Interviewee:	ERIE, Ruth	Date:	September 22, 1992
Interviewer:	Natalie Packel		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Ruth Erie, nee Magnus, was born in August of 1926, in Krefeld, Germany an area where Jews had lived continuously since 1600. Ruth's mother and grandfather were born there. Ruth grew up in a secular Jewish middle class family; her father was a manufacturer's representative for a leather goods firm. He had earned the Iron Cross from World War I and lost an uncle in that war. Ruth describes her education and anti-Jewish measures that were enacted. In 1937, she was not able to register for high school, in 1938 Jews had to hand in their precious metal, and after November 1938 her father was not able to work at his job. In 1937 a German doctor operated on her in Dusseldorf because the Jewish doctors had already left. He risked his position to do this. She describes her burning synagogue on *Kristallnacht*, 1939.

Since her father was born in Alsace-Lorraine her family was able to come to the United States under the French quota. They left for the United States in August, 1939 via Rotterdam, Holland. They came to Philadelphia because they had an uncle and some friends here. Aided by non-Jews, some of Ruth's other relatives escaped to Uruguay, Argentina and Holland.

Ruth never wanted anything to do with Germany, but in 1988 Ruth returned to her native Krefeld with 140 other Jewish former residents at the invitation of the town. She noted that German children were studying about the Holocaust. She found her grandfather's grave and was saddened that the synagogue was now just a memorial.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Jewish children - Germany - 1930 - 1939 - Personal narratives
Personal narratives, Jewish
Krefeld, Germany
Holocaust (1933-1945) – emigration from Germany