

Interviewee:	<u>SCHWIMMER</u> , Sarah	Date:	April 22, 1985 <sup>1</sup>
Interviewer:	Gladys Bernstein		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None	Libr. Catlg. #:	D 810.J4 G7 no. 160

### SUMMARY

Sarah Schwimmer was born in Irsava, Czechoslovakia on August 19, 1926, one of 15 children in an observant Jewish family. Her father was a blacksmith in a largely Jewish community and supported his family until antisemitic Hungarians confiscated his business in 1939 and those of other family members. Sarah and an older sister went to Budapest where she worked as a seamstress. Her sister, a beautician, tried unsuccessfully to obtain a passport from Wallenberg, but remained underground throughout the war at the Swedish Embassy. Sarah joined *Dror*, the Zionists underground movement. In September 1944 as the Germans were forcing all Jews into the Budapest Ghetto, Sarah and her sister hid for a short time, but eventually ended up in the ghetto and then got separated. She describes atrocities committed by the Germans soldiers as she and others were forced to dig trenches for Germans and graves for Jews.

In September 1944, Sarah was taken with other women on a death march to Hegyeshalom on the German border. Only one third survived for 10 days without food, water or shelter, to be transported by train to Buchenwald, Ravensbrück, Burgau and Türkheim. She vividly describes hunger, loss of spirit and forced labor. Yet she had the will to survive. She was liberated by a regiment of black American soldiers on April 28, 1945. She walked with other women through Russian, French and English zones to reach Marseille for passage to Israel.

<sup>1</sup>Recorded at the 1985 American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors in Philadelphia, PA.

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### SUBJECT HEADINGS

Holocaust, Jewish, Personal narratives  
World War, 1939-1945  
Personal narratives, Jewish World War, 1939-1945  
Refugees  
Jews  
Persecutions  
Czechoslovakia  
Hungary, Budapest  
Budapest Ghetto  
Holocaust survivors  
*Dror*, Zionists underground movement  
Budapest Underground  
Budapest Ghetto  
Atrocities  
Hiding  
Resistance  
Buchenwald (Concentration camp)  
Ravensbrück, (Concentration camp)  
Burgau (Concentration camp)  
Türkheim (Concentration camp)