

RG-50.266 #11
RIEMER, EDITH

Born in 1930, only child.

- 1933 In their apartment building were Nazi party offices. These offices were broken into and Jews were blamed. Father decided to leave Berlin. Moved to Upper Silesia.
- 1938 Remembers Kristallnacht and refugees. Father couldn't believe Hitler would start war. Parents decided to move east. Separated from father who found himself in a Soviet zone. Edith and mother went to Krakow to stay with relatives.
- 1939 Poland falls. Christmas - Jews must congregate in special areas. Germans searched for jewelry - attacked and raped Jewish women.

Moved to Tarnow ghetto. Edith and mother settled in a small village Duk...near her maternal grandparents. Germans' "Appel" and 'aktion' gathering of entire Jewish population, marched them into the forest and mass execution, a mass burial. Edith was hiding in cellar - SS officer brought her back to the Tarnoff ghetto.

Auschwitz - first stop Birkenau. Describes cruelty of Jewish Slovak capo. Capo pulled her out of line assigned to labor camp and threw her to line sent to gas chamber. Edith literally crawled out of one of the doors of the gas chambers. Labor in air force spare parts munitions factory. Moved to Buchenwald, via Mauthausen. Describes death march to Bergen-Belsen. In the dead of winter, dressed in rags - stragglers shot to death.

British liberated Bergen Belsen. UNRWA [United Nations], Jewish Brigade took over kids' fate - 'kinderheim' preparation for immigration to Palestine, as part of youth aliya. Edith had uncles in Palestine but went to Kibbutz Dorot. War of Independence - marriage. Today has several children and grandchild. Works in a construction company - executive position. Insists on the importance of telling what had happened. 'We owe it to those who did not survive'.

Time-Coded Notes Version 2

RG-50.266 #11 Untimed Tape
EDITH REIMER

Edith Riemer was born in Berlin. The family lived in a building in which there were offices of the Nazi party. When the offices wre broken in, the suspicion was that Jews had done it. Her father was interrogated, after which he decided that they had to flee. They went to Poland, upper Silesia, to the town of Chortkiv [?], where she went to a Jewish school.

In 1938, after kristalnacht, many Jewish refugees came to town. Her father decided that they hd to move further away from the German border and he sent her and her mother, 2 days before the war, to meet in Rava-Ruska. Her father made it there, but the town was taken by the Russians, and they never saw him again.

She and her mother got to Krakow and stayed with family. On Xmas 1939 the Nazis told all Jews to stay indoors and they searched for money and jewelry, did humiliating body searches of women and there was rape. They moved to the ghetto of Tarnow. She and mother escaped to Dukla where her grandparents lived. When Aktions started, she and her grandmother hid in the basement. She was 11 years old at the time. An SS man, who was stationed in their house knew that they were hiding and helped them. The same SS participated in the slaughter of all the Jews in Dukla. At ther grandmother's request, the SS man took her to the ghetto in Tarnow to be with her aunt. She briefly describes life in the ghetto.

From Tarnow they wre taken by train to Auschwitz Birkenau. During a selection, 300 Zomen were to be sent to the Sudeten to work. She was selected to be gassed. She hid and an SSman who found her beat her up but let her go. She was then taken by train to Grossrosen to work in a factory for airplane parts. When the Germans withdrew, she was moved from camp to camp. First Buchenwald and then Mauthausen. Then she went on the death march to Bergen Belsen. She was 15 at the time and describes the terrible conditions on the march.

When the British army liberated them, thousands got sick and died from the food they were not used to. She was first in the kinderheim in Bergen Belsen and then in Blankensee. She briefly describes life there. In April 1946 she went to Israel on the 'Champolion'. She arrived and was taken to Atlit. Then to kibbutz Dorot and later to her uncle. She went into the army, later she married and had children and grandchildren. [She shows pictures.]