

1989.0039
0089

Ilse Loeb

Volume 1

Side 1

Grew up in Vienna; Maiden name was Morganstern; Mother's maiden name was Elvira Frolich; Family was happy and cultured; During junior high school (March, 1938) Hitler marched into Vienna; Neighbors changed attitudes toward Jews; Ordered to attend school for Jews only; Nazis took over father's printing business; After Crystal Night parents wanted to send her away; Warned by Nazi neighbor to pack belongings and leave quickly; Moved in with another Jewish family a few blocks away; Parents wrote to cousin in Holland who requested that she come there; Left her parents in 1938 never to see them again; Jews had "J" on first page of passport; Those leaving country could only carry ten mark; At border conductor confiscated passport; She begged for it and finally got it back; Missed her train but took next one; First few years in Amsterdam Went well; Lived with Jewish foster parents from 1939 until 1942; Communicated with parents but unable to leave Austria as father was being used by Nazis to make counterfeit money; Never able to leave; June, 1940 Hitler conquered Holland; Germans imposed same restrictions on Jews as had done in Germany; All Dutch Jews were told to register; Dutch workers staged a sympathy strike but Germans shot leaders; Received an order from Germans to go to train station at midnight; Advised to go into hiding; Difficult to find people to help - especially if didn't have money for food; At train station took off coat with yellow star and put on different coat without star; Had new papers issued by Dutch underground in name of Yo P. Lock and said her home was near beach which had to be evacuated; She had identity of a young non-Jewish woman born in Holland; Moved from place to place often sleeping outdoors; Fearful of rape; Mayor of town where she stayed was a Nazi and made night raids but she hid in an attic and was safe; Conditions worsened as food was not plentiful; People began to starve; Forced to cut trees for food and warmth; Three people lived in house - her cousin, his non-Jewish girlfriend and herself as a maid to avoid questions; Sold their clothes to farmers in North for food; German soldier confiscated her bicycle; Dutch people were wonderful - great perseverance and strength; Many gentiles helped

being members of Dutch underground; May, 1945 - end of war; Became ill just before liberation due to malnutrition; Rescued by Canadian soldiers who had dropped food packages a week before; Result of war is an inability to waste food or shampoo - things were so scarce; Parents did not survive; Brother wanted her to come to America in 1940; Wanted to stay close to parents in case they survived; After forty years she wants to tell her story to educate the children; Mankind should remember; Discovered that she had tuberculosis; Cured; Came to America in June, 1947 to Chicago; Became a dressmaker; Cousin committed suicide in 1950's as a result of the war.