

Interviewee:	<u>TARLOW</u> , Ellen	Date:	November 19, 1993
Interviewer:	Natalie Packel		
Audio tapes:	3 English	Transcript:	1 vol., 29 pages, English
Restrictions:	None	Libr. Catlg. #:	D 810.J4 G7 no. 61

SUMMARY

Ellen Tarlow, née Meinberg, was born in 1927 in Gütersloh, Westphalia, Germany, where her family had lived since the 17th century. Her father, Paul Meinberg, an importer of cattle, was decorated with the Iron Cross in WWI. She describes her early childhood in public school and then a *Lyceum* for girls. She first felt antisemitism at age of eight and was expelled from school in 1938. She studied Hebrew and Bible once a week. She details Nazi atrocities during and after Crystal Night (*Kristallnacht*): social ostracism, burning of their home and synagogue, her father's deportation to and flight from Buchenwald. Remaining family found shelter in a local cloister then fled to Bielefeld. She describes subsequent life in a *Judenhaus* in Gütersloh, including attempts to educate the children there. HIAS helped the family many times; there was also aid from several Germans in Gütersloh. She briefly mentions a failed attempt to emigrate to Haiti. After many disappointments and a difficult experience at the American Consulate in Stuttgart, the family left Germany for the United States, via Lisbon, Portugal, on the *SS Mouzinho*, in August 1941. She describes the journey from Berlin to Lisbon in a sealed train, and her stay in Lisbon in a group home run by HIAS. She describes how refugees organized to cope with primitive conditions on the ship, her arrival and processing in Staten Island, NY, and her life in New York in a group home for refugees sponsored by HIAS. She reflects at length on the family's adjustment in the United States and the survivor's guilt she feels. She talks about her return to Germany, by invitation, in 1985, accompanied by her husband and daughter.