

Interviewee: ROTH, Sophie
Interviewer: Carol Solotoff

Date: March 9, 1988

Audiotapes: 2 English
Restrictions: None

Transcript: 1 v. (unpaged)
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SUMMARY

Sophie Roth, née Parille, born in Zloczow, Poland, was one of four children in a religious family. She refers to the German bombing and invasion in 1939, and the killing of doctors and teachers by Germans, aided by Poles and Ukrainians. She worked in forced labor camps in Lazczow and Kosice until 1942, when she was shot and lost a leg. A Polish teenager, whom she tutored, travelled to Lemberg to obtain a prosthesis for her.

She describes hiding in a fish barrel and then in a Polish peasant's stable with her family, in exchange for money, jewelry and the deed to their house. She details near-starvation and suffocating subliminal existence under a manure pile with nine other people. Forced to leave by their sadistic "benefactor", her family found shelter in an unheated basement of a Polish teacher, Elena Sczychowska, and her husband, who was the local police commandant. Fourteen people were sheltered there during the last year of the war. She mentions the hostility of neighbors when her family returned to their home.

In 1947, she married a Hebrew teacher who lost his religious faith and his entire family. She remained a believer, attributing her survival to God's miracles. A daughter was born in Paris in 1952 and the family emigrated, aided by HIAS and by Jewish Family Service in Philadelphia. She reads several poems, recalling horrendous Holocaust memories, into the interview.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Faith (Judaism)
Forced labor.
Hiding places.
Holocaust survivors' writings.
Holocaust survivors.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Ukraine--Personal narratives.
Jewish women in the Holocaust.
Jews--Ukraine--Zolochiv (L'vivs'ka oblast')
Leg--Wounds and injuries.
Poets.
Women concentration camp inmates.
World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--Slovakia.
World War, 1939-1945--Conscript labor.
World War, 1939-1945--Deportations from Ukraine.
Women--Personal narratives.

Košice (Slovakia)
Paris (France)
Ukraine--History--German occupation, 1941-1944.
United States--Emigration and immigration.
Zloczow / Zolochiv (L'vivs'ka oblast', Ukraine)