

Interviewee:	<u>KOEN</u> , Fanny Friedland	Date:	April 22, 1985 <sup>1</sup>
Interviewer:	Selma Spielberger		
Audio tapes:	1 English	Transcript:	1 v. (unpaged)
Restrictions:	None		

## SUMMARY

Fanny Koen, nee Friedland, was born to a religious family July 15, 1930 in Chelm Poland. Her father traded in linens and they also had a family farm outside the city. Fanny describes her childhood memories of pre-war life, education, antisemitism and family life. She describes the simultaneous bombing of Chelm by the Germans in September 1939 and invasion by the Russians and her subsequent to Siberia with other Jews in locked animal wagons. Children were separated from their parents. After three months under horrible conditions they arrived in Siberia in late December. She recounts the extreme cold, unheated accommodations, starvation, forced labor and punishments that she experienced there and also that they did receive about two hours of schooling a day.

Jews, Siberians and political prisoners all lived under the same horrible conditions. Fanny mentions attempts of Jewish prisoners to observe the Jewish holidays secretly. She also mentions receiving food in 1944 shipped there from the United States. Fanny describes two very serious accidents which caused her severe injuries, the lack of medical treatment and that she was forced to continue working. She still suffers from these injuries.

Fanny describes her post-war experience being transported back to Szczecin, Poland in the same wagons that transported them to Siberia. Many died during the five months trip despite food provided by Americans. She explains how the Jewish Family Service managed to smuggle about 300 survivors into the American Zone.

Fanny, who was then 14 or 15 years old, describes being taken to an American Army hospital Gauting, near Munich and then to a hospital in Switzerland where she stayed for 6 years until 1951 to receive extensive medical care for her broken back and crushed leg. After her release she went back to Föhrenwald Displaced Persons camp<sup>2</sup>. Fanny was reunited with her parents after 13 years. She explains how she met her husband and was able to marry him in Cleveland, Ohio. She arrived in the United States in 1952. She discusses her life in the United States, becoming an American citizen, and her gratitude to the Jewish Family Service. See also the interview with her husband, Isak Koen.

<sup>1</sup> This was recorded at the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors in Philadelphia, PA.

<sup>2</sup> Her personal history records indicate that she was at Föhrenwald Displaced Persons camp for 3 months, then went to hospital for 6 years, and then went back to Föhrenwald, but she does not go into that detail in the interview.

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### SUBJECT HEADINGS

Holocaust, Jewish-1939-1945 - Personal narratives  
World War 1939-1945 - Personal narratives, Jewish  
Holocaust survivors - Polish  
Russian occupation - Chelm, Poland  
Deportation - Chelm, Poland  
Work camp - Siberia  
World War, 1939-1945 - Post liberation experiences  
Displaced persons camp - Föhrenwald  
Jewish Family Service - Rescue of Jews  
Life in the United States of America

HOLOCAUST TESTIMONY

OF

FANNY FRIDLAND KOEN

Transcript of Audio taped Interview

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