

Interviewee:	<u>Franke</u> , Elfriede	Date:	July 6, 1978
Interviewer:	Fred Stamm		
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SUMMARY

Elfriede Franke was born in Herford (near Bielefeld), Germany, in 1897. She briefly refers to the impact of the anti-Jewish laws in Herford. Her husband was sent to Buchenwald after *Kristallnacht* November 9, 1939 and released after three weeks because he had served in WWI. She briefly describes her family's unsuccessful efforts to emigrate to the United States.

Her husband and son were forced to work in a factory making ammunition boxes. The family was deported to Bielefeld and then Riga (Latvia) November 1941. She mentions that the Commander of the Riga Ghetto was Hauser, a member of the SS and later an army man called Müller. She describes conditions in the Riga Ghetto, selections, mass murders, and the hospital. She was assigned as a housekeeper to a German officer. Transports from Kassel, Köln, and Berlin arrived at the ghetto until February 1942. She describes how she and her daughter received aid from a German soldier who smuggled food for them. In April 1943, all the children still in the ghetto were killed after a final selection. With the advance of the Russian Army, the Jews still in the ghetto were put to work in a warehouse in Riga. Later, they were transported to Libau (East Germany), and still later to Fuhlsbüttel prison near Hamburg. In Libau they worked loading and unloading ships. She describes the death march from Fuhlsbüttel to Kiel in April 1945 as well as working and living conditions in the camp in Kiel. She refers to aid from non-Jewish Germans.

She was liberated by the Red Cross in April 1945 and evacuated to Denmark and then Sweden in May 1945 as part of the bargain Count Folke Bernadotte struck with Himmler. She learned that her husband and her son died in Bergen-Belsen. She emigrated to the United States in December 1946.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) Personal narrative, female

Holocaust, Jewish – Germany

World War II 1939 - 1945 - Germany

Holocaust survivors, German

World War II 1939 - 1945 – slave labor

Riga Ghetto

Libau (East Germany)

Fuhlsbüttel prison

Death marches

Aid by non-Jews

Count Folke Bernadotte