

EDDA TREFOREST

Born Lvov, Poland October 1926. Parents, Simon and Adela Wind, were Jewish. Apparently 3 brothers and a sister (now in Israel—Mania). In late '30's, Polish students smashed windows in father's business. In 1939, Germans came to Lvov and Poles helped them find Jews. In 1942, parents and brother Max deported. One brother hid. Edda had false papers identifying her as Edda Janusiewicz. She was caught by a soldier whom she bribed with her watch. 1942-3 she hid with a Polish woman until the woman's nephew denounced her to the Gestapo and was tortured. Edda was arrested, taken to jail in Lvov and then to a transit camp where she saw bodies in pits. She was housed in a bathroom with 6-8 others. The commandant gave her a brief job as a hairdresser for his mistress. She eventually went to Plaszow, Birkenau and then Auschwitz where she was tattooed even though she claimed not to be Jewish. She was put in a Gentile barracks with 1-200 others, sleeping 4-5/bunk and marked as a Mischling. She was aware of the gas chamber and crematoria. Later she and others marched to Bergen-Belsen where prisoners dug graves and actually uncovered older corpses. Guards came into barracks and shouted "Arbeit" and prisoners who didn't respond were shot. Edda had typhoid and was quite ill. A diplomat, Bernard Lersh, an opponent of Hitler lived in the camp and took pity on her and gave her work in his cottage. Edda claims a memory loss from ice water being poured on her. At the end, the Germans took of their uniforms to hide as the British liberated the camp. Prisoners pushed Irma Greeses's head into a toilet. British arrested Kramer (???) who disavowed knowledge of atrocities in the camp. After liberation, Edda taken into town on a truck where she met JW's. She went to the UK where she became a JW and met her husband, a former prisoner, who also converted to JW. Edda feels that being a JW has helped her understand what happened to her.