

Interviewee: ROTHSCHILD, Ina & JAECKEL, Elsa
Interviewer: Fred Stamm
No. of audio tapes: 4 English
Transcript 1 v. (unpaged)

Date: November 10, 1981
No restrictions

SUMMARY

Ina Rothschild talks about her life, education and work in Germany after World War I. Both women lived through Hitler's rise to power, starting in the 1920's, experienced changes in Jewish life after 1933, and explain the effects of these events on the Jewish community and their interaction with gentiles. Elsa Jaeckel's husband, a gentile, refused to divorce her and suffered the consequences. She mentions a group of Jews in Frankfurt who committed suicide to avoid deportation in 1941. Throughout the interview, Mrs. Rothschild cites many instances of aid and acts of kindness by gentiles.

Mrs. Rothschild and her husband ran a Jewish orphanage in Esslingen am Neckar, near Stuttgart from 1933 to 1942 when they were deported. The orphanage was ransacked on November 9, 1938. Her husband was beaten, arrested, but later released to care for the displaced orphans. She describes what happened to the children in their care.

Elsa Jaeckel had to work for the *Gestapo* with 600 other Jewish women who had gentile husbands. She talks about conditions for couples in mixed marriages and living through air raids in Frankfurt. She avoided the transport to Theresianstadt because her husband bribed a former SA man to let her hide in his house. She hid in the attic until the Americans came in 1945.

When the orphanage was closed, the Rothschilds returned to Stuttgart. She describes their lives, her work in an old age home, and her attempts to care for Jewish children. Many of the children, especially the retarded ones, were deported and killed at Ravensburg. The Rothschilds were deported to an Old Age Home in Theresienstadt on August 22, 1942. She describes the process, the actual transport, arrival at Theresienstadt, and brutal treatment and living conditions which improved once the International Red Cross supervised this institution. She saw Reinhard Heydrich shoot Jewish prisoners. Ina Rothschild worked as a nurse, her husband died in July 1944. Many inmates killed themselves. Ina mentions attempts to care for newborn babies. She also volunteered to care for 50 young children from Holland with typhoid fever together with a Jewish doctor. The children survived and were adopted after the war. She was transported to Switzerland with 600 people in February 1945. Elsa came to the United States in 1957, Ina in 1947.

HOLOCAUST TESTIMONY
OF
INA ROTHSCHILD AND ELSA JAEKEL

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Gratz College
Melrose Park 19027

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Prewar Jewish Life, 1920 – 1933 – Jews - Germany
World War, 1939 – 1945 – Personal narratives, Jewish
World War, 1939 – 1945 - Hiding
World War, 1939 – 1945 – Deportations from Germany
World War, 1939 – 1945 - Concentration camps – Theresienstadt
Jewish children in the Holocaust (Germany – Holland)
Jews – Relations with Christians
Aid by non-Jews