

RG-50.462.0430

Summary

This interview was done in June 1987 in Poland with Roman and Janina Muzylovski who were married in 1941.

The interview focused on the life of Janina Muzylovski (née Gruber) who was Jewish and was born on February 3, 1922 near Lvov, Poland (now L'viv, Ukraine). Roman Muzylovski was born on June 20, 1909 near Lvov. She came from a religious orthodox family.

She spent most of the war in Galicia in southern Poland with a gentile passport. She and other Jews were afraid that the neighboring Ukrainians would tell the Germans that she was Jewish as they did about other Jews. She did not observe any mass executions of Jews, but she did seem to know that her father and brother were in a concentration camp. (She did not say which one or what happened to them nor did she speak about her other experiences during the war).

In 1941 she married Roman, presumably a gentile, but under what conditions was not discussed. She said that after the war she did not trust the Russians, though she did not experience antisemitism from them. Nor did she acknowledge that she was Jewish. She briefly returned "home" after the war; but no one was there so she and Roman settled in Breslau (then and now called Wroclaw and part of Poland). Janina said that she continued to go to synagogue after the war.

In the late 1960s Janina and Roman decided to leave Poland for the United States because of increasing antisemitic incidents in Poland. By then she had two sons. It took a while for her to get a visa because she had changed her name back to her original (Jewish) name from the false one she had used during and immediately after the war. But they were able to emigrate in 1970 and settled in Philadelphia where they were well treated. Why and when they returned to Poland to live was not explained.