

Felicia Neufeld

Tape 1, Side 1

April 13, 1983

Felicia - child of non-survivors. Prefers to relate experience of an Aunt - Nina Kovelli, arrested in Italy in 1943 and ended up in Auschwitz. Told of a pregnant camp inmate. Aunt Nina cut umbilical cord with teeth and hid woman for one day to recover. Nina is no longer living.

Felicia's mother from Lithuania. Father from Soviet Poland. Met in Berlin where she was born in 1934. In 1937 father left to look for better conditions in either Italy or France. In 1938 she was put on a train to see mother's brother's family in Paris. Only saw them once and is still looking - Sarah Miller Neufeld. Stayed in Paris with father. They had no papers and she had no schooling. Father was without work until March, 1942. Each day met father at 4:30 p.m. Had been hustling food. Was only seven years old. Her playmates told her of her father's arrest. He had only key to apartment. Had no place to go. Sat at bottom of stairs of apartment building crying. Concierge fed her and took her to French. Confirmed that her father had been arrested by Germans. Police kept her and took her to an apartment where an old couple cared for her. Consulted with Jewish agency - representative took her to Orthodox Jewish Orphanage. At orphanage childhood ends. Had been separated from Mother at age four. Mom arrived in Paris. Mother had been hidden by a non-Jewish family in Berlin. Dressed her as a man and put her on milk train. Arrested in Paris. A cousin told her of Mother's arrival. Taken to visit Mother in prison. Mother became hysterical. Soldiers put bayonets out to stop her. Remembers very little. Mother learned of father's arrest. Mother gave her a scarf and picture of half-brother who she later found in Israel. When she returned to visit the following week, Mother was gone. Mother sent to camp on September 23. Father sent on June 22. Both died.

Father's number was 41348. (Reads in French) How sad that all that is left of her parents is an affidavit certifying that each of parents were sent to Auschwitz. Died one month later. Received notification in 1957. Never knew for sure so for fifteen years she continued looking for her father.

Tape 1, Side 2

Survival a matter of luck, planning, giving and sharing by other people of their own lives. Was sheltered with eleven

other children in French countryside by Madame Rene Verite. Risked her life to help them. At orphanage they had to wear Star of David. Should never have consented. Jews are ethical and believe in basic goodness of man. Therefore, they do not believe in war and fighting. In winter, 1943, situation worsened and was decided that non-French and illegals should be first to escape. Foreigners were first to go to French countryside. Unfortunately, French Jews thought that they were safe. She was eight by this time. Overheard fifteen-year olds talk so was aware of what was happening. Owners of apartment, Mr. and Mrs. Katz were taken away by French police but police did not search apartment for children. Children were scared but finally fell asleep. In the morning the Katz' had been returned to the apartment. Took off their stars and met Madame Verite and went to country - Picardie. Upon arrival found that sixty children and the director of the orphanage, Paulette Levy, had been deported. Of that group, eight had escaped to the French countryside making for a total of twelve.

She refused to convert but did go to church. Priest always said it was God's will whenever someone died. She discovered that confession in Church absolved all sinners of their cruelty. She, however, did not forgive and she refused to believe in any God.

In countryside lived in fear of bombs. She made it due to fate and the people who helped. Too painful to go back and say thank-you. Father's brother and sister brought her to America at age thirteen. Still haunted by memories of her childhood. Jews should be permitted to defend themselves. If the president doesn't give arms to Israel then he is an accomplice for destruction of the Jewish soul. They have suffered enough. No more Jews should have to die.