

Interviewee:	<u>SHNAPER</u> , Luba	Date:	August 26, 1981
Interviewer:	Nora Levin		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Luba Shnaper, nee Konigsberg, the youngest of four, was born in 1924, in Vilna, Lithuania into a middle class, observant family. Her parents had a grocery store. She describes cordial relations with non-Jews pre-war, her schooling and being a member of the Bund. She also describes rising antisemitism at the university starting in 1938 and the changed conditions during the Soviet occupation during which time she attended medical school.

Luba describes the changes in 1941 during the German occupation: men sent to forced labor, curfews, restrictions on market hours and having to wear a star of David. She describes being forced to the Vilna Ghetto, how they managed to work and survive, and how she was able to smuggle herself outside to trade. Her brother was taken to jail for smuggling sheets. Luba briefly discusses Gens, head of the *Judenrat*, and describes her sister's involvement in the resistance movement, JFO. Luba witnessed the Vilna Ghetto selection and liquidation in September 1943. She details their deportation to Kaiswerwald concentration camp and then to Strassenhof, also in Riga, to work in a silk factory. She describes being helped by a Latvian worker who brought her and two friends extra bread every day. In 1944, they were deported by boat to Stutthof. She describes improved conditions working on a farm that summer, availability of food and aid from British POWs. When they returned to camp they found that the majority of the prisoners had died from a typhus epidemic.

In January 1945 she was sent on a death march to Germany. She was liberated by Soviet military on March 11 in Loewenberg. She details the help and kindness of the Soviet soldiers who left fairly quickly to continue their advance. A friend nursed Luba to health in an abandoned German house for six weeks until they were able to travel. Post-war she lived in Warsaw, met and married Abram Shnaper, a boy she knew from her hometown and was reunited with her two surviving sisters. They moved to Bergen-Belsen Displaced Person's camp for one and a half years. She details their experiences there including working for Kol Israel as a radio announcer and her husband's work. They emigrated to the United States September 13, 1949 with their fourteen-month-old daughter. See also two interviews with her husband Abram Shnaper, one in Yiddish and one in English.

See also two interviews with her husband, Abram Shnaper-- a 1981 interview in Yiddish with Nora Levin and a 1994 interview with Edith Millman.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

World War, 1939-1945--Jewish, Female

World War, 1939-1945--Deportations from Lithuania.

Vilna, Lithuania

Vilna Ghetto

World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--Latvia--Kaiserwald.

World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--Latvia--Strassenhof.

World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--Poland--Stutthof.

Aid by non-Jews

Resistance - *Fareynegte Partizaner Organizatsye* (United Partisan Organization; FPO).

Death march