

EUROPEAN EXPERIENCES IN WORLD WAR II ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
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# European Experiences in World War II Oral History Project

## Descriptive Summary

**Title**

European Experiences in World War II Oral History Project

**Date**

2005--

**Creator**

Center for Oral and Public History

**Extent**

Twenty-six (26) oral histories

**Repository**

Center for Oral and Public History  
California State University, Fullerton

**Project Abstract**

The "European Experiences During World War II" project consists of interviews focusing on the experiences of ordinary Europeans who lived through the Second World War on the European continent. The project has considerable topical and chronological breadth within this theme, including but not limited to British, Polish, German civilians (men and women, boys and girls), Soviet Red Army soldiers, German Luftwaffe fighter pilots, a Dutch Indonesian colonial, and Jewish Holocaust survivors. Interviews raise significant historiographical issues especially as they relate to European civilians during wartime and the war's immediate aftermath, with several interviews also touching on Cold War experiences in both Western and Eastern Europe.

Interviewers were students in Dr. Cora Granata's HIST 320: Modern European History class, Fall semester, 2005. Narrators were known associates of the students (family friends, co-workers, neighbors) or were recommended by Dr. Granata. Narrators are Europeans now living in California who relate their first-person experiences during World War II.

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## European Experiences in World War II Oral History Abstracts

### **OH 3514.1**

**Narrator:** Shutkin, Ingrid Ruth (b. 1931)  
**Interviewer:** Figueroa, Maria  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Ingrid Shutkin"  
**Date:** October 20, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Shutkin's home in Fullerton, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Status:** Final transcript (55 pp.)  
**Other:** Field notes; tape log

An oral history with Ingrid Ruth Shutkin, a resident of Fullerton, California. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Mrs. Shutkin's experience living in Europe the years before, during, and after World War II (WWII). This interview is done under the guidance of Dr. Cora Granata for her class: History 320, A Survey of Modern Europe. This interview focuses particularly on Mrs. Shutkin's late childhood and early teenage years. She talks about Nazi party propaganda, its influence on the educational system, and Nazi social clubs in her hometown, Tilsit, East Prussia now known as Sovetsk, Kaliningrad. Shutkin also offers a testimony to the acts committed by the Red Soviet Army against fleeing Germans in the final year of the war. She describes her experience while fleeing to Western Europe and describes the chaotic European scene following the war.

### **OH 3514.2**

**Narrator:** Shutkin, Ingrid Ruth (b. 1931)  
**Interviewer:** Figueroa, Maria  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Ingrid Shutkin"  
**Date:** October 25, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Shutkin's home in Fullerton, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Status:** Unedited transcript (17 pp.)

An oral history with Ingrid Ruth Shutkin, a resident of Fullerton, California. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Mrs. Shutkin's experience living in Europe the years before, during, and after World War II (WWII). This interview is done under the guidance of Dr. Cora Granata for her class: History 320, A Survey of Modern Europe. This interview begins with a focus primarily on her life after moving from Germany to Compton, CA, her first marriage to an American GI, raising her children in Fullerton, her divorce, remarriage, and her job at Siemens (electronics and engineering company). She speaks of her love of music and how music and reading sustained her through hard and lonely times. She describes life after the war in Germany and how difficult survival was with little money, food or clothes. She reflects on how her war experiences shaped who she is and shares her thoughts on the human cost and uselessness of war.

**OH 3867**

**Narrator:** Ignatiuk, Herta (b. 1927)  
**Interviewer:** Kira A. Gentry  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Herta Ignatiuk"  
**Date:** October 22, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Home of Herta Ignatiuk, La Habra, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Status:** not transcribed  
This oral history spans 1927-2005. Bulk dates: 1933-1952.

An oral history with Herta Ignatiuk of La Habra, California, for the European Experiences in World War II Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Ignatiuk's childhood in Germany during the Third Reich, 1933-1945, and membership in the Bund Deutscher Mädel. This interview covers Ignatiuk's life during war; activities in the Bund Deutscher Madel; what it was like living under a dictatorship; how the Jews in her town left before the war began; her experience in 1945 when the war came to her town and young boys were sent to defend it; the way the end of the war affected her life and what it was like when Allied troops entered her town and her father was MIA in Russia; her experiences of having her family home looted by the Allies; how living under the Russians was the worst thing to happen in her life; how and when she crossed the border into West Germany; her experiences of being captured after re-entering East Germany; why she wanted to become an American citizen and what happened once they arrived in the United States; how they survived during the first few months in America; what it was like to have her son fight in Vietnam since she had lived through war; and reflections on her life, children, and friends.

**OH 3869**

**Narrator:** Kampe, Christa  
**Interviewer:** Skipper Kagamaster  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Christa Kampe"  
**Date:** November 21, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Home of Christa Kampe, Torrance, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Status:** not transcribed  
This oral history spans 1935-2008. Bulk dates: 1935-1950s.

An oral history with Christa Kampe of Torrance, California, for the European Experiences in World War II, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Kampe's experiences in Germany during World War II. Born in East Prussia, Kampe talks about her father's occupation as a schoolteacher; describes her childhood during World War II, education and time at boarding school; recalls her parents' interest in evening radio broadcasts and their unhappiness when her father was drafted; speaks about her parents' reaction to Hitler and the economic situation in the

early 1930s; explains the distinction between Germans and Nazis; compares life in the United States vs. National Socialism; how her life was affected by the war, including bombings and family in combat; speaks about established religion in Germany; impact of World War II on her life and how she views war today; and finally, recalls impact of post-war occupation and life in East Germany.

### **OH 3870**

**Narrator:** Aichinger, Veronika (b. 1928)

**Interviewer:** Kelly Schwiebert

**Title:** “An Oral History with Veronika Aichinger”

**Date:** October 22, 2005

**Language:** English

**Location:** Home of Veronika Aichinger, Palos Verdes, California

**Project:** European Experiences in World War II

**Status:** not transcribed

This oral history spans 1928-2005. Bulk dates: 1937-1950s.

An oral history with Veronika Aichinger of Palos Verdes, California, for the European Experiences in World War II Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Aichinger’s childhood in Germany during the Third Reich, 1933-1945. Specifically, this interview addresses Aichinger’s childhood before the war; her experiences at school and importance of education; bombings of Northern Germany and Dresden; thoughts about the war and Hitler; interactions with local Jewish people and addresses general knowledge about concentration camps; activities in the Bund Deutscher Madel; describes meeting her husband and his job as German rocket scientist; immigrating to the United States in 1955 at the behest of the government and husband working for U.S. Air Force; and finally reflects on her family and life in California.

### **OH 4088**

**Narrator:** Marianna Dazzo

**Interviewer:** Mayne, Corey

**Title:** “An Interview with Marianna Dazzo”

**Date:** October 26, 2005; 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Mrs. Dazzo’s home in Brea, California

**Language:** English

**Project:** European Experiences in World War II

**Status:** not transcribed

An oral history with Marianna Dazzo of Brea, California. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding her experiences as a Holocaust survivor during World War II. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata’s History 320: Modern European History course. Specifically, this interview addresses her childhood in pre-war Netherlands, her family and how Nazi control changed her Jewish family’s life. She recalls the loss of family members to concentration camps, surviving a bombing raid, being arrested and then being given away by her family in hopes she could be protected by living clandestinely with other families.

She describes life with the various families, how she was treated, her activities, her feelings of sadness and loneliness. She tells of how war experiences affected her surviving family members' emotional health, her breakdown and subsequent recovery through finding other Holocaust survivors.

#### **OH 4089**

**Narrator: Nealis, Paula (1920 - 2008)**

Interviewer: Pash, Tony

Title: "An Oral History with Paula Nealis"

Date: October 11, 2005

Language: English

Location: Nealis' home in Huntington Beach, California

Project: European Experiences in World War II

Format: audio CD

Status: not transcribed

An oral history with Paula Nealis, a native of Germany, nurse during World War II and current resident of Huntington Beach. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the events and WWII through the eyes of an ordinary citizen. This interview is an oral history assignment for Dr. Cora Granata's History 320: Modern European history course. This interview describes the narrator's youth in Bavaria, nursing training, participation in the Hitler Youth, joining the Red Cross, serving as a nurse on the eastern front, descriptions of the countryside before and after the war, meeting her American husband in Bavaria.

#### **OH 4090**

**Narrator: Lettang, Inge (b. 1932)**

Interviewer: Morrison, Michael

Title: "An Oral History with Inge Lettang"

Date: November 17, 2005

Language: English

Location: Mater Dei High School, Santa Ana, California

Project: European Experiences in World War II

Status: not transcribed

An oral history with Inge Lettang, a German and Spanish teacher at Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, CA. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding her experiences in Germany during World War II. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 320: Modern European History course. Specifically, this interview deals with Mrs. Lettang's experiences and memories of her life and experiences living in Germany during World War II, as well as the experiences of her family. Mrs. Lettang was 13 years old when the war ended so her memories are from a child's perspective. She shares memories passed on from her parents and other relatives to give a sense of what the adults in her life experienced during this volatile period of European history. She recalls the Hitler Youth, her family's dislike of Nazism and Communism; her father's imprisonment in Russia, bombings, scarcity of food, destruction of cities, others' experience with prison camp, American soldiers, Berlin Airlift and Berlin Blockade.



**OH 4091****Narrator: Ignatiuk, Anapoli (“Tony”) (b. 1923)**

Interviewer: Lorigan, Marty

Title: “An Oral History with Anapoli Ignatiuk”

Date: October 22, 2005

Language: English

Location: Lorigan’s home, La Habra, California

Project: European Experiences in World War II

Status: verbatim transcript (34 pp.)

An oral history with Polish immigrant Anapoli Ignatiuk (Tony) of La Habra for Dr. Granata’s History 320: Modern European History course. Specifically the interview deals with early years near Brest in Poland, his teenage years when conscripted into the Russian army during WWII, fighting, getting wounded, his defection from the army and crossing of the border from East to West Germany with his wife Herta, difficult life in West Germany while they waited to immigrate to America, coming to the United States in 1953 with his wife, Herta, and their son, his various jobs and the successes of his four children.

**OH 4092****Narrator: Glienke, Constance (b. 1923)**

Interviewer: Schultz, Erin

Title: “An Interview with Constance Glienke”

Date: November 23, 2005, 2:00 PM

Language: English

Location: Glienke residence, Yorba Linda, California

Project: European Experiences in World War II

Format: audio cassette

Status: not transcribed

An oral history with Constance Glienke of Yorba Linda, California for the European Experiences in World War II Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding her life focusing on the events that occur during World War II. Mrs. Glienke (Connie) was a teenager in Great Britain during World War II. In the interview she describes what life was like during the war; how it affected not just her but her whole family; their move from the city of Manchester to Bolton; German bombing raids, how she felt about the Nazi’s actions; her thoughts on Churchill; and coming to the United States with her husband in 1945.

**OH 4093****Narrator: Haselbeck, Hermann (b. 1925)**

Interviewer: Yoon Sun Julia Jun

Title: “An Oral History with Hermann Haselbeck”

Date: February 18, 2006

Language: English

Location: Rancho Santa Margarita, CA  
Project: European Experiences in World War II  
Format: audio cassette  
Status: not transcribed

An oral history with Mr. Hermann Haselbeck, a veteran of the Germany army during World War II as a non-commissioned officer in the Luftwaffe (the German Air Force). He was also part of Hitler's Youth (German: *Hitler-Jugend*), which was a paramilitary organization of the Nazi Party that existed from 1922 to 1945. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his activities during World War II. Specifically, he spoke about his family and his birth town, activities with the Hitler Youth, *Luftwaffe* Academy, his experiences in Officer's Academy Air Force, as a *Luftwaffe* pilot, and as a German prisoner of war.

#### **OH 4094**

**Narrator:** Russo, Mavis  
Interviewer: Villalba, Fernando  
Title: "An Oral History with Mavis Russo"  
Date: March 5, 2006; 3:00 P.M.  
Location: A study room in Pollack's Library in California State University, Fullerton.  
Language: English  
Project: European Experiences in World War II  
Ephemera: Copies of Mavis Russo's ration book, clothing book and identity card.  
Format: audio cassette  
Status: not transcribed

An oral history with Mavis Russo, an English girl during World War II, for the European Experiences in World War II Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Russo's life in England during the war and the war's effects on her life and that of her family. Specifically Russo describes air raids and bombings, rationing coupons and identification cards, blackouts and gas masks, and newsreels about the war. She discusses meeting her future husband, a wounded American serviceman and her feelings about the war and the English, American and German roles in it.

#### **OH 4095**

**Narrator:** Bratt, Luisa (b. 1932)  
Interviewer: Cooley, Allison  
Title: "An Oral History with Luisa Bratt"  
Date: November 20, 2005  
Language: English  
Location: Interviewer's home in Mission Viejo, CA  
Project: European Experiences in World War II  
Format: audio cassette  
Status: not transcribed

An oral history with Luisa Bratt, an ethnic German who lived in Yugoslavia during WWII, for the European Experiences in World War II Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding the experiences of individuals who lived in Europe during WWII. This interview is a part of a project assigned by Dr. Granata for our History 320 class, which studies modern Europe. Major themes discussed in this interview include Bratt's childhood on a farm in rural Yugoslavia, schooling and religion, her parents sending her away to escape the war, bombings, her experiences as a refugee in Austria, her brothers' deaths in the fighting, her tuberculosis, moving to the New York and then Indiana, her jobs and life in the U.S. as compared to Europe.

#### **OH 4096**

**Narrator:** Boyce, Elizabeth McKenzie (b. 1928)  
**Interviewer:** Swanson, Michelle  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Elizabeth McKenzie Boyce"  
**Date:** November 12, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Boyce's home in Riverside, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Format:** audio cassette  
**Status:** not transcribed

An oral history with Ms. Elizabeth McKenzie Boyce of Riverside, CA for the European Experiences in World War II Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Ms. Boyce's youth in Scotland, particularly about growing up as young woman in Scotland during World War II. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 320, European Studies class.

#### **OH 4097**

**Narrator:** Grosfeld, Walter (b. 1925)  
**Interviewer:** Stoyanoff, Andrew  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Walter Grosfeld"  
**Date:** November 6, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Grosfeld's home in Culver City, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Format:** audio cassette  
**Status:** not transcribed

An oral history with Walter Grosfeld, a Holocaust survivor and resident of Culver City, for the European Experiences in World War II Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. This is a project for Dr. Granata's History 320: History of Modern Europe. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Grosfeld's experiences during World War II and examines the circumstances that allowed him to survive. Specifically, Grosfeld describes his youth in Radom, Poland, his family, the Jewish ghettos, working in a gun factory, witnessing his father shot to death by Nazi soldiers, taken to Auschwitz briefly then to work camps at Hesselthal and Vaihingen, liberation by Americans, good life in Bad Nauheim, lying about his age to get sponsored by an American family, life and jobs in Kansas and New York and meeting his future wife.

#### **OH 4098**

**Narrator:** **Hardi, Johanna (b. 1928)**  
**Interviewer:** Trinidad, Eric  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Johanna Hardi"  
**Date:** September 23, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Hardi's home in Orange, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Format:** audio cassette  
**Status:** not transcribed

An oral history with Johanna Hardi, a Dutch-Indonesian immigrant. The purpose of this interview is to gather information about her life in the Dutch East Indies during the World War II occupation by the Japanese. This interview is part an oral history project for Dr. Cora A. Granata's History 320 Survey of Modern Europe (1789-present) course. Specifically, this interview illustrates Johanna Hardi's life in the Dutch East Indies before the war; her teenage years during Japanese occupation of the Dutch East Indies; the struggle for Indonesia's independence; the emigration of her family to Holland after Indonesia forced Dutch colonists out of the country; and her immigration to the United States.

#### **OH 4099**

**Narrator:** **Bischof, Josef**  
**Interviewer:** McDaniel, Brian  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Josef Bischof"  
**Date:** December 1, 2005 Time: 10AM Pacific  
**Location:** The office of Mr. Joe Bischof at Old World Village in Huntington Beach  
**Language:** English  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Format:** audio cassette

Status: not transcribed

An oral history with Josef Bischof, owner of the Old World Village in Huntington Beach, for the European Experiences in World War II Oral History Project, Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. This is a project for Dr. Granata's History 320: History of Modern Europe. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding Bischof's experiences during World War II. No further abstract available; field notes and brief tape log are in the file.

#### **OH 4100**

**Narrator:** Reiter, Hanns (b. 1931)  
**Interviewer:** Lechuga, Jose A.  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Hanns Reiter"  
**Date:** November 22, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Narrator's home  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Format:** audio cassette  
**Status:** not transcribed; field notes and tape log

An oral history of Mr. Hanns Reiter, a youth during World War II in Germany, living at the home front. The purpose of the interview was to gather more information on what life was like in Germany during the war and how it shaped someone's life. This interview is part of Dr. Cora Granata's History 320: Modern European History. Specifically this interview focuses on Reiter's daily life experiences. He tells how it was better to live in Coburg, Germany than to live in the city destroyed by the Allies' attacks. His participation in the Hitler Youth seemed not to influence him much. His pastime and his school days helped him learn much. He describes his father's service in the war and his uncle's work at his factory in the manufacture of objects used in the war. The interview contains various anecdotes of a youth in the war environment.

#### **OH 4101**

**Narrator:** Appleman-Jurman, Alicia (b. 1930)  
**Interviewer:** Waskiewicz, John  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Alicia Appleman-Jurman"  
**Date:** November 20, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Narrator's home in San Jose, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Format:** audio cassette  
**Status:** not transcribed; tape log and field notes

An oral history with Alicia Appleman-Jurman, Jewish Holocaust survivor from Poland and author of the autobiography *Alicia – My Story*. The purpose of this interview is to document and gain insight into the lives of 'average' Europeans who experienced World War II. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 320 class. The interview traces

Ms. Appleman-Jurman's life from pre-war youth to her arrival into the U.S. Specifically, it covers her early family life; remembrances of the political atmosphere, incredible war survival experiences; post-war displacement; path leading her to Israel and eventually the U.S.; experience writing a book about her life; message to share with others. Her narrative is unique in relating the perspective of one who did not spend any time in a concentration camp but experienced the horrors of war in a daily struggle for survival.

#### **OH 4102**

**Narrator:** Kampe, Hannes  
**Interviewer:** Villalba, Fernando  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Hannes Kampe"  
**Date:** October 23, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Narrator's home in Torrance, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Status:** not transcribed; filed notes and tape log; photographs of narrator and interviewer

An oral history report of Hannes Kampe's experience as a civilian during World War II. The purpose of the interview was to gather information regarding the conditions and lives of Europeans during the war period. The interview is a project of Dr. Granata's History 320 Modern Europe class. The interview covers the narrator's life from infancy to adulthood, touching topics such as his family, his economic status, the type of products grown on his family's land, his schooling, his part in the Nazi youth, the atmosphere during the war, his view of ally and Russian soldiers, the types of retaliation against Germans by Russians and the immediate postwar years.

#### **OH 4103**

**Narrator:** Generoux, Gabrielle  
**Interviewer:** Bisgay, Samuel  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Gabrielle Generoux"  
**Date:** October 20, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Narrator's home in Fullerton, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Format:** audio cassette, and digital file  
**Status:** not transcribed

An oral history with Ms. Gabrielle Generoux. The purpose of this interview is to gather information concerning Ms. Generoux's experience in Germany during World War II. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 320, European Studies class. Specifically, this interview consists of Ms. Generoux's years in Germany during WWII, her reflections on how life was during the pre Hitler years, during the period when Hitler was in power, but prior to WWII, and the war years, as well as the post war years. No detailed abstract available; see field notes and tape log.

**OH 4104**

**Narrator:** Silten, R. Gabriele S. (b. 1923)  
**Interviewer:** Castro, Eric  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Gabriele Silten"  
**Date:** November 30, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Narrator's home in Pomona, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Format:** audio cassette  
**Status:** not transcribed

An oral history with retired college professor Gabriele Silten about her days in Europe during World War II. This interview is part of an assignment for a Modern European History taught by Dr. Cora Granata at California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information and perspective on what life was like in Europe during World War II. Silten's story takes us from her infancy in Berlin to her childhood in Holland. As a Jew in Holland, she explains the prejudice she felt when Nazi Germany invaded. The interview then takes us to the two camps she was sent to, first Westerbork, and then Terezin. She discusses the supposed myth of an easy and model camp in Terezin. She goes on to discuss the conditions in the camps and her release. Gabriele then explains her return to Holland and her migration to the United States. The interview ends with a perspective on the lesson she learned from this experience.

**OH 4105**

**Narrator:** Johnson, Robert  
**Interviewer:** Porter, Lance  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Robert Johnson"  
**Date:** December 4, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Narrator's home in Banning, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Format:** audio cassette  
**Status:** not transcribed; field notes and tape log

An oral history with Robert Johnson, a British tank commander during World War II. This interview was an assignment for Dr. Granata's HIST 320: Modern European history class. This interview begins with Johnson's life before the war. He then reflects about the Battle of Britain, and then he goes into some detail about his experience on D-Day. He also talks about his family; his father was killed when Germany bombed London. He discusses his views of Winston Churchill, British Field Marshall Montgomery, and Adolph Hitler, and then describes life after D-Day. He talked about what happened at the end of the war, his thoughts about the Holocaust, and the medals he received in the war.

**OH 4106**

**Narrator:** Nemeth, Maria (b. 1944)  
**Interviewer:** Vandal, Jonathan  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Maria Nemeth"  
**Date:** November 29, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Narrator's residence in Huntington Beach, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Format:** audio cassette  
**Status:** Not transcribed; field notes and tape log

An oral history with Maria Nemeth, a native of Hungary. The purpose of this interview is to gather information on how her life was affected by World War II and post-war communist Hungary. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 320: History of modern Europe. Specifically this interview deals with Mrs. Nemeth's being born in a Yugoslavian concentration camp during World War II; her life as a child in communist Hungary; leaving the camp post-war; recollections of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956; and her family's fleeing Hungary to a refugee camp when the Russians put down the revolt. This interview also deals with Mrs. Nemeth's memories of coming to America and her life experiences once here.

#### **OH 4107**

**Narrator:** Weyer, Mary (b. 1938)  
**Interviewer:** Williams, Ben  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Mary Weyer"  
**Date:** October 28, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Narrator's home in Costa Mesa, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Format:** audio cassette  
**Status:** not transcribed

This is an oral history with Mary Weyer, a resident of Holland during World War II. This interview was an assignment for Dr. Granata's Modern European History class. The purpose was to gather a testimony of a European during World War II. Mary was born in 1938, and was two years old when the occupation of Holland began. She talks about how of her Jewish neighbors' family of 40 members, only one survived the war. She talks about her mother's activities in the underground resistance. She explains her view and her interactions with German soldiers who occupied her city. The interview takes a little girl's perspective of a devastating war, and she talks about her experiences. It ends with a discussion on her take of popular media about the war while living in the United States. She talks about things that are in the media that remind her of Europe.

#### **OH 4108**

**Narrator:** Haska, Tadeusz (b. 1919)  
**Interviewer:** Barton, Kelsey  
**Title:** "An Oral History with Dr. Tadeusz Haska"



Date: November 23, 2005  
Language: English  
Location: Phone interview, with both participants at their respective homes; narrator in Monterey, California and interviewer in Rocklin, California  
Project: European Experiences in World War II  
Format: audio cassette  
Status: not transcribed

An oral history with Dr. Tadeusz Haska, retired. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his experiences during World War II and learn about his activities as a member of the Polish Peasant's Party during the 1947 Polish Election. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Granata's History 320 Modern European History course. Specifically, the interview discusses the importance of education in life. During the war he worked as a teacher, illegally schooling Polish children. Later he worked as a farmhand and interpreter and then as a bookkeeper and interpreter. After liberation, Haska returned to his college where he ended up as a member of the Polish Peasant Party and he ran for parliament. The communists arrested him, but he escaped to Sweden before they could send him to prison. He later returned for his wife and they set sail for the United States in 1949, finally escaping the communist threat to their lives.

#### **OH 4109**

**Narrator:** Zacharias, George (b. 1921)  
**Interviewer:** Magdaleno, Fernando  
**Title:** "An Oral History with George Zacharias"  
**Date:** November 2, 2005  
**Language:** English  
**Location:** Narrator's home in Irvine, California  
**Project:** European Experiences in World War II  
**Ephemera:** photocopies of photographs; copies of documents and letters from Zacharias  
**Format:** audio cassette  
**Status:** transcript (verbatim, 23 pp; edited, 23 pp.)

An oral history with Mr. George Zacharias, a native of Crete. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding his experiences during World War II. This interview is part of an oral history project for Dr. Cora Granata's History 320 Modern European History course. Specifically, the interview deals with Mr. Zacharias memories as a sailor on board Greek destroyers throughout the war, including his visits to ports throughout the Mediterranean Sea, and the sinking of his ship, the *Queen Olga*.