

Interviewee:	<u>JACOBS</u> , Jerry	Date:	November 12, 1995
Interviewer:	Gerry Schneeberg		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Jerry Jacobs born April 25, 1929 in Lodz, Poland was the youngest son in a wealthy Jewish family. Their father was an accountant, a prosperous property owner and Associate Conductor of the Lodz Symphony Orchestra. One brother was an accomplished violinist, another studied piano and Jerry hoped to join the family "Kinder Orchestra."

He discusses the drastic changes that took place in 1939 with the German occupation: closing of schools, having to stay inside for safety and dangers for Jews on the streets. He describes his family's deportation from the suburbs to Baluty (the poor section) in the Lodz Ghetto.

He details inhumane conditions experienced in cattle cars to Auschwitz, Buchenwald and Rehmsdorf, after a death march in the snow in 1944. In January 1945 he escaped, and with his knowledge of German poses as an *Ostdeutscher* (*Volksdeutsche*) and briefly as a scout for the U.S. Army. After reuniting with his brothers in Lodz, they immigrated to the United States in 1947.

He became a successful realtor in New York City, where he devoted himself to organizing the Interfaith Committee of Remembrance to produce annual Holocaust Memorial concerts, attended by thousands at the Cathedral of St. John the Devine.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939 - 1945 Personal narratives, Jewish

Holocaust survivor

World War 1939-1945 - Deportations Lodz

Jewish Ghettos - Lodz (Poland)

World War, 1939 - 1945 Concentration camps - Auschwitz

World War, 1939 - 1945 Concentration camps - Rehmsdorf

World War, 1939 - 1945 - Hiding