

-TITLE- LUDMILLA PAGE
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Ludmilla Page was born in a small town in Romania known as Kishinev in July of 1920. She and her family moved to Poland where she was raised. Both her parents practiced medicine in Poland. Ludmilla also wanted to pursue a medical career, and originally attended the University in Vienna, Austria. Ludmilla's father died when she was only 14 years old, and her mother went on to raise her. While studying in Vienna at the age of 17, the Germans occupied the territory. She then transferred to school in Poland, however she was not accepted due to her test scores. During this time the German reign began to take place. Finally in November of 1939, Ludmilla's mother was arrested. Ludmilla went with her mother under German power and both were taken to Kraków along with 3,000 Poles and 1,700 Jews.

In March of 1941, a Ghetto was formed in Kraków. In the Ghetto, Ludmilla worked in a factory. Ludmilla's mother was sent to work as a doctor in Warsaw. Then, on March of 1943, Ludmilla and the rest of the people in the ghetto were sent to a concentration camp in Płaszów. She never saw her mother again and was separated from her husband. All possessions were taken away from her by the Germans. It was on the concentration camp where people united with each other and encouraged each other to go. Ludmilla was sent to work in a factory during the day. The boss in Ludmilla's factory was named Schindler, who was a very fair man and became fond of all of his workers. At one point, Ludmilla was told that the workers in the factory with her would be sent to Brindlin, instead they were sent to Birchenau. Ludmilla spent three weeks in this death camp with all types of people. Many people became sick with dysentery and Ludmilla recalls one time when she was attacked by other women in the camp for her food.

Then, one day, everybody left were loaded up in cattle cars and went on a three day journey. Upon arriving they saw Schindler, their good boss from the factory. Ludmilla and her husband were reunited and the people were treated very well. Schindler acquired guns for the people in the camp to defend against the Germans when the Russians would arrive. People did not realize that the war was over and that the German armies were retreating. Ludmilla and her husband were liberated on May eight. Their goal was to go to America.

They arrived in New York and have one daughter. She has returned to Poland only once since leaving there, and that was with her family in 1971 while on a trip through Europe.

17:01:30 Born in Kishinev, Romania-July 1920. Both parents were doctors. She was raised in Poland.

17:01:53 Childhood wonderful. Lot of love and attention.

17:02:10 Father died when she was 14 (of long illness). She became closer to her mother.

17:02:30 Background was of assimilated Jews. They felt they were primarily Poles.

17:03:00 She wanted to pursue a medical career, she went to school in Vienna. They terrorized everyone. They did not realize the eminent danger.

17:05:05 She then applied to school in Poland. Not accepted due to test scores. She was accepted at Geneva. Signs of danger everywhere.

17:06:50 Her city was flooded with new decrees. Jews not allowed to ride trolley cars, had to wear arm bands.

17:07:30 Neighbors separated. Most valuables given to a German family in Poland.

17:10:15 3,000 Poles and 1,700 Jews were gathered up and put in passenger trains. They had no idea what was going on. They were taken to Kraków, to an old Polish fortress.

17:11:40 Terrible frightened about whole situation. Fact that everyone was together made situation a little easier.

17:12:15 Gatherings outside in the middle of winter. Man took Ludmilla and her mother to an apartment in Kraków. Man's friend became Ludmilla's future husband.

17:14:00 Big mistake was turning down offer to go to Lemberg (Lwów). Most that went to Lemberg(Lwów) became free. Mother's office reopened in Kraków. The screws were tightened on Jews. Armbands enforced. Men had to do hard labor, they were beaten on the streets.

17:15:45 March, 1941 - Ghetto was formed. Mother kicked out of Kraków, sent to Warsaw. Mother came back two years later. Warsaw was terrorized. She was a doctor in the Ghetto.

17:17:30 In Ghetto in Kraków, she worked in factory that repaired German soldiers uniforms. Selections made (right or left). She then worked in a convalescent home for returning soldiers.

17:19:50 Went to Ghetto one day, it was three-fourths empty. Many people taken away. Rumors heard of death camps. Mother not allowed to visit her anymore. Last letter sent by mother included her wedding band and a piece of fabric.

17:21:50 March, 1943 - sent to Płaszów concentration camp. Families separated. Constant fear of death, but they tried to live as normal life as possible. She felt they were being protected. Ghetto conditions horrible, but not as bad as Warsaw Ghetto.

17:24:30 In Ghetto, she was together with her husband/ In concentration camps, all of jewelry was taken.

17:27:15 Amon Goeth was commander of camp. He was hung in Kraków for murdering Jews. No crematorium on concentration camp.

17:29:40 Possessions were slowly taken away from people in camp. People thought war would end soon. People very unselfish in camp. Shared food, people encourage one another. Even in Auschwitz, People were wonderful to one another.

17:32:20 Working conditions in factory were good. Russian front was approaching. People at work treated fairly. Boss of factory was very nice and fair.

17:35:45 Boss of factory becomes fond of his workers, he wanted to move factory to Brindlin in Czechoslovakia. Instead of going to Brindlin the were taken to Birchenau.

17:38:20 Ludmilla's group was mixed, had all sorts of people. Women's heads shaved. All possessions taken away.

17:39:40 A nightmare came true. Three weeks of hell was occurring. Camp was meant to be a death camp. Conditions horrible.

17:41:00 People had dysentery. One night she needed to use a fecal bucket and she was not allowed.

17:43:00 One night she was attacked and her food was stolen by other women.

17:45:30 She tells story of children in Płaszów being taken away to Auschwitz. Very emotional.

17:48:10 She discusses roll call and how people were chosen to be killed, any physical weakness resulted in being killed. People would hold each other up.

17:51:50 Women one day loaded up in cattle cars. Taken away two nights and three days of travel. They sucked on snow to quench their thirst. They arrived and saw Schindler, their good boss from the factory. They were told they would be all right.

17:56:20 Husband was there, they were given hot soup and allowed

to talk to their husbands. Husband was working as welder. They slept on stone floors inside of factory in camp.

17:58:30 They knew they would be saved at this point.

21:01:30 Husbands and wives communicated through thin walls. They talked about their future plans of what they would do when they got out.

21:04:00 Friend of hers died and she was given a traditional Jewish burial with a real rabbi.

21:05:03 Camps evacuated because Russians were coming closer.

21:06:00 People arrived from other camps. All were in horrible shape. Many of them died.

21:07:30 Graves were being dug for people in camp as Russians were coming closer.

21:08:45 Schindler acquired guns for the people in camp to defend themselves against the Germans when Russians would arrive.

21:09:30 April 28th came, Schindlers birthday. Bread and butter was given to Schindler along with a birthday cake and ring.

21:11:00 Schindler told people thank you and that war would be over soon. Schindler wanted to go to American zone to become free.

21:11:50 People in camp did not yet realize that war was over.

21:12:00 German armies were retreating. They were liberated on May 8th. Survivors of camps stayed with some German families.

21:14:20 She and her husband lived for six weeks in village. Husband sold tools he found in an abandoned warehouse to people in village to make money. With this they bought food.

21:16:40 After six weeks they left village. They wanted too go to Palestine. First they went to Budapest, the to Czechoslovakia then to Munich. In Munich, husband organized educational sectors for children. They were in Germany from December 1945 to 1947.

21:19:00 They arrived in New York knowing not a word of English. They began to work. She learned English by working in a department store.

21:20:35 In 1971, she went back to Poland with her family. There her husband and Ludmilla showed their daughter where they were both born and raised.
.END.