

Interviewee:	<u>DON</u> , Shirley	Date:	May 16, 2001
Interviewer:	Marcia Goldberg		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	not transcribed yet
Restrictions:	None		

## SUMMARY

Shirley Don was born Sara Mermelstein in Kliachanovo<sup>1</sup>, Czechoslovakia in 1929. She describes everyday life as a child. She describes the Hungarian occupation in 1939 and many restrictions put on Jews. She describes the subsequent German occupation 1942 – 1944 and how the Jews were taken to a ghetto<sup>2</sup> guarded by Hungarian and German soldiers. After one month her family was taken by cattle car to Auschwitz.

Shirley describes conditions in Auschwitz. She and her older sister were deported via truck to Stutthof and then to a forced labor camp to build an airport. They were returned to Stutthof and then were forced on a three day death march to Germany. They were liberated by the British Army on May 3, 1945.

She and her sister went to a Displaced Persons camp in Germany, where they found a surviving brother and uncle. They came to the United States on June 10, 1949. They settled in Philadelphia, with help from HIAS. She married Sam Don, another survivor, whom she met in the Displaced Persons camp. They bought a bakery in Philadelphia and have four children.

See also two interviews with her husband Sam Don, two interviews with her sister Lillian Taus and one with her brother Louie Mermelstein.

<sup>1</sup>Near Munkács.

<sup>2</sup>In her sister's interview, this ghetto is identified as the Munkács Ghetto.