

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILES

Klara Aardewerk



Klara Aardewerk was born in July, 5, 1915 in Amsterdam, Holland. She had two sisters and three brothers, but only one sister survived the war. The rest were murdered by the Nazis. Her father and mother were killed in 1943 in Sobibor Death Camp. Before the war, she was already married and had a son. In 1943, she was taken to Westerbork Camp until September, 1944, when she was taken to Tereiseinstadt, where she worked in the hospital kitchen, cooking for babies. In November, 1944, she went to Vryburg, near Dresden. After one month, she was sent to Birkenau for four months and then went to Mauthausen Concentration Camp, where she worked in a weapons factory. She was liberated by the Americans on May 5, 1945, while she was in Mauthausen. She has two children and no grandchildren.



From the interview of Klara Aardewerk, USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive



From the interview of Klara Aardewerk, USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive

Agnes Sereni



Agnes Sereni was born in 1935 in Budapest, Hungary. She, her younger brother and parents considered themselves Hungarian first and Jewish second. She recalled a beautiful family life despite the existence of anti-Semitism. In March, 1944, the Germans marched into Budapest and her world collapsed. Agnes ended up in a hard labor camp, working 12 hours a day, carrying heavy sacks of flour. She endured many beatings, resulting in permanent spine damage. In November, 1944 the Arrow Cross took over Hungary and she remembered that many Jews committed suicide. She saw the streets covered with dead bodies. A miracle occurred when Agnes and her mother were included in Raoul Wallenberg’s list of “Swedish citizens” and were saved from deportation to Auschwitz. She was liberated by the Russians in January, 1945. Her father was shot by the Nazis and buried in a mass grave.

Her mother and brother survived. After Agnes married in 1946 in Budapest, they hired a smuggler who helped them escape to Vienna. They went to Toronto and then to the US in 1956. She feels she survived because she was saved in miraculous ways. “This is why— to tell you the story.” She has two children and three grandchildren.



From the interview of Agnes Sereni, USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive



From the interview of Agnes Sereni, USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive

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Lisa Derman



Lisa Derman was born in Raczki, Poland on Dec. 25, 1926. Her mother and sister were massacred by the Nazis in 1941, but her father survived. Lisa was in three Ghettos during the war: Slonim, Poland for two years; Grodno, Poland, for eight months, and Vilno, Poland for five months. She was also in the resistance for four months in Vilno. The Russians liberated her in June, 1944 in Narocz Woods, Poland. After the war, she lived in Italy until she moved to the US in 1947. She and her husband have three sons and eight grandchildren.



From the interview of Lisa Derman, USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive



From the interview of Lisa Derman, USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive

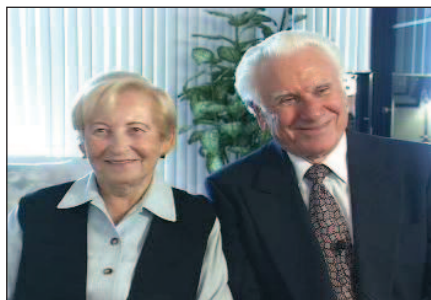


From the interview of Lisa Derman, USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive

Philip Markowicz



Philip Markowicz (born Fajwel) was born on March 15, 1924, in Lodz, Poland. He was in the Lodz Ghetto in beginning in 1940, for four years. From October until January 1945, he was in Auschwitz. From there he went to Flossenburg Camp in Munich and then to Regensburg, Germany, on a Death March. He had worked on repairing railroad tracks in these areas. He was in Lauffen Camp in Germany on May 5, 1945, when the war ended. Philip then went to Einring Displaced Person Camp, near Salzburg, Austria. From there he went to Lager Lechfeld Displaced Person Camp until March 1950. His father was killed in Lodz Ghetto; his mother, older brother, and sister were killed in Chelmno, Warsaw, Poland. Philip kept his younger brother with him throughout the war. Philip and his younger brother were the only survivors in his family. Philip and his wife have three children and six grandchildren.



From the interview of Philip Markowicz, USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive