

Summary of Interview With

Rose Jalowiec

Born in Krivitz{Shvitz}{sp} , Poland. What could be called White Russia. She had one sister and twin brothers, she doesn't remember names.

In 1939, her town was occupied by the Russians. Her father was the youngest of 18 children. They were very orthodox.

Attended Public school system under Russia. She was surrounded by family and friends, and did not experience much discrimination during her childhood. She had non-Jewish friends.

Her family was warned to leave by a judge. They were told to leave or else they would be destroyed, but they refused.. They thought the people in other ghettos were bad and were persecuted for a reason and that it could not happen to them.

Jews were rounded up in towns around them and committees were made to choose which Jews to take. By this time it was too late to leave . They dug in to the ground to hide. The Gestapo came and they went to hide in the hiding place. An aunt coughed a lot and was put in the attack because she'd jeopardize their lives. The grandmother put on her burial clothes and prayed and said that nobody could harm her. They saw through the windows that people were being marched and then being burned to death

A German came and beat Grandma/ a rifle and then shot her dead. They took the aunt away. The rest escaped, but were shot at as they ran through the water. After that, all of the non-Jews were no longer their friends. Everyone who could not work on farms were put in the ghetto.

A Jewish committee was formed in the ghetto. The Gestapo came in and eliminated the ghetto. She does not remember the what happened to her brothers , she has blocked it out.The next day, everyone went to the fields and did not come back. They waited a day for her mother and father. They didn't come so the uncle took her on his back. She didn't see her parents until the end of the war.

They lived in a swampland in the woods. They sometimes built fires in the winter if they could. One woman could not leave the forest because her feet were swollen so bad she could not walk. Another squeezed her baby so tight to keep it safe during some shootings that it died.She was hiding in the bushes and an SS man came by with a dog. She says that, "If you do not believe in God you would when something like that happens to ~o

They were put on trains and came to a~c~---une. Her grandmother could not work and she was too young to work, so they lived in the back of a shop and begged for food using Russian prayers. She burned her arm trying to cook a piece of potato, and the doctor said she would have to lose it. Eventually, it got better. {Another miracle}.

Grandmother got very sick and was put into a hospital. Rose was put into a Christian house-- much better living conditions.She took a roll from her house to bring to her grandmother, and for

that she was kicked out of the house. She went to the head of the commune and he said that her grandmother would have to be moved into town. The day she went to town she died. Rose buried her with her own hands . She was then taken in by a lady to help with the children.

People who knew her family found her and took her to an orphanage because they didn't like her living conditions. In the orphanage they gave her a uniform and shaved her hair off-she then lost hope. When they took her hair she felt she had nothing. The kids in the orphanage beat on her because she was a Jew.

The war ended and she was sent home. Her parents had found her.

Anyone from Poland could leave Russia. They went to ~merica because the father had two brothers there. Father became a shoe cutter. They lived in Chicago. She now has a son Philip. She has lost five children after Philip.

In Chicago, she realized that she did not have to apologize for being Jewish.