

Interviewee:	<u>MARGULIES</u> , Luba Kozusman	Date:	October 20, 1981
Interviewer:	Josey G. Fisher		
Audio tapes:	3 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		Poem Yiddish with English translation incl.

SUMMARY

Luba Kozusman Margulies, born in Novogrod, Poland in 1915, was raised in Ostrog after her parents were killed in a pogrom. She talks about her family history; her life and education in both Ostrog and Lemberg (L'vov), where she studied to become a midwife, and experienced antisemitism, including a violent encounter with Polish members of the *Hitler Jugend*.

She describes life in Tarnopol - where she moved after her marriage in 1940 - under both Russian and German occupation, when the killing of Jews started in 1941. She describes mass murders of Jews by both Germans and Ukrainians, roundups of Jews, especially rabbis, and her work in hospitals in Tarnopol and later the ghetto. She gives a detailed description of life in the ghetto, which existed for less than a year and was liquidated in 1942, including surviving, attempts by Jews to construct escape bunkers, activities of the *Judenrat*, and forced labor. Luba and her husband were in a forced labor group that worked outside of the ghetto.

She relates several episodes of preparing hiding places, hiding in sewers with other survivors, repeated attempts by Germans to flush out and kill Jews by various means. Luba and her husband escaped, were caught and put into a labor camp. She believes that *Untersturmführer* Rokita, the head of this labor camp, ordered the massacre of these Jews. Luba graphically describes their escape from the labor camp, hiding in a hole in the ground and in the home of a non-Jewish man for weeks, scavenging for food, being hunted by Germans, and instances of help by non-Jews.

After liberation by advancing Russian soldiers March 24, 1944, they fled to escape conscription. They lived briefly in Tarnopol, in Brzezany with other survivors, and in Walbrzech in the home of a German-Christian family. Luba and her family went to a Displaced persons camp in Wetzlar, near Stuttgart, Germany. She came to the United States with her husband and two daughters in October, 1949. The interview concludes with several sad vignettes about the fate of some children in the ghetto who were taken from their parents and also includes a poem written by Luba's husband, in Yiddish and English.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Jewish life - Poland
Antisemitism - Poland
World War, 1939-1945 - occupied territories
German occupation, 1941-1944
Jewish ghettos - Tarnopol, Poland
Forced labor
Jews - persecutions
Massacres
Hiding
Escapes
World War, 1939-1945 - Jews - Rescue
Aid by non-Jews
Refugee camps
Poetry