

-TITLE- TOREN ROSE  
-I\_DATE- JANUARY 28, 1984  
-SOURCE- UCLA HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTATION ARCHIVES  
-RESTRICTIONS-  
-SOUND\_QUALITY- EXCELLENT  
-IMAGE\_QUALITY- EXCELLENT  
-DURATION-  
-LANGUAGES-  
-KEY\_SEGMENT-  
-GEOGRAPHIC\_NAME-  
-PERSONAL\_NAME-  
-CORPORATE\_NAME-  
-KEY\_WORDS-  
-NOTES-  
-CONTENTS-

Rose is a very warm and emotional person and this comes through in her interview. She is not very descriptive about her concentration camp experiences, but tells an interesting story about somehow getting her father and brother freed from a work camp.

1:00 Born Rose Orenstein (ph.). She had 3 sisters, 1 brother, mother, father, and they lived with her fathers mother.

2:00 They were an Orthodox family. Her grandmother was even more religious than they. It was a very strict upbringing.

3:00 She remembers life as being warm, pleasant. They observed the holidays strictly. She was the oldest of the five children. Her father greatly respected her grandmother.

4:00 Her grandmother was treated like a queen. Their family had a general store where her parents worked, and her grandmother took care of the home.

5:00 There were only about 40 Jewish families in her town.

6:00 She went to public elementary school with the Poles, and every once in a while there was anti-semitism. High school was different - only one Jew was allowed to go each year.

7:00 She decided that she had to leave her town to see the world and to make something out of herself.

8:00 She got into high school (she had all A's) but they wouldn't enroll her.

9:00 Her mother wouldn't let her leave home so she went on a hunger strike. Then her mother remembered that she had a cousin in Lublin.

10:00 They took the bus to Lublin together.

11:00 Her mother actually saw her cousin on the street when they got off the bus. He was a wealthy man and his first name was Yankle. He took them to his house in a Rushka (ph.) which was a horse and carriage.

12:00 They went to his house. It was a wealthy home, but something was missing. Rose and her mother found out that Yankle's wife had lost a baby.

13:00 They took Rose in like a daughter. Their home was good and nice but it was not the same as her real home, which she went to twice a year.

14:00 She knew that to achieve she had to be away from her childhood home.

15:00 She went to Lublin when she was 12-13 years old, and when she came home for vacation when she was 15-16 years old, the war broke out. Nothing happened to her community at first because it was so small.

16:00 The Nazis did beat them up and loot their stores.

17:00 She escaped many times from the Nazis. When they knocked at one door, she left out another.

18:00 In 1941 the Gestapo and the Polish police came to take them to a labor camp. They had heard many stories but no one believed them. In retrospect, she can't even believe what happened.

19:00 She is sad that the Jews didn't leave before, but she doesn't know if she is angry about it. She alone survived her family.

20:00 They were taken on trucks 1 1/2 hours away to a farm type place. The Nazis left them there.

21:00 They brought other people from other cities and they all waited there together. She had a little sister who didn't look Jewish and she managed to slip out there.

22:00 Rose never knew what happened to her. She still searches for her. Rose feels that she was left here to tell her story.

23:00 The next morning the Germans came. She can't believe that no one tried to escape.

24:00 They had been left there alone overnight but no one had tried to leave. Then the Germans started segregating. Her mother looked young but was still separated from Rose and her other sister.

25:00 Her whole family was sent in different directions. It was the last she saw of everyone together.

26:00 She first went to Chelm (ph.) and then she slipped out and went to a Jewish household in Chelm. They took her in.

27:00 She didn't look Jewish. Someone told her that they had seen her father, sister, and brother, so she walked to find them. She talked to them a little, but they wanted her to leave so that she wouldn't be caught. She went to the head of the camp.

28:00 She told him her story, and he was so amazed that she had come to him at all that he let her see her family.

29:00 After this, she went to see him again, and pleaded with him to let her family go, and he did.

30:00 Rose took them back to the house where she had been staying in Chelm, and then her father remembered that he had a friend in Chelm.

31:00 Her father told her that he knew that she would survive. He was safe until two weeks before the war ended. Someone told the SS where he was hiding, and they came and killed them.

32:00 After the war she went to look for them and an old neighbor told her what had happened.

33:00 She saw their grave (father, brother, sister). It was still fresh since they had been killed only a short time before.

34:00 She went back to Lublin to high school after the war. She was just like a Polish girl for a while.

35:00 People thought she was Polish and so they treated her well. The Poles still talked horribly about the Jews.

36:00 The Poles thought that what Hitler did was good. She fell in love with a Pole.

37:00 He was from a good Polish family, and she thought he would be above prejudice against the Jews. She found out that he wasn't - he said that whatever Hitler did was not enough.

38:00 He didn't know that she was Jewish, and she couldn't believe that he really felt that way. She said goodbye to him.

39:00 At this point she decided that she couldn't pretend she wasn't Jewish anymore, and she went back to her own people.

40:00 She wanted to go to Palestine.

41:00 When she separated from her father, sister, and brother, she decided to go to Lublin where she knew some people.

42:00 She walked from Chelm to Lublin.

43:00 She fell asleep in a tree, and when she woke up she saw Germans and heard shooting. They had dug a hole and shot a group of Jews and buried them in it. She was very lucky that they didn't spot her.

44:00 She ran the rest of the way to Lublin.

45:00 She found her friends and they took her in.

46:00 They were happy to see her and happy that she was alive, but they were afraid to keep her.

47:00 Rose knew that some people were still good. Her friends got her false papers and told her to go to Germany.

48:00 She went and registered and then went to Germany.

49:00 She was always scared that someone would recognize her as a Jew.

50:00 The train to Germany took two days. She heard a girl on the train say something Yiddish in her sleep, so she woke her up so that she wouldn't give herself away to the Germans. They ended up in the same barracks.

51:00 She told her that she was Jewish, and they became friends. Rose was the only one in the barracks who didn't get mail from her family.

52:00 One day she wrote herself a letter just so that she would get some mail. That was how much she suffered.

53:00 She always felt that the Germans would come for her, and one day she arrived at the barracks to find her friend Helen gone. They soon came back for her. They had somehow found out that she was Jewish.

54:00 She was taken to jail and beaten every day. She wouldn't admit that she was Jewish. They tortured her with hot needles.

55:00 They decided to send her to Auschwitz because she would die there anyhow. This was in 1943.

56:00 Before she arrived in Auschwitz, she was in several jails, one in Hanver (ph.) and one in Berlin. In these jails there were no beatings.

57:00 From the jail in Berlin she went to Auschwitz on a cattle car.

1:00 There were very few people left in Auschwitz when she got there.

2:00 She remembers the sign "Work Makes Freedom". Her hair was cut, she was given a striped uniform and wooden shoes.

3:00 In December 1944 she saw thousands of people going into the gas chambers. She found out that the Russians were coming. One night the Germans decided that it was time to leave Auschwitz.

4:00 It was freezing cold when they started on the Death March.

5:00 The Germans were killing people on the road - whoever couldn't keep on their feet got shot.

6:00 One night she and a friend snuck into a barn and slept in the hay. She decided the next morning that they weren't going to go on. If the Germans wanted to kill them, they could do it there.

7:00 They didn't get caught. They went to a house and said that they were Poles, and the people lent them a few zlotys. They went by train to her friends family.

8:00 She stayed there for two weeks, and then went home and found out about her family.

9:00 She still believes in God despite everything she went through. She thinks that her personality helped her survive.

10:00 She now understands that material things mean nothing. Human goodness and kindness are what is important.

11:00 Willpower, guts, and strength are all important, and so is never giving up.

12:00 She never had to see a psychiatrist after the war. She has managed to face this herself.

13:00 She met her husband in Israel, and they have a daughter. She has a book that she wrote called 'The Story of Rose', and it is about her life and the Holocaust.

14:00 Optimism is very important.

15:00 She went to Washington for a gathering of survivors,  
and President Reagan was there. She is happy to live in such  
a beautiful country.

16:00 She feels she is strong because she believes in what  
she does and is.  
.END.