44 He was sick there with malaria and pneumonia. He worked hard there. He worked on houses and in copper mines.

51:31 After 10 years he was called to the church and told he worked hard and was a hard worker. He was freed.

52:04 He had no money. He made money by working for Yashing (?) in the camp at night. He had spent 8 years in Mongolia.

53:00 He showed how he looked when he came out of the camp. He weighed 86 pounds when he started working and then went up to 100 pounds.

54:29 Four weeks after he was freed, he was told he couldn't go to Germany but had to stay in Russia.

55:20 He told them he wanted to leave. He went back to Germany.

57:24 He got to East Berlin in 1955. Told he could get more money if he stayed in East Berlin, but he chose to go to West Germany.

13:04:51 At 7 o'clock his daughter called him and said she had a good life and was married and had a kid.

6:21 On a Sunday his sister heard the news. She called him and told the news about their father being alive.

7:43 Joe sent father a telegram saying he'd be there in 20 hours from Frankfurt.

8:10 The press met him and took him to Fulda(?) where he met his father.

9:30 He showed pictures taken at that time.

9:52 Joe didn't speak German, and the father didn't speak English.

10:29 His father wasn't bitter. He felt he'd really come home. The son wanted him in the U.S., but the father said that he was comfortable in Germany.

11:31 They went by train to visit Max's Sister in D__ (?) and had to cross the Russian zone, which was very frightening for him.

12:30 They took him to the U.S. the next year.

13:17 The father loved his home regardless of what happened.

14:02 The son said he remembers English when they landed. He stayed with people in England who had 3 children, the Van Endens. He remembered they were Jewish but not as orthodox as his own family.

15:53 His sister cried a lot, but he didn't. Everything was new and fine in England. The children were good to him, and he went to school.

16:38 When the war broke out they suffered because they were Germans. When the bombing started, the family bought a house in the country so they could all be together, but they were still teased and harassed by the other children because they were Germans.

17:40 They lived near 2 American air bases. His foster sister married an American. In 1948 the whole family moved to the U.S. to a chicken farm in New Jersey.

18:50 During the war they wanted England and America to win. An

American soldier went to Germany and ____ on the family, saying the entire family was dead. Joe ran away to Ushiba and Manchester when he heard this and said shiva for the entire family. His brother came and brought him home.

20:28 He was never adopted. They never took a penny from the children or their family. There was no favoritism amongst children in the house. His foster parents died two or three years ago.

22:01 The son remembers how close he was to his father in Germany. He showed pictures of Fulda.

24:23 The son reminisced about life in Fulda.

25:26 Max lived in New Jersey for 10 months with his daughter, and he worked for 2 weeks in a chicken farm. Then he went to New York and took a room and worked in a sewing machine factory.

26:55 He met a woman and married her. They were married for 20 years.

27:26 The father and son saw each other every week.

27:49 The father didn't get his son Bar Mitzvah, but he saw his grandchildren Bar Mitzvah, and saw many other family Mitzvah.
.END.