

Judith (Simon) Lederman was born in Romania. She had finished two years of high school when the war broke out, and she and her parents were sent to live in the ghetto. The first concentration camp she went to was Aushwitz. From there, she was sent to a labor camp where she helped make bombs. As the Russians were approaching, the prisoners of the labor camp were taken on a death march to Bergen-Belsen. When she was finally liberated, she weighed only 75 pounds. Her group was taken to a hospital in Sweden where she was treated wonderfully until she recovered. She worked in Boras, Sweden, for a few years, during which she met her husband. They were married in Paris and had two daughters born there. In 1955, they emigrated to the United States where a third child, a son, was born.

Mrs. Lederman seems to have difficulty remembering time periods, but her memory of incidents and sequences seems fine. She speaks in a calm voice and tends not to dwell on the too-distressing details of her life.

11:30 She was born June 29, 1924, in Romania. She had finished two years of high school when the war broke out. In 1943, she and her parents were deported to the ghetto. From there, they were taken to Aushwitz. She was with her mother for a while. Her mother was eventually taken to the gas chambers.

She was then sent to a labor camp in Germany where she worked in a factory. For a time! she was a maid to an SS woman. For a while, it was okay.

She was liberated at Bergen-Belsen by the English and Hungarian soldiers. She weighed only 75 pounds and couldn't walk.

Her group was taken to a hospital in Sweden where she was well taken care of by the doctors.

11:35 She went to live in Boras, Sweden. She worked in a factory that made slacks and men's jackets. She worked making slacks. The factory provided housing for the employees. She worked there for 2 1/2 years.

When she was in Sweden, she began correspondence with her aunt who lived in the Bronx, New York. Her aunt sent her money and clothes.

She met her husband in Sweden in 1946 or 1947. They became engaged in 1948. His family had friends in Paris. She and her future husband and his family all went to Paris. That's where they got married and had their two daughters.

They moved to the United States in 1955. A son was born in 1959.

11:38 She was an only child. Her father was a tailor. She had a happy childhood.

In 1940, the Germans invaded her city. Windows of Jewish homes had to be covered with black or navy paper. There was an evening curfew. Jews had to wear a yellow Jewish star that was sewn on tightly to their clothes.

When her family was taken to the ghetto, they left most of their possessions with their neighbors. Since they never came back from the ghettos she never got back her possessions.

11:42 In the ghettol they lay on mattresses on the ground. The "walls" between families were really just sheets. She doesn't remember many details of the ghetto.

11:43 From the ghetto they were taken to Aushwitz by horses and wagons. They didn't know what was awaiting them. When they got to the camp, all their clothing was taken away and they were each given one piece of clothing. Her father was immediately seperated from her and her mother. They felt tremendous humiliation.

She was 19 years old. She was in the barracks with her mother. It was not too bad at first. The woman in charge of the barracks tried to keep her and her mother together during llselections."

Finally, her mother was taken during a "selection." She was 46 years old.

11:48 During selections, they had to line up outside the barracks. It got bad when it got cold. She had only one dress with nothing underneath. The women hugged each other to keep themselves warm.

11:50 From Aushwitz, she was sent to a work camp. When the Russians were coming close, the people in the camp were marched through the snow to Bergen-Belsen. People who couldn't keep up were beaten.

11:53 When she got to Sweden, she was covered with lice that she had contracted at Bergen-Belsen. She did not work at Bergen-Belsen.

In Sweden she was given soap and a toothbrush -- things she hadn't seen in two years.

In the work camp, she was told it was a bomb factory.

11:55 At Bergen-Belsen, she saw a lot of dead people. She could barely walk because she had lost so much weight. She laid down with the dead people just so she could rest.

There was very little food there. She ate mostly raw potatoes or potato peels. She drank from a lake where she saw people washing things. She thinks she contracted typhus.

She doesn't remember everything about Bergen-Belsen.

She wasn't really scared, she felt numb.

11:59 From Bergen-Belsen she was taken to Lubeck (?). That's where she was liberated.

She worked in Sweden for 2 1/2 years. She was treated very nicely in Sweden. Two families acted iust like parents towards her. There were a lot of survivors in Sweden.

She met her future husband when he came into the factory where she worked. His family was from Poland. Each of the members of his family survived in a different way.

12:03 From Sweden, they moved to Paris and got married. They lived there for g years.

When they moved to the United States, they stayed with one of her husband's cousins until they could find an apartment. His parents came to the United States, too. Her husband's family in the United States helped them a lot.

12:08 In the U.S., her husband worked as a tailor. They had a candy store for 11 years. When her husband developed asthma, they moved to Arizona. She now has 1 grandchild.