

Interviewee:	<u>SLIWOWICZ</u> , Gertrude	Date:	June 9, 1992
Interviewer:	Meta Joy Jacoby		
Audio tapes:	3 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

### SUMMARY

Gertrude Sliwowicz, nee Eisen, born in Antwerp on April 7, 1927, was one of four children in an Orthodox Zionist family living in Belgium for several generations. She experienced no antisemitism until all Jewish children had to leave public schools in 1942. Her father was deported that year and was thought to have died in Breendonk concentration camp. Gertrude was given a baptism certificate and a new name, Danielle, with help from the Belgian underground. Her two younger siblings were hidden in a convent and placed, with false papers, in a resort camp for children of Nazis.

Gertrude was able to live with her mother and grandmother in Brussels, aiding her extended family to hide in various locations. She relates several narrow escapes, on a public bus, at a German checkpoint and from the Allied bombing of Nemours. Her brother was sheltered by a priest, Pere Andre, in the mountains near Nemours.

Continued support from the Belgian resistance movement and individual non-Jews allowed most of her family to survive until their liberation on September 4, 1944. She married a Polish Jew and emigrated to the United States in 1957.