

Interviewee:	<u>STAMM</u> , Ilse	Date:	October 21, 1980
Interviewer:	Nora Levin		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Ilse Stamm was born in Eichstetten am Kaiserstuhl, Baden, Germany. Her family was one of the 30 Jewish families in a village of 1,000 people. Her father owned a paper factory from 1876 to 1938. She describes antisemitic incidents in her school and on a train. She attended a secular school in Freiburg, an hour and a half railroad trip from home, from 1933 to November 11, 1938. Dismissed early that day, she walked past the burnt foundations of synagogues in Freiburg and in Kaiserstuhl. She witnessed Jewish men, including her father, loaded into trucks for incarceration and mentions the kindness of a non-Jewish friend. This man walked from his home a mile away to bring food for her family every night during the three weeks her father was away.

Her family was able to leave Germany through sponsorship from relatives in Philadelphia which secured her father's release from Dachau in 1938. Ilse and her mother followed shortly thereafter (1939), with visas secured through bribery at the American Consulate in Stuttgart. When grandparents, who had been interned since 1940 in the Gurs camp in France, arrived in Philadelphia in 1946, they were described as skeletons.