RG-50.031.0036

Renny Kurshenbaum b.Warsaw 3/26/1924 m.1942, youngest of very large family - 3 sisters escaped (Russia, Argentina, Brazil), another killed with her 3 children; father's leather goods store; public school, raised in what became Warsaw Ghetto (Mila 18); joined resistance, mother encouraged Renny "to fight"; making molotov cocktails; experiencing anti-Semitism; baby boy Jurek Trajaman; fleeing "from one town to another like poisonous rats...sleeping in fields, forest"; husband's forced labor (called a "useful Jew"); some killed because they "wouldn't turn in their fur collars"; Aryan-looking Renny (blonde), able to get housemaid job (obtained false papers, attended Church, learned prayers), left baby with sister-in-law, who had to shelter child with Polish family that gave son to someone else because he was circumcised, then Renny heard son taken to Treblinka or Auschwitz, but with his Navy-blue eyes, Renny held hope that he survived - heard son could possibly be in Australia; receiving letter from husband that he was "on his way to being killed" (husband had thrown letter from his train); Warsaw Uprising took rest of Renny's family, hearing, "Root out those bed bugs! Let them burn!"; Penny shares picture of street where she was born, where "they poured gasoline." & she knew some jumping from the windows escaping flames; Renny recalls earlier year in ghetto where some didn't escape saying repeatedly, "God will help us."; people dead in street, wagon arrives, "pushing them (deceased) up there...This can happen anywhere. These were educated people."; escaping Warsaw Ghetto "thru tunnel. You had to speak Polish well" - hearing threats of "They're going to cut off your nose and hands"; lasting memories throwing bombs, "Knife for a knife," revenge for families killed; 1944, mixed emotions seeing Russian soldiers, anger "Why didn't you get here earlier? My family would still be alive!"; liberation, Renny goes to Germany, sends telegram to US relatives who acquire her immigration; Renny recalls joining Jewish partisans before liberation, threatening farmers for food; post-war search for her baby; finding sister and their joint search for "rest of family (that hadn't fled to other countries), but everyone was gone."; second marriage in US, children; Renny has been from "town to town & country to county, looking for baby with Navy blue eyes," shows photograph of her walking around NY survivors' conference in Navy blue t-shirt with all the towns she has been in her search; Renny recalls a few Christians that risked their lives, providing her with food & shelter."; Renny closes with "No matter how things are good & peaceful, there is always something lurking from somewhere. Don't take things for granted - never - never."