-TITLE- GROSSMAN ITZHAK & PAROCHI VERONICA
-I_DATE-
-SOURCE- CHRISTIAN RESCUERS PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY- FAIR
-IMAGE_QUALITY- GOOD
-DURATION-
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-
An interview with Veronica Parochi and Itzhak Grossman, now living
together in Israel. Itzhak's family were Jews from Budapest, who
hired Veronica before the war in the capacity of nanny. Once Nazi
occupation and implementation of the "Final Solution" began,
Veronica helped him and other Jews, hiding them as well as helping
them escape from the camps and ghettos. She lives in Israel now
with Itzhak and his family, and is considered and treated as a
member of his family, a grandmother to his children.

Note: Because both interviewees were Hungarian and spoke little
or no English, a translator as well as an interviewer and cameraman
were present. This often made comprehension of the video
difficult, as there was often too much background noise or too many
people talking at one time.

0:01:00 Introductions. (What is relationship between people?)
Veronica was Itzhak's nanny before the war. Itzhak was born in
Budapest in 1924.

0:02:00 His parents took Veronica on as a nanny as well as to take
care of her. Veronica was born in 1907 in a small village in
Hungary.

0:03:00 Her family was Catholic.

0:04:00 They were very poor. She was the fifth child. Her father
was a farmer.

0:05:00 There were no Jews in the village in which they lived.

0:06:00 A lot of members of the family worked in a neighboring
town, and there were Jews that lived there. The family therefore
came into contact with Jews before they met Itzhak's parents. Her
brothers and sisters also worked for Jewish families.

0:07:00 So it happened that Veronica also worked for a Jewish
family.

0:08:00 (Hungarian)

0:09:00 Itzhak says that Veronica's ideas about and reactions to the Holocaust did not come from her parents, it came from her. She says she learned from both of them.

0:10:00 She remembers when there were sick people and her parents helped them. (When did she first become aware the Jews were in trouble?)

0:11:00 In 1937/38 when Roosevelt and the Germans were working against the Jews.

0:12:00 She started working for the Grossmans in 1924.

0:13:00 Veronica says it is very difficult for her to talk about.

0:14:00 In 1937/38 there were already laws against the Jews, and she started helping Itzhak's family, as well as other families at that point.

0:15:00 She helped him when he was in a concentration camp, and also when he escaped.

0:16:00 Itzhak's family remained in Budapest, but Veronica went to the ghetto in the nearby town and snuck in food and clothing. She rescued his mother's niece from the ghetto, who was a baby at the time.

0:17:00 Unfortunately, the child's mother requested the child back, and ten days later they were shipped to Auschwitz. (What made Veronica want to help the Jews?)

0:18:00 She knew the Jews were going to be killed and she wanted to rescue as many as she could. A child is a child, and as a human being, she felt she had to help people in trouble.

0:19:00 She rescued Itzhak and 5/6 more teenage children, whom she hid in a storage house in the house in Budapest.

0:20:00 It was a very big building, the family house of Itzhak. Every person Itzhak's age at the time (17-19) was taken to a work camp.

0:21:00 He was the youngest to be taken, a year younger and he would not have been taken.

0:22:00 He was taken to a few different work camps. One of them was commanded by the Toch (ph), a special section of the German army for work camps. In November 1944, the Germans wanted to take them to Germany through Budapest.

0:23:00 The train stood in Budapest for two days, and Itzhak took the opportunity to escape. At that point it was illegal for Christians to work for Jews, so Veronica looked for a job and found

one in a hospital in Budapest.

0:24:00 Itzhak went to go and look for her in his mother's home, and they told her that she was working in the hospital. She was a cleaning woman there, and because at that time they were killing Jews in Budapest, he went to ask for her help.

0:25:00 There were five toilets in the hospital, and she kept one: locked where Itzhak stayed. She brought him a mattress, he had hot and cold water, and it was warm.

0:26:00 He was 18/19, it was 1944. He only stayed there three weeks, as they knew that couldn't last very long without becoming dangerous.

0:27:00 (Hungarian)

0:28:00 Veronica went to the police, which at that time was occupied by Hungarian Nazis, and got Itzhak false papers, with a different name and that said he was Aryan. She told the police that this was a relative of hers that was escaping the part of Hungary that was already taken by the Russians.

0:29:00 Itzhak says that later when he wanted to have her recognized in the Yad Vashem he looked for other rescues. Not far from here he found several others who all happened to be roughly the same age.

0:30:00 The reason is that these are friends of his that she also rescued, and kept in the cellar of his house.

0:31:00 (Comments incomprehensible -- too much background noise) She was not afraid of the Hungarian Nazis.

0:32:00 (how could there have been people who did this, and why were there people who did not?)

0:33:00 At that time they took the Jews to the edge of the river (the Danube) and shot them into the frozen water.

0:34:00 Veronica also hid his aunt in the hospital for a couple of weeks.

0:35:00 The mother survived, the father was killed in Buchenwald (?). Itzhak came to Israel in 1949, and Veronica stayed with his mother who was sick.

0:36:00 Itzhak wanted to bring them both here, but his mother died in 1962, and so he brought only Veronica out to Israel. (Once again, why was she not afraid of the Hungarian Nazis?) She says she doesn't know how to be afraid, she's never been afraid, she does what she has to do.

0:37:00 She lives in this apartment with Itzhak, and is like a grandmother to his children. (Do the children know what she did?) Of course. His son is finishing his master's degree in Jewish history and philosophy.

0:38:00 She was honored just recently in Yad Vashem.

0:39:00 They weren't aware of the possibility of having her honored until about a year ago when a television broadcast made them aware. So they started the procedure to have the ceremony in November. However, Itzhak had invited her family from Hungary, and so they postponed the ceremony until May. Her niece and husband came, and also her brother and sister.

0:40:00 (How has it been for her to be in Israel?)

0:41:00 They have visited Hungary three times. Every time they go after two/three weeks ----?

0:42:00 (Often rescuers are forgotten by the people they save. Even though your situation is obviously different, maybe you can help us to understand that?)

0:43:00 In Itzhak's case, he considers Veronica his mother. In order to receive a visa from the Israeli government, his wife had to sign an agreement that Veronica could come there and she did. She says in reference to the people who do not keep in contact with their rescuers that they are egoists who know how to receive but do not know how to give back.

0:45:00 (Hungarian)

0:46:00 The Jews that were rescued thought they deserved what they got as a compensation for what happened to all of the others.

0:47:00 (What things would she like children to know at this time?)

0:48:00 Children have to learn about the Holocaust and think about it, as well as take it seriously. They have to learn to believe in helping others.

0:49:00 (She came from a family of 12. Did any of her other siblings help Jews?)

0:50:00 Anise (ph) also helped the Jews. She never married or had children of her own.

0:51:00 (Asked about the uncle that was living with the family, suggesting that there was something between them -- never been asked, they will not ask).

0:52:00 (Hungarian)

0:53:00 General discussion.

0:54:00 (Discuss taking photographs, bring in drinks)

0:55:00 (Moving furniture for photographs -- END)
.END.