

1989.0039.0091

Lily Redner

4/12/83

SIDE 1

Has precise dates of parents deportation from Paris & death at Auschwitz because published. Saw list in 1960, but had entertained fantasies of their still being alive until that time. They were deported in 1942.

Parents emigrated from Poland in 1924 & considered selves French. Had 4 children 2 - 16 in 1942. Proud of stateless passports, believing they conferred immunity from danger. Children were French.

Exodus in 1940, left house with all contents & went south to escape from invading Germans. 2 months later came back home thinking French gov't would protect. From 1940-42 Jews not allowed to work or leave city; no contact with families abroad.

In July 1942 Germans began deporting foreign Jews. Stateless also considered foreign. Parents taken July 19 by French police. Father's friend had list & father received warning. Hid until threatened to take wife. When came out, took both.

Parents told maid to stay/until came back. No one understands why didn't take children too.

Parents moved to Nancy where sister saw mother at window. Then sent to Auschwitz.

Mother was 37 & father 42.

Wants more information about convoys. How parents lived & died.

Children left in enormous house with money to live for 18 mos. No heat. Gentile maid. Thinks maid's promise to take care of them saved them from deportation with parents. speculates on maid's motivation. Became cruel, tough, nervous-- threatened to denunciate them.

March 1944 started deporting French Jews. After being warned children were to be taken, resistance picked up 3 oldest children & sent to hide on farms. Youngest kept in dark room until picked up by priest to be hidden elsewhere.

Children never again lived together.

March 1944- April or May 44, moved every week or two. People afraid to keep Jewish child. Finally Lily placed with religious gentiles who believed she had been sent to replace son who had just died. Took care until end of war. Gave her full scholarship to boarding school. Owes education to these people.

SIDE 2

Description of long-term effects on self & sisters; depression, denial, etc. Youngest sister attempted suicide twice.

Lost all religious faith.

Description of life after war. Married in 1953. Emigrated to Uruguay & then to U.S. 6 years later. Lived in Philadelphia, where raised children.

Attitude toward daughter who was active in black civil rights movement, so visited Israel to see about emigration.

Taught children not to have material values, to leave possessions behind in order to save life. Believes came out of war stronger, but not same for sisters & most others.

Story about finding out that mother had an affair year she was born, throwing doubt on paternity.

Found childhood girlfriend in Philadelphia in late 1960s.