

Interviewee:	<u>HOFSTEIN</u> , Sadie	Date:	December 21, 2004
Interviewer:	Marcia Goldberg		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

## SUMMARY

Sadie Hofstein, nee Rurka, was born in London, England on May 22, 1923. She talks briefly about life in England before and during World War II. She joined the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad when she was 18 years old. She was trained at the Anna Freud School in Hampton, London and was sent to Europe with the Second Jewish Relief Unit, together with Quaker, Catholic and UNRA units, as part of a convoy in 1944. In Rotterdam her SWAT unit set up and ran Shalom Hospital for starving children. Sadie met with the O.P.K. a Dutch organization that hid Jewish children whose parents were taken to concentration camps.

Her unit was sent to Bergen-Belsen, which was then a Displaced Persons camp. Sadie organized a Children's Home for 83 orphaned children that she ran for a year. Sadie also rescued five very young children of Jewish mothers who were raped by SS men. She describes conditions at the Children's Home and how members of the Jewish Brigade organized illegal immigration to Palestine. She talks about her experiences and her interaction with the children in great detail. A few children were re-united with their parents. She recounts hearing the children singing the song of the Partisans. The British government planned to send the children who were still in Bergen-Belsen to Palestine via a stay in a resort and then London. Josel Rozenzaft, the titular leader of Bergen-Belsen, refused to let them go until Ben Gurion intervened.

Sadie met and married her husband Lawrence Hofstein, who was an American soldier, in London. She joined him the United States in 1946. She describes her personal and professional life in America. Sadie expresses her feelings about the Holocaust and the survivors who were left behind in Bergen-Belsen.

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#### SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939-1945 - Personal narratives, Jews, British  
Holocaust Jewish 1939 - 1945: Personal narratives, Jewish Relief Worker  
Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad  
Shalom Hospital- Rotterdam, Holland  
Bergen Belsen (Germany: Displaced Persons Camp)  
Holocaust survivors  
Orphans: Jewish children  
Palestine: Illegal transport to  
Great Britain - Army - Jewish Brigade