

Esther's Journey and Major Events in WWII				
	Class		Name(s)	
	Period		Date	
Year	Events in Poland	Events in Esther's Life	Major Events: WWII Europe	Events From Another Source
				Title of Source:
				Name of Individual (1st person testimony):
1927		1927- February 8: Esther Nisenthal is born in the village of Mniszek in Central Poland		
1933			1933-January 30: Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany	
1938			1938- November 9/10: Kristellnacht- The Night of Broken Glass	
1939	1939- September 1: Nazis invade Poland	1939-September: Nazis arrive in Rachow and Mniszek and occupy Esther's village.		
	1939 -October 26: Forced labor decree issued for Polish Jews aged 14-60.			

	1939- November 23: German civilian occupation authorities require Warsaw's Jews to identify themselves by wearing white armbands with a blue Star of David.			
1941		1941-June: Esther discovers a death camp for Jewish boys near her village. This same year during Passover, April 1941, Esther's father was beaten by two Nazis		
1942	1942- July 22: First deportations from the Warsaw Ghetto to concentration camps; Treblinka extermination camp opened.		1942-January 20: High-ranking German officials meet in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee to discuss and coordinate the implementation of what they called the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question", a plan to systematically annihilate the entire Jewish population of Europe, an estimated 11 million people.	
		1942-October 15: The Jews of Annapol- Rachow and the surrounding villages are ordered to leave their homes and report to the train station in Krasnik. By some accounts, they were put into the Krasnik ghetto and in November 1942 taken to the the Belzec death camp. Esther, then 15, and her sister, Mania, leave their family and travel to the house of Stefan, a friend of their father's in the nearby village of Dombrowa. Stefan a gentile, agrees to take them in, but after two days asks them to leave out of the fear that the Nazis will find them and kill him and his family.		
		1942- October 30: Esther and Mania travel to the village of Ksiezomierz to seek refuge under assumed Polish Catholic identities, but are sent away when they are unable to produce birth certificates.		
		1942- November: Esther and Mania come to the village of Grabowka, where they find work and shelter.		
1943	1943-November: 18,000 Jews were slaughtered in the Krepicki Forest, adjacent to Maidanek- a concentration camp outside of Lublin.			
1944	1944- January 6: Soviet troops advance into Poland.			

	1944- July 24: Soviet troops liberate first concentration camp at Maidanek.	1944- July: Russian infantry march into the village of Grabowka and liberation had arrived. "...Freedom had come for Mania and me, but for the rest of our family, it was too late." Page 57- FREEDOM 1944 (From Memories of Survival)		
	1944- August 1: Polish Home Army uprising against Nazis in Warsaw begins.	1944-August: After the Soviet Army liberated the village of Grabowka, Esther returned to Mniszek in hopes of finding her family but found no survivors. She hears from a neighbor that the Jews might have been taken to Majdanek, and Esther travels there to look for signs of her family. After Russian soldiers gave her a tour of the camp, Esther joins the Polish Army, under Soviet Army command and goes with them to Berlin. "After seeing the showers and gas chambers, the crematorium, and the giant cabbages growing on human ashes, I joined the Polish and Russian armies stationed there." Page 59- MAIDANEK (Exerpt from Memories of Survival)		
1945		1945-March "Along with the 5th Division of the Russian Army, my Polish Army unit crossed the Oder River into Germany. We passed the site of an earlier battle. The Russians had hung Nazi officers on every tree along the road. They looked as though they were still alive. Many other dead Nazis lay scattered along across the field, at the edge of which a young pretty Russian soldier stood pointing the way to Berlin." TO GERMANY P. 61 (Exerpt from Memories of Survival)	1945- May 8: Victory in Europe Day	
1946		1946-After her discharge from the army, Esther returns to Poland to get Mania. Then the two of them go to a Displaced Persons (DP) camp in the American zone in the town of Ziegenhein, Germany. There, Esther meets and marries Max Krinitz, also a Polish survivor.		
1947-1948		1947-Esther and Max travel to Belgium, where Max finds work while they wait to immigrate to the United States. Their daughter Bernice is born there.	1948-The US Congress passes the Displaced Persons Act, authorizing 200,000 displaced persons to enter the United States.	
1949		1949-Esther, Max and Bernice arrive in the United States and settle in Brooklyn, NY.		