

Interview of Renia Rutman 01/16/1996
Melbourne, Australia Holocaust Center
RG-50.407*24

Renia was born in Warsaw, Poland May 15, 1921, and was the youngest of six children (three girls and three boys). Her father was a tailor and a manufacturer of men's clothing.

One of Renia's brothers had good connections with non-Jews, and managed to find hiding places for his mother and three sisters. A Polish girl fell in love with the brother and managed to save them. Renia's brother married this girl after the war. Renia describes instances of betrayal and the family's miraculous escapes. During the Warsaw Uprising in 1944, the family was arrested by the Germans, but not identified as Jews. At this point, they were separated from their brother.

While in Germany the four women managed to keep up the masquerade as polish non-Jews. While Renia and her sisters spoke Polish perfectly, their mother feigned deafness in order to hide her Jewish accent.

They were finally liberated near Leipzig and returned to Warsaw. where they were reunited with their brother.