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| Interviewee: | <u>LOEWENSTERN</u> , Emmi | Date: | February 10, 1981 |
| Interviewer: | Fred Stamm | | |
| Audio tapes: | 2 English | Transcript: | 1 vol. (unpaged) English |
| Restrictions: | None | | |

SUMMARY

Emmi Loewenstern was born on February 19, 1925 in Emmerich, Germany. She briefly describes pre-war life: schooling and relations with non-Jewish Poles. The family was well known in the town. Emmi describes the change in attitude toward Jews after the Nazis came to power. She gives a detailed description of *Kristallnacht*, the damage done to their home by soldiers they knew, the imprisonment of her father.

In December 1941, Emmi and her family were deported to the Riga Ghetto in Latvia. She describes the journey and arrival in detail including hearing about the mass murder of the Latvian Jews by Jewish survivors still working in the ghetto. She details the lack of food, crowded conditions, forced labor, brutality and atrocities: people being taken out on work shifts and shot if they were caught stealing food. She discusses some holiday observances in the ghetto. She also describes an incident in October 1942 when some young Latvian Jews tried to bring ammunition into the ghetto, were caught and 39 were shot to death.

In November 1943 Emmi, her sister and her mother were sent to various places for forced labor: working for the German army at the *Armeebiekleidungsamt* [army quartermaster] sorting clothes of deceased German soldiers and in another (unnamed) camp. She describes how the young children were separated from their parents and never heard from again. In the fall of 1944, they were deported to Stutthof and then to Libau (Latvia) where they had to work at a shoe factory. She describes how they took the handkerchiefs off their heads during the trip to and from work so the townspeople would see how they were being treated. In February 1945, they were deported to Hamburg, Germany to Fuhlsbüttel (a subcamp of Neuengamme) where they had to label bags of spices. She describes the deplorable conditions of the deathmarch from Hamburg to Kiel where they had to sort bricks.

In 1945, they were taken to Malmö, Sweden via Denmark by the Red Cross due to the Bernadotte Agreement. Emmi contacted relatives in the United States and Sweden. Emmi emigrated with her mother and sister to the United States where Emmi married in 1947 and had two daughters.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939 – 1945 – Personal narratives, Jewish Holocaust survivors
World War, 1939 – 1945 – Concentrations camps – Stutthof
World War, 1939 – 1945 – Concentrations camps – Libau
Jewish ghettos – Riga (Latvia)
World War, 1939 – 1945 – Deportations – Emmerich (Germany)
Forced labor
Labor camp: Libau
Evacuation – Sweden
Rescue and Rehabilitation
Count Folke Bernadotte