

Interviewee:	<u>MELMED</u> , Sara	Date:	December 13, 1989
Interviewer:	Meta Jacoby		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Sara Melmed was born March 12, 1921 in Krasnik, Poland. Her middle-class *Hasidic* family was active in the local *kehillah*. Despite some antisemitic harassment from *Volksdeutsche* neighbors, she had a happy childhood and completed *gymnasium*.

In September, 1939, German occupation of Krasnik led to a terrifying ransacking of her home. She was smuggled to Kovel for safety before her parents were taken to Belzec. She believes they were killed at Treblinka. Sara moved eastward to a Russian labor camp near Arkhangelsk. In 1940, she reached Kharkov, where she received a Russian passport and a medical school scholarship.

German bombing in 1941 forced evacuation to Omsk, where she was hospitalized with epilepsy. Unable to finish medical school, she entered nursing school and worked as a nurse during succeeding years. She married a Polish Jew in 1943, gave birth to a son in 1945 and spent four years in Displaced Persons camps Lager Lechte and Ainring where her daughter was born.

She describes a five-week repatriation transport back to Poland in 1946, with hundreds of Jews and mentions pogroms by the Polish National Army. Her family continued westward with a Zionist group and emigrated to the United States in 1950, with help from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Interviewee:	<u>MELMED</u> , Sara	Date:	December 13, 1989
--------------	----------------------	-------	-------------------

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Krasnik (Poland)
Poland - History - German occupation 1939-1945
Jews, Polish
Siberia: Exile 1940-1944
Siberia: Labor camps
Siberia: Arkhangelsk
Siberia: Kharkov
Displaced persons camps (Ainring, Germany)
Refugee aid organizations
Repatriation transport