

Interviewee: KRAUSE, Lola  
Interviewer: Lucille Fisher

Date: October 17, 1981

Audio tapes: 2 English  
Restrictions: None

Transcript: 1 vol. (unpaged) English  
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### SUMMARY

Lola Krause, née Miestschanimoff, was born March 1, 1916, in Vitebsk, Belarus. Her father, a successful movie photographer, and her mother, an accomplished pianist from Latvia, were non-observant Soviet Jews. Lola studied music with her mother, learned German from her governess and attended public school in Vitebsk. Rejected by the local Soviet college because of her father's upper-class status, she moved to Leningrad, studied engineering and worked in film and scientific instrument factories. She married in 1938 and a son was born in 1939.

She details the siege of Leningrad; German bombardment; disease; lack of food and all public services. Her husband died of starvation, her weight dropped to 60 pounds and at three years of age, her son weighed only seven-and-a-half pounds. When her factory was relocated to Samarkand in 1941, she traveled with her son in a cattle car for six weeks, stopping in Tashkent. There she met her uncle, a doctor, who insisted that the fragile child remain with him in the hospital. A year-and-a-half later, he joined her in Samarkand, where she worked until 1946. She married again and the family moved illicitly across European borders, living in Jewish Agency camps in Wroclaw (Breslau), Poland and at Waseralfinger, near Stuttgart, Germany. Another son was born and they survived with food packages from American relatives.

In 1949, Lola and her family emigrated to the United States. Lola describes their adjustment in Bradley Beach, N.J. and in Philadelphia, working in factories and establishing their own cleaning business. She sold her valuable bracelet to buy a piano, suffering ridicule from poor neighbors, because she believed children had to learn to play an instrument. She had her sons circumcised, sent them to Hebrew school and began to observe Jewish holidays. A visit to Israel in 1972 further heightened her Jewish consciousness.

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## SUBJECT HEADINGS

Vitebsk, Belarus  
Jews, Soviet Union  
Jewish children in the Holocaust - Soviet Union - Leningrad  
Leningrad (Soviet Union) - History - German siege, 1941  
Wroclaw (Poland) postwar refugee camp  
Waseralfinger (Germany) - postwar refugee camp  
Jewish Agency - postwar rescue of Jewish refugees  
Adjustment - postwar - life in the United States