

Interviewee:	<u>CITTRONS</u> , Mary	Date:	November 1, 1995
Interviewer:	Gerry Schneeberg		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	Draft, Unaudited
Restrictions:	None		1 vol. (unpaged) English

SUMMARY

Mary Cittrons, née Grad, born September 13, 1919, in Brzezany, Poland, was one of two sisters in an observant Jewish family. She details pre-war experiences in a comfortable home, untroubled by antisemitism until the 1938 boycott of their father's business. In 1939, the family entered the Brzezany Ghetto, where Mary and her sister were selected for forced labor. She describes subsequent hiding underground, aided by a Polish gentile who exploited the family throughout the war and afterwards. She also gives details about how some Jews were able to sneak outside the ghetto because of their Aryan appearance and bring food and supplies back to the ghetto.

When the family returned to their home post-war, some non-Jewish neighbors helped them, but Polish pogroms prompted Mary to move to Germany with her husband. There, he directed ORT schools, teaching art and craft skills.

Their daughter, born in the Einigen DP camp, underwent surgery in a Berchtesgaden hospital, performed by a doctor who was a member of the SS and was later arrested. After immigration to the United States, Mary's extended family was reunited and adapted to American life with much difficulty. Mary and her husband succeeded, due to their determination and ingenuity.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Aid by Non-Jews

Hiding

Jewish - Nazi relations - postwar Germany

Jewish - Relations with Christians - Poland

Jews, Polish