

Interviewee:	LEFEBER, Frieda	Date:	November 3, 2009
Interviewer:	Meta Joy Jacoby		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

### SUMMARY

Frieda Lefebber was born on March 21, 1915 in Wissek, Province of Posen, Germany (today Poland). Frieda's father fought for Germany in World War I. Her family was in various businesses in the town. Because of antisemitism, they fled to the town of Kuestrin. Frieda had pleasant memories of life there, where her father raised horses and cows. In 1933 she returned to Frankfurt, where the Nazis briefly arrested her father. In 1935 her brother was able to get to Palestine and in 1938 her parents emigrated to Palestine. Frieda remained in Germany training to be a nurse. In 1937 she was able to visit the United States and procure an affidavit that would enable her to return later.

Frieda was a nurse at the Hospital of Berlin during Kristallnacht. She described her experiences of November 9, 1938 - the burning synagogues and terror and fear. In February 1939 there was no longer an imminent threat of war because of the non-aggression pact between Chamberlain and Hitler. Nurses were then allowed to leave Germany with a visa. Frieda borrowed money and on March 26, 1939 she boarded a small ship for the United States. She arrived on April 4, 1939. Her boyfriend, later her husband, fled Germany via Sweden and arrived in the United States in 1940. Frieda became an electrolysis nurse, married and had a daughter. At 78 years of age she completed four years of study at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and became a successful painter.