

Interviewee:	<u>GORKO</u> , Alexandra	Date:	August 19, 1985
Interviewer:	Eileen Steinberg		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Audio Record #:	GC00183a	Libr. Catlg. #:	D 810.J4 G7 #58
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Alexandra Gorko, nee Paley, was born in Kiev, Russia in 1916. Her family returned to Lodz, Poland in 1922 to escape communism. She was married to a non-Jewish Polish Judge and reserve officer who was killed after the German invasion. She describes her life after the German invasion and the establishment of the Lodz Ghetto, including help from non-Jewish neighbors. She describes in detail her work as the supervisor and nurse in one of the ghetto hospitals. She refers to the betrayal and deportation of thirteen young men to Chelmno in January 1942 for building and using an illegal radio. Transported to Auschwitz in August 1944, she refers to the transport, selection and *Appells*. She describes her refusal to follow Mengele's orders to inject pregnant women with a gasoline-type solution and her subsequent beatings.

She was later transported to Ravensbrück, Mühlhausen ammunition factory in the fall of 1944, and Bergen-Belsen in February 1945 where she was liberated by Montgomery's army in April 1945. She refers to the Swedish Red Cross moving Jews who were ill to Sweden. She reflects on strategies for coping. She emigrated to the USA with her second husband in July 1948.

See also her follow up interview in 1986 (Int. #GC00183b).

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Mengele, Josef, 1911-.
Bergen-Belsen (Concentration camp).
Svenska röda krosen.
Great Britain. Army.
Auschwitz (Concentration camp).
Mulhausen (Labor camp).
Ravensbrück (Concentration camp).
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) -- Personal narratives.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, Jewish.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Displaced persons.
Jews -- Persecutions. -- Poland -- Łódź.
Holocaust survivors.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Atrocities.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Jewish resistance.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Concentration camps -- Liberation.
Slave labor.
Labor camps.
Coping (Psychology).
Jewish ghettos -- Poland -- Łódź.