Summary of Oral History: Greta Fischer
RG#: RG-50.071.0001
This Summary was written by a USHMM Volunteer on 04/2022

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Oral History

While visiting Canada for a conference, Greta Fischer begins discussing her 1945-48 post-war assignment to identify "unaccompanied" children in Germany and open a children's center, starting her first night in Dachau; the arrangement by the U.S. army to provide an 18th century nunnery in Kloster Indersdorf with an 11th century chapel for the center; describing the almost immediate bringing of babies and children to the center, many of Polish origin but totaling over 20 nationalities; describing some of the children's wartime experiences, one of which was in Theresienstadt where Greta's parents also perished; discovering records that tracked the name changes that the Germans had made of these children; the treatment of the children by U.S. soldiers; describing the behavior of some of the children shaped by their experiences; the difficulty in educating some children out of the anti-Semitism that had been drilled into them; the difficulty in finding immigration quotas that these stateless children could access.

Greta, describing her trip to Canada on a Yugoslav vessel with a group of children, mentions that there also were children centers in each of the British and French zones; mentions the role of Lilian Robins, the director of her operation; describes her assisting the delivery of a baby on the ship; describes how the children stayed in Toronto while she had to go onto Montreal; describes the adjustments of her and the children to Montreal and some of the children's experiences later in life.

The tape concludes with her wartime experience in London after escaping Czechoslovakia.

(At 1 hour, 34 minutes into the tape, the sound cuts out. At 1 hour, 38 minutes, sound resumes during a discussion of pictures displayed on the screen. In addition, journalistic outtakes at the end where the interviewer prepared her on-camera "reactions" and questions.)