

Interview of Luba Olenski (nee Frank)  
Melbourne Holocaust Centre  
RG-50.407\*35 03/06/1996

Luba Olenski was born in Kidau(ph), Lithuania on March 3, 1931. In 1935, Luba's family settled in Kovno (Kaunas, Lithuania), where her father established a wholesale tobacco and cigarette business. Luba's family was strictly orthodox, her father being an adherent of the "Moussar" movement. After Kovno came under Soviet occupation, Luba's father fled with her to Bialystok, Poland just days before the German invasion. Bialystok was occupied on July 3, 1941 and three days later Luba's father was among 6,000 Jewish men killed by the Nazis. Luba remained in the Bialystok ghetto, where she was cared for by relatives. On August 15, 1943, the ghetto was liquidated and the 60,000 remaining Jews were put on transports to Treblinka, concentration camp in Poland. Luba escaped the transport, and wandered the countryside, gaining help from local Poles. She finally joined a Jewish partisans unit, where she met her future husband. She remained with the group until they were liberated in fall of 1944. She moved with her future family to Briansk and eventually escaped Poland. She immigrated to Australia in 1947, married in 1950 and raised three children.

Duration:2 hrs 50 min.