

Interviewee:	<u>JACOBS</u> , Gertrude	Date:	April 7, 1981
Interviewer:	Marian Salkin		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Gertrude Jacobs, nee Bergman, was born into an observant Jewish family in Voelkersler, Southern Bavaria, Germany in January 1924. Her father and grandfather were decorated war veterans. There were 12 Jewish families living in her village and Gertrude describes this area of Germany as particularly antisemitic both before and after 1933, when Hitler came to power. She describes how Jewish life in general and her family's life were affected by anti-Jewish decrees, and relates two attacks on her while in school. Most of the village people shunned them, a few helped them secretly.

Gertrude gives second hand accounts of *Kristallnacht*, of her grandmother's liberation from Theresienstadt concentration camp, and her grandmother's return to and post-war life in Germany. Gertrude came to the United States in 1938, where she also experienced antisemitism.

Gertrude expresses her feelings about Germans, restitution, German Jews, and how growing up in Nazi Germany affects her to this day. She explains her philosophy of living as a Jew and a survivor and the special obligations this entails.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939 - 1945 Personal narrative - Jewish
Voelkersler, Bavaria, Germany
Jewish life - Germany
Antisemitism