

**HOLOCAUST ARCHIVE PROJECT**

Name of Interviewee	<b>ANN FRUM</b>		
Name of Interviewer	Michael Weiss	Date	8/30/84
Name of Abstractor	Esther Potash	Date	4/20/88

**NARRATIVE SUMMARY**

Ann Frum was born in 1925 in Zdunska Vola, Poland to an Orthodox Jewish family. She experienced anti-Semitism before the war, but enjoyed a fairly stable, carefree childhood. At the onset of the German invasion of Poland, Mrs. Frum's life was first disrupted by the bombings and the fleeing for safety. Soon after, the Germans forced Ann and the other Jews of the town to live in a ghetto in her small town.

In 1942, the ghetto in her hometown was liquidated and she was sent to the large Lodz ghetto. She endured cruelty and terrible living conditions during her transport and her internment in the ghetto.

Ann was sent to work in a munitions factory in Czestochowa, where she met the man she later married. She was next transferred to a concentration camp in Ravensburg, where she was forced to dig trenches for the burial of other Jews. She was then sent to Bergau and Turkin, smaller concentration camps, where she again was forced to work amid horrible conditions.

Ann was liberated at Allach, near Dachau, by the Americans on May 1, 1945. She immediately began her search for Mr. Frum. They were reunited and married in 1946. Ann and her husband came to the U.S. in 1951 and located in New Jersey to begin a new life. Two years later, the Frums decided to move to Cleveland to join friends and enjoy a higher standard of living. They have three children, and created an extended family of close friends in the Cleveland Jewish community.

Ann believed it is essential that survivors tell others of their experiences. She fears that those who write that the Holocaust was a hoax will be believed if the survivors do not speak out now.

**ABSTRACT**

**VIDEO 1 OF 2**

INTRODUCTION

BORN JULY 3, 1925 IN ZDUNSKA VOLA, POLAND

IMMIGRATES TO U.S. IN 1951 WITH HUSBAND

DESCRIPTION OF FAMILY LIFE BEFORE THE WAR

Had one older sister. Father Nusan, mother Sarah. Family ran a grocery business.

FIRST KNOWLEDGE OF PROBLEMS FOR JEWS BEFORE INVASION OF POLAND

Heard news of treatment of German Jews.

FAMILY IS ORTHODOX AND VERY OBSERVANT

RECALLS INCIDENTS OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN POLAND

ATTENDS PUBLIC SCHOOL IN POLAND, BUT ONLY JEWISH CHILDREN ATTEND HER SCHOOL

ANN LIVES IN ONE-ROOM APARTMENT WITH FAMILY

PARENTS AND SISTER DO NOT SURVIVE THE WAR

RECENTLY ATTENDED REUNION OF LODZ GHETTO IN NEW YORK

Attempted to locate family members. Found a girl from her hometown whose mother was with Ann when she was separated from her sister. Seeing this woman brought back many sad memories.

TELLS OF HANGING EXECUTION AT THE TIME OF THE LIQUIDATION OF THE GHETTO

DISCUSSES EXTREME NERVOUSNESS AND ANXIETY AFTER THE WAR

Doctor advised her to concentrate on the good things in her present, instead of focusing on the past. Is unable to drive a car due to nervousness.

DESCRIBES GERMAN INVASION OF HER TOWN IN POLAND

Her town was bombed. People were hiding for safety. Moved to uncle's home temporarily.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GHETTO IN ZDUNSKA VOLA

Germans forced Jews to live in one concentrated area of the town.

## LIFE IN THE GHETTO

Remained approximately 1-1/2 half years in ghetto with parents, sister, cousins. Ten people shared a two-room apartment.

ANN TRIES TO ESCAPE THE GHETTO TO SEARCH FOR FOOD; IS CAUGHT BY A GERMAN OFFICER, WHO RETURNS HER IMMEDIATELY

DESCRIBES FEELING OF FEAR, ANGER

ATTRIBUTES HER SURVIVAL TO THE FACT THAT SHE WAS YOUNG AND DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE FULL IMPACT OF EVENTS

IN 1942, THE GHETTO IS LIQUIDATED AND SHE IS SENT TO THE LODZ GHETTO BY COAL CAR

Was separated from her family at this time. Gold and valuables were taken from the people as they entered the train. Ann was unconscious for 12 hours of the trip. Many suffocated on the trip due to lack of ventilation.

SHE STAYS WITH COUSINS DURING LODZ GHETTO INTERNMENT FOR ONE YEAR

Has attempted, without success, to locate the cousins since the war.

ANN IS EMPLOYED IN MANUFACTURING SHOES FOR THE GERMANS

DESCRIBES DAILY LIFE IN THE GHETTO

Very little food was available. Worked until six in the evening. Very poor hygiene.

SHE IS TRANSFERRED TO KITCHEN JOB, PEELING POTATOES

Was able to obtain more food for herself.

JEWISH GOVERNMENT SENDS HER TO A MUNITIONS FACTORY IN CZESTOCHOWA, WHERE SHE MEETS HER HUSBAND

Jews who worked with her in the factory were very kind, donated their extra food to her.

#### GERMAN OFFICER ATTEMPTS TO MOLEST HER

She thwarted his attack. He later raped three Jewish girls and was to be punished for the disgrace of consorting with Jews by being sent to the Russian Front. The officer committed suicide.

#### ANN IS TRANSFERRED TO RAVENSBURG, SURVIVES ANOTHER "SELECTION"

TELLS OF FATHER'S DISBELIEF THAT THE GERMANS WOULD BE SO BARBARIC; HE HAD MORE FEAR OF THE RUSSIANS AFTER WW I

#### CONDITIONS AT RAVENSBURG CONCENTRATION CAMP

Very poor and minimal food rations. Minimal clothing and heavy wooden shoes were distributed. She was forced to dig trenches, which she believed were created to bury Jews. Dead bodies were present all around the camp.

#### ANN IS SENT TO BERGAU AND TURKINE, WHICH ARE SMALLER CONCENTRATION CAMPS

SHE IS STRUCK IN THE FACE WITH A CLUB BY A GERMAN WOMAN OFFICER; AS A RESULT, SHE HAS TO WEAR DENTURES IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WAR

LIBERATED AT ALLACH, NEAR DACHAU

### VIDEO 2 OF 2

#### MORE ON MEETING HER HUSBAND

He offered her his extra bread, but she refused for three months, so that he might have more. Some visitation was permitted in the barracks. She and her husband agreed to meet in Czestochowa after the war, if they should be separated.

#### BEFORE LIBERATION, SHE IS PART OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS WHO ARE MARCHED FROM CAMP TO CAMP

Her group marched through Dachau just before going to their final camp. They were told they were marching to their deaths, to be thrown from the mountains in the Alps.

#### ANN IS LIBERATED BY THE AMERICANS ON MAY 1, 1945

Tells of generous, sympathetic treatment by American soldiers.

#### IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LIBERATION, SHE WAS SENT TO FELDERFINK

SHE SOON MOVES TO MUNICH, TO BE WITH HER COUSIN, BUT SHE WANTS TO FIND HER HUSBAND

She learned that her husband (then boyfriend) was alive in Poland, but she could not go to locate him because she was recovering from typhus. She wrote to him, and he came to meet her. They were married in 1946 and had a daughter in 1947.

ANN AND HER HUSBAND COME TO THE U.S. WITH THE HELP OF HIAS IN 1951

Tells of helpful neighbor in New Jersey, who helped her make the difficult transition.

THEY MOVE TO CLEVELAND IN 1953 TO JOIN FRIENDS, ENJOY A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING

She was able to quit working and have two more children. Also, there were more newcomers in Cleveland than in the community in New Jersey.

GRATITUDE FOR AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

VAIN ATTEMPTS TO SEARCH FOR LOST RELATIVES

HUSBAND IS ABLE TO FIND ONE AUNT, WHO LIVES IN THE U.S.

SINCE HER NATURAL FAMILY WAS DESTROYED, ANN MADE A FAMILY OF SOME OF HER CLOSE FRIENDS

FEARS THAT IF SHE AND OTHER SURVIVORS DO NOT TELL OF THE EXPERIENCES, THOSE WHO WRITE THAT THE HOLOCAUST WAS A LIE WILL BE BELIEVED