

Local Survivor Sarah Mittelman

Polish survivor who fled to the Soviet Union. At the conclusion of the war she attempted to return home before making her way to a displaced persons camp in occupied-Germany. This interview was conducted in 1999.

What happened around the end of the war? How were you liberated?

When the war was over, they had between Russia and Poland, they had a make some kind of papers that the Polish citizens had to be freed. So, they had to free us. And then we ... they put us on a train. Took us a month to go back. So, we came back to Poland and being in Poland - March, April, May - being in Poland three months, they start to kill Jews again. It was a Kielce pogrom. I don't know if you heard about it? And when this pogrom came out, and Jews couldn't travel on the train to Poland after the war. Men - especially men – they took off the men, they killed them. So, if we want to make a living, we had to, the women have to travel and buy, sell, whatever it was. So, we decided that we were going to run away from Poland. If not, they going to kill us here too. So, we run away from Poland and we went to Salzburg. We didn't go. It was not like I say. It was a big deal. So, we came to Salzburg. We were in Salzburg for six months. After the six months, they took us to Germany. They made us pay of course to go to Germany. The Germany which was in the American side.

Oh, okay. Now when you were back in Poland, were you able to look for your family?

Nobody was alive.

Did you go back to your town?

We went back 18 kilometer away and they said, "Don't go in because you never come out." Because some people had... There was a couple that had a mill, a flour mill, and they went back and two Poles came in and cut off their heads, both of them. They survived the war and they cut off their heads after the war.