

Interviewee:	<u>ZOSZAK</u> , Jadwiga	Date:	May 2, 1987 ¹
Interviewer:	Edith Millman		
Audio tapes:	1 German/Polish	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English ²
Restrictions:	None	Translated:	Ger./Pol. to Eng. (written)
		Translated by:	Edith Millman

SUMMARY

Jadwiga³ Zoszak, nee Greifinger, was born in 1906 in Sambor, Poland (Galicia). Before WWII, Giza lived in Katowice, Poland with her non-Jewish husband Adam Zoszak. Although Adam was a lawyer and judge, he was forced to become a day laborer after the Russians took over in 1939. Because she had once officially registered as a Jew, Giza was unable to apply for another identification card.

Giza describes the fate of her family members from the town of Boryslaw. Most perished in various concentration camps or at the hands of the Gestapo. One brother Herman was forced to play in the orchestra in Auschwitz. Giza, who spoke fluent Polish, survived by passing as Polish. Giza describes the difficult and dangerous living conditions and how she and her young niece lived in constant fear of being discovered. During her time in a small town, Stara Sól, she and her niece lived in isolation for fear of discovery of her true identity. She slept with an axe to protect herself from Ukrainians who attacked Poles. In addition to her husband's help, she was aided by a priest and a Polish teacher from Warsaw.

Adam aided Giza and her family, and moved in and out of the local ghetto, where he secretly fed and sheltered nine Jews in a basement in Boryslaw from May 1943 until August 1944. These Jews gave testimony after the war, and Adam was recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. After the war, Giza and Adam divorced.

In 1957, Giza and her niece settled in Israel. In 1960, Giza married Dr. Israel Sternberg, who had been a physician in Krakow. During the war he was a medic in Auschwitz concentration camp where he secretly administered penicillin to German officers to treat syphilis. While on a death march, one of these officers recognized him and saved his life. Giza lived in Tel Aviv and of her large family of eight siblings only three survived the war.

¹This interview took place in Israel.

²The German/Polish transcript is also available.

³Her nickname is Giza. Her second married name is Sterenberg.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Sambor, Poland
Katowice, Poland
Aid by non-Jews
Boryslaw, Poland
Auschwitz