RG-50.407.0259
Oral History: Joanna Noe, April 29, 2004
Summary

Joanna Noe (née Lieberman), born March 17, 1923 in Lvov, Poland (now L'viv, Ukraine), the youngest of five children, describes: her father and mother (who died when Joanna was very young); a prosperous jewelry business and comfortable life; attending a Polish public school and then a Jewish high school; having both Polish (Christian) and Jewish friends; not experiencing antisemitism; being marginally religiously observant; belonging to a Zionist group; being aware of events following Hitler's rise; trying unsuccessfully to join relatives in the U.S.; none of her girlfriends surviving the war; Russian occupation of Lvov at the outbreak of the war in September 1939; prosperity continuing from 1939 until arrival of the Germans in June 1941; attacks on Jews by Poles and Ukrainians; introduction of the Juden star; being relocated to the ghetto; a Polish Catholic bishop providing false Catholic documents to her family; being aware of many anti-Jewish aktions; being stopped during a ghetto aktion and appealing to a German officer to let her go, saying she was only twenty years-old and wanted to run; being spared by the officer and told to escape and never come back, and that everyone in the ghetto would end up being killed; escaping the ghetto and going to Warsaw; being sheltered in a villa by a woman pretending to be her aunt; being joined by a sister; her father being sheltered by an acquaintance; her younger brother dying in a camp; her older brother being hidden by the family's (Polish) housekeeper; her "aunt" taking in two families from the Warsaw ghetto; finding a switchboard job at a factory repairing trucks for the Russian front; Joanna and her sister leaving the villa, fearing too many Jews were being sheltered there and risking discovery; being joined by a brother and his wife; narrowly escaping a roundup at the villa.

Note: Tape ends abruptly.