

Interviewee:	<u>TURK</u> , Roland D.	Date:	June 14, 1982
Interviewer:	Harriet Richman		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Roland D. Turk¹ was born on April 15, 1940 in the village of Clairevivre, near Perigueux, France. His parents and maternal family moved south from Strasbourg to evade the German invasion. His father, a Czech national, joined the Czech Army, was exiled in England until 1945 and then fought with the British Army in Normandy.

Roland wandered with his mother and her family through the Massif Central in the French highlands from 1941 to 1944. Traveling without papers and posing as Christians, they moved frequently. Roland articulates poignantly the instability of his early years, with his father absent and the constant need to hide Jewish identity.

In 1945, his family returned to Clairevivre. There, his father, on furlough, was seeking their whereabouts. By mere chance, he passed their house just as his wife opened the window shutters and discovered her husband outside. The reunited family moved to Clermont-Ferrand where they faced antisemitism and still hid their Jewish identity. They emigrated to the United States in 1951, where they were aided by HIAS and settled in Philadelphia.

¹Former first name was David. Last name was Turg while in France.