

-TITLE- GEORGIA GABOR
-I_DATE- MAY 19, 1984
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-RESTRICTIONS-
-SOUND_QUALITY- EXCELLENT
-IMAGE_QUALITY- EXCELLENT
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-LANGUAGES- ENGLISH
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-NOTES-
-CONTENTS-

01:00 Born in Budapest, Hungary in 1930

02:00 The only survivor in her family, aunts and uncles included besides one other cousin. She was captured numerous times during the war, but she always escaped by one means or another. Pre- 1944, when the Germans invaded Budapest, she lived a very prominent lifestyle. Her father was a successful lawyer.

03:00 In a matter of months, she went from having servants and maids to eating garbage off the streets. She wanted to enter a gymnasium, which was a college prep high school, but only a certain percentage of Jews were admitted. But her father used his connections to get her in.

04:00 In '42 she became aware that she was different because she was Jewish.

05:00 At this time the Hungarians were supporting the Germans and their troops, but they were not full fledged partners, like the Czechs etc. The Jews were very assimilated. She heard about what was going on in Poland with the Jews, but no one believed that it could happen to them, and if it did it wouldn't be as bad because the things she was hearing seemed inconceivable.

06:00 In 43' her cousin smuggled a letter out He was with a German unit at the Russian border. He wrote that the Jews were being sent out on mine fields to test to see if there were mines out there. She couldn't believe what she heard.

07:00 On March 14, 1944, things changed. When they turned on the radio, all they heard was German. She knew that this was a horrible sign. Her family also got a call from a non-Jewish family friend, whose husband was involved with the Nazis. This friend was calling in the middle of the night to tell them that no matter what, not to go out of the house for anything.

08:00 The city was a ghost town. There were SS and Gestapo all over. In a matter of 6 hours, they managed to take over. They picked up government officials, and those that resisted, were shot on the spot.

09:00 A Judenrat was formed with the leaders of the Jewish community. There people were told to do as they were told or else, their families would be tortured. She speaks about the book she wrote: My Destiny: Survivor of the Holocaust.

10:00 She wrote a book because she kept asking herself, why me? Why did I survive?

11:00 She thinks that the reason for her survival was to be able to document her story.

12:00 Man's inhumanity to man is worse than one of an animal to an animal. Speaks about Hitler who used the Jews as scapegoats.

13:00 Speaks about how Hitler was a very bright man who knew exactly what he was doing. She tells about what a crazy man Hitler actually was.

14:00 Her father was on the Judenrat, the Jewish Council, so she knew about much of this stuff first hand.

15:00 Orders and restrictions for the Jews came very rapidly. In a matter of weeks it seemed as if all of their human rights were taken away, not to mention their dignity. They had to give everything over to the Nazis.

16:00 The father explained that the reason he went along with the Nazi's orders was because the Nazis promised them that if they followed orders, they wouldn't hurt them or their families; so they followed the orders.

17:00 In January, 1944 she saw pictures of mutilated bodies. The pictures were of bodies with parts missing, etc. She still was amazed that human beings could do this to one another.

18:00 In January 1944, she was thinking, "well it won't happen this badly to us."

19:00 She speaks about the horrible laws against the Jews. Jews were moving to designated homes, with one family to a room.

20:00 She wasn't starving because a mysterious person, who to this day she doesn't know who it was, was leaving food for them.

21:00 In June they moved into their designated house. There was much bombing going on at this time in Budapest, but life was still bearable. On October 14, 1944 at 10:00 a.m. the Hungarians declared a cease-fire. People were hugging, because they thought things were over.

22:00 She planned to escape, because she didn't feel that the danger was over. She was going to get on the roof somehow and then climb out.

23:00 She was captured, and held in a temple with all the others.

24:00 She kept a little black book, with all of her notes of what was happening to her in it. She still has this book and it is from this that she took the information for the book she wrote about her experiences.

25:00 All the Jews were being rounded up to be taken to the labor camps. Her father was rounded up, it was the last time she saw him.

26:00 She managed to get an affidavit from people that were around from Wallenberg's efforts. She talked it out of a Cadet she knew. She was a very feisty young girl. She received a Swiss affidavit. Once she got it, she got this same Cadet to take her around town to find a typewriter with the same type as the one that was used to type the affidavit.

27:00 She then proceeded to type in her mother's and fathers names, so they too would have one. She wasn't wearing her star through

this whole thing of getting the affidavit. She took many chances.

28:00 The people with affidavits were all put into a special "International Ghetto."

29:00 She still wasn't wearing her star. She had made arrangements to meet her mother and things got mixed up. Her mother ended up getting caught when she was looking for her daughter.

30:00 So, she went to a former client of her father's who happened to be a top Nazi. She disguised herself and made up some crazy story and got herself into his office.

31:00 She filled him with guilt of never doing any good deed in his whole life and with the fact of all that her father had done for him, then demanded that he get her mother out.

32:00 Soon after that a soldier came to her with a note from her mother saying that by some miracle, she was called out from the brick factory where she was sent.

33:00 She was in the "International Ghetto waiting for her. The soldier was to bring her to her mother, but on the way there they got caught. She fell down these stairs into this German's mans arms who called her a "Jew bitch." He then proceeded to take her to this room where 100 people, both jews and non-jews, she thinks, were lined up against the wall. She had to watch them being tortured. They were being whipped, and beaten and some of their limbs were being cut off. It was very gruesome.

35:00 One soldier whipped a girl to the point that he killer her. People had gashes from head to toe. Some people had their breasts or genitals cut off. She had to witness the entire horrendous spectacle.

38:00 She felt that she was intended for rape. She started to pray. She didn't come from a religious family, but she still prayed.

39:00 She had a strong belief in God.

40:00 The Jews were being sent through this hole in the wall, which led to a tunnel. She let dow her hair and reversed her jacket, and

got on all fours, and crawled away from this German man who was holding her. The soldier couldn't imagine where she went. She crawled into this hole with all the others.

41:00 In this place there was no air and you couldn't move around at all. It was extremely cramped. People were screaming because they were in such pain. This "space" was overloaded with people.

42:00 People were still screaming and then the rats started to come. They were crawling all over her. This was the worst of it all for her.

43:00 She was in this hole for a day and a half.

44:00 She feels very lucky, because she always managed to escape from these situations. She took many chances. She next speaks about how horrible the whole situation was, and how important it is for her to talk because of these revisionists who claim that the Holocaust never happened.

45:00 She speaks about resistance, and why the Jews didn't resist. How could they? The Jews didn't have weapons, or organization. It was impossible. Also, they always believed that thing would get better and that they would never be as bad as they were for the Jews in Poland.

47:00 She tells how the whole issue of the Holocaust is about man's inhumanity to man. She speaks of Holocausts that are happening today around the world.

49:00 She is distressed because she asks, "What did the Jews do to help; the American Jews." She asks why didn't the Americans do anything? They could have done something, even if it was only minimal they may have saved some lives.

53:00 Until the end she elaborates on all of the former.
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