

-TITLE-NADIA STEINLAUF
-I_DATE-MAY 15, 1990
-SOURCE-SAN FRANCISCO HOLOCAUST ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY-GOOD
-IMAGE_QUALITY-GOOD
-DURATION-1 HOUR 51 MINUTES
-LANGUAGES-
-KEY_SEGMENT-
-GEOGRAPHIC_NAME-
-PERSONAL_NAME-
-CORPORATE_NAME-
-KEY_WORDS-
-NOTES-
-CONTENTS- San Francisco
Student's name: Matthew J. Scarafoni
Name: Nadia STEINLAUF
Date: May 15, 1990
Sound: good
Picture: good
Length: 1 hour and 51 minutes

5:30 Born in war time and survived as Gentile not Jew (1942-1946) named Nadia.

5:33 Born in the Ukraine in town of Beldithkof (ph). She was in a family of six children, and she WZ15 the oldest. She was born on April 18, 1926. She cared very much about her family and was considered the leader among the children.

5:37 Her father was alone in the town while the family stayed at the farm. They had a maid. Her mom made money for the family by being a seamstress and selling the products. That income was more than the pay of her father. Her dad did not know of her mom's extra work, for he would of disapproved.

5:39 The father would say that the family could live on what he made alone, that is all. The father was a mechanical tool maker.

5:41 Both mother and father killed by Hitler in their mid thirties.

5:45 Her hometown had both Jews and Gentiles. When she was in public school she never understood what was happening to her people. On June twenty-second the Germans came too her hometown and many people tried to run away but were halted. The Germans made everyone leave thier respective homes and live on one street. Then the Germans took all of the prisoners possessions and told the Jews they were going to be transfered to camps.

5:48 Kids were screaming and insearch of their familiesand she was now sure of how people were being killed by the Germans. She spoke of Russian friends who could have helped her avoid the Holocaust; but decided against their help because it would have meant she had

to leave her father. It was very important to her to survive with her father.

5:50 The families hid from the poi:Lice in big ditch like graves in the ground. Soon the police approached her father and sister and took them away.

5:53 She took bread tyo her father once and he cursed her for not being concerneed about hersel. She realized at that point that her father was succumbing to the trials of being a prisoner.

5:55 She moved from town to town to avoid the wrath of the Germans. As she moved about she folmd out from people that if she, or any other Jew were found by the Germans they waud be put to death.

5:57 She was confronted with sexual propositions many of times by ranking German officers. She went to a house of other Jews and was given the advice to not stay with any of the older people, she must stay with the young and flee for her life. She then ~led to Kiev.

6:00 She was offered a place to stay by some random family along the way. The family had no children. The next day she found a friend, Victoria. Soon thereafter Victoria was spotted by teh Germans and declared a Jew. She was hauled away to her death.

6:03 She became even more afraid of her surroundings as she watched her friend carted away by the Germans. She decided to register under the false name of Nadia.

6:05 In 1942 she was taken away by the Germans as a Russian citizen. At that point she understood that Jewish kids were killed not Russian ones.

6:07 From 1942-1945 she waited as Gentile to be freed of German rule. She saw people being shoved into trains enmass and carted to different areas of Germany. She was adopted by a dentists family with three children and one maid. She stayed there with the dentist for a year and worked for him.

6:10 She was asked of her status as a Jew three times while there and the dentist collaborated to her story as a Gentile.

6:12 She contemplated commiting suicide

6:19 After leaving life with the dentist she was assigned by the Gestalpo to hammer nails. Then the dentists wife past away and he set her up with another job with him. The dentist makes advances towards her and she leaves again.

6:24 She left town and secured another job building barracks in another town. She had a radio and carried it with her everywhere listening to music along the way. She wanted to be liberated very

much and waited patiently.

6:26 She was asked to go to West Germany by others enroute, and refused to go with hopes that the messiah would soon come and liberate them. Those who did leave for West Germany took with them as much as possible.

6:30 The Russians came into her town and raped and pillaged the town. She was very disappointed because she was waiting for the arrival of liberators. She decided to join others and head back east to see if any of her family was still alive.

6:33 She walked the entire way to East Germany then on to Poland. She came down with dysentery and could not go on any more. She was sent back to Russia.

6:35 She decided that she never wanted to be Jewish. She then met a survivor of Auschwitz and decided to start a new life over with him. This was great for her because she had found a person whom she could be Jewish with and have no fear of being killed for it. Her husband was on false papers as well.

6:37 They were married as gentiles and required to leave because of the Russian-Polish marriage. Her husband's friend, the Mayor, said that she would be kidnapped if they say anything of each other. She then moved to Posner and her husband met her there later in the year (1946). They left there and went to Krakow and then on to Israel, all the while using her husband's name.

6:39 The exodus to Israel was very difficult. The only salvation was the unity among the passengers.

6:41 On the trip the boats were only built for 500 people but over 1000 people were jammed aboard. The ship finally docked at Haifa (ph). Upon arrival the Palestinians encamped them for six months.

6:43 While in the camp she was pregnant with her first of three daughters. Her husband was self-employed and also an officer who fought for Israel in 1948-9.

6:45 She was in Israel for nine years but left because she could not deal with the never-ending pressure of everyday life. She was extremely tense all of the time. Then her son got sick with a fever. She was advised that the survival of her son depended on her departure from the Israel surroundings. So they left and never came back.

6:47 They arrived in New York and stayed for half of a year until they moved to Chicago for another half. They ended back in New York after that.

6:49 Her husband got a job at Heisman engineers, after some time in NY and they moved to Oakland.

6:53 She described the worst part of her life as the day she lost her parents. She was only fourteen.

6:55 She speaks of raising her children, two daughters and a son, mostly about how dedicated she was and still is. She also has six grandchildren.

6:57 They bought a house in Bel Air and lived there for seventeen years.

6:59 She says that her children were not influenced that much by her horrors in the Holocaust.

7:01 She lives her life day by day and tries to make each day better than the last.

7:04 She believes that the hatred for Jews is far from over.

7:06 Says that she hated leaving Israel because she loved it so much.

7:09 Her husband died from cancer. She thinks the cancer was induced from the nuclear power plants that her husband engineered in. She still wants to be in Israel.

7:12 - 7:21 She is on the edge of her seat to leave the interview, but the questioner is relentless. She tells him that he can take a look at the pictures and the questioner says it will not do her any good unless she goes through them. Much to her chagrin she, at lightning speed goes through the pictures. She then while being questioned at the end slowly stands up and says that she is glad she made it through the interview, because she was not sure if she would be able to.