

Synopsis of Interview of Floris Kalman.
RG-50.407*10; Melbourne, Australia 11/30/1995

Floris was born in Brussels, Belgium of Polish parents who had immigrated in 1929. When the war came to Belgium in May 1940, the family fled to France. Her father was inducted in the Polish army in France. Floris, her mother and younger sister were overtaken by the Germans and eventually returned to Brussels where her father rejoined them in late 1940. Life in Brussels was fairly normal till the summer of 1942, when deportations started. Floris relates at length her experiences as a hidden child which appear to still traumatize her. As a result her relationship with her parents deteriorated, since she felt abandoned by them. The family survived the war and immigrated to Australia in 1949. There she finished high school and obtained a university degree. Through her children she returned to Jewish religion over the protests of her parents who were of Bundist conviction. Her involvement with her children and grandchildren and her newly found faith seem to have made her a happier person.