

Volume I - Side A

Born- Vilna, Poland - April 5, 1920. Family name - Kaneshitsker. Father & Mother both teachers. Younger brother - Samuel. (Relates parents family histories.) Mira was a teacher.

Vilna was under Russian and then Lithuanian control until 1941. Under Russian control city beleaguered - life not normal. Under Lithuanian control, life normal. Came under Nazi control by middle of 1941. Mira able to continue education under Lithuanians. Under Nazis, young men taken to Polnari Woods and killed. Jews put into the Ghetto. Take people to forced labor work. Mira worked in Lithuanian gardening school - learned to speak Lithuanian, and spoke German, therefore, she worked in office. People sold clothing to farmers for flour and made bread. Survived two years in Ghetto. Parents set up school in Ghetto. Two years later, Germans said going to liquidate Ghetto - go to work camps in Estonia, Latvia. Father went to labor camp. Mira and Mother hid.

Side B

Germans stormed Ghetto and found those in hiding, and taken to police station. Mira and mother determined not to go to Polnari - rather be killed on the streets. Plan to escape, decide on meeting place. Mira escapes. Has a confrontation with a policeman. Mira got to family friends, but mother didn't. A Teacher friend from the gardening school helped her get into a factory where Jews were Making furs. Spent nine months there. Polish underground friend made her Polish passport. Snuck out of factory. Went back to teacher friend. Wrote letter to a friend in Rietazas and said she was sick. Friend told her to come if she could get a passport. Stole birth certificate of girl in gardening school. Lithuanians kept telling her she looked Jewish. Found work as a seamstress. Russians approaching - occupied Lithuania in Sept. 1944. She spoke Russian and followed them to Vilna - Sept. 1944. Went through city looking for Jews. Got job in Jewish school being built. After three months, decided to leave country for good - go to Israel. Followed Soviets as liberated area, went to Gratz, Austria. Jewish brigade took refugees to Italy and then Palestine. Future husband in Brigade. Husbands parents were wealthy and bought him out of Dauchau - went to Palestine. Joined army when Britain entered war, Soldiers sent back to Palestine. Lived in Israel until 1944. Husband parents in New York. They fled Vienna - were interned in France or Belgium. Liberated - found each other and went to Cuba. American military man helped get them to New York. Mother-in-law had brother there. Mira's first job in research. Then went to Jewish Scientific Institute- organized originally in Vilna by Her father.

Tape ends.