

Interviewee:	<u>HARMELIN</u> , Raoul	Date:	April 26, 1992
Interviewer:	Edith Millman		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None	Libr. Catlg. #:	D 810.J4 G7 no. 115

SUMMARY

Raoul Harmelin, the only son of a doctor, born September 11, 1924 in Boryslaw, Poland, received both a secular and a Jewish education. He talks about pre-war life in Boryslaw-- whose main industry was oil refineries-- and life under German and Russian occupations. Raoul describes life under the Germans after June, 1941, including pogroms, anti-Jewish measures, attitude of the local population, and formation of forced labor battallions organized by the *Judenrat*. He describes a series of *Aktions* (roundups and mass murders of Jews) from November 1941 to 1943, and the murder of 600 Jews in Doly in great detail. Some were conducted by a German *Vernichtung Kommando* under General Katzman. Polish and Ukrainian locals, Austrians in the *Schutz Polizei* and *Reiterzugpolizei*, the Polish *Kriminalpolizei*, and Jews in the *Ordnungsdienst* all helped to round up Jews. Jews were sent to a camp at Ulica Janowska in Lwow or to forced labor in local industry, most were transported to and murdered in Belzec. Raoul escaped from a roundup where he witnessed the murder of an infant and a young girl.

His father continued to work because Jewish doctors were needed to treat the citizens of Boryslaw. One of his patients hid Raoul and his mother. A ghetto was established but was liquidated after a forced labor camp for Jews was opened in 1943. Jews who could not hide were eliminated or worked as slave laborers in the *Zwangsarbeitslager* in Boryslaw. Raoul and other Jews who worked in connection with the war effort had some degree of protection. He got news from London via radio and from an underground paper published by *Armia Krajowa* (Home Army). A Ukrainian acquaintance hid 13 Jews, including Raoul and his parents from March 13, 1944 to August 8, 1944, when the Russians came back.

He describes postwar life under Russian occupation, including two arrests and escape to Breslaw. He and his parents decided to leave Poland after a pogrom in Kielce. After a stay in Paris, aided by HIAS, they arrived in Sidney, Australia in November 1947. He was able to bring his new wife and her parents to Australia later. He talks about his life in and adjustment to Australia after a very difficult beginning. He closes by naming relatives on both sides of his family who were killed or survived, and reflects on the actions of non-Jews during the Holocaust. See also 2 interviews with his wife, Rita Harmelin.

Note: Collateral Material available through the Gratz College Tuttleman Library are photocopies of these German documents:

1. Certificate for Raoul Harmelin that he can walk in the street unaccompanied by an Aryan.
2. The same document for his father, Dr. Elkan Harmelin.
3. Work I.D. Card for Raoul Harmelin.
4. I.D. Card for Regina Harmelin, his mother.
5. Tags with letter "R" which indicated that Raoul Harmelin and his parents were assigned to a work detail.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Boryslaw, Poland: prewar life

Boryslaw, Poland: postwar life

Poland -History-German occupation, 1939-1945

Poland -History - Russian occupation, 1939-1945

World War, 1939-1945: Military occupation

World War, 1939-1945 - Forced labor

Jews - Persecutions

Massacres

Aid by non-Jews: Hiding

Rescues