

M A G D A Z A L I K O V I T Z (R6-50.120*0176)

1:00 to 1:06 (start tape 1/1)

Background She was born in 1915 in Budapest, with a twin brother. (The family lived in Munkacs, then Czechoslovakia, to give birth, in order to avoid military service), after which she returned to Munkacs. Where they lived, (while her father served in the army during WW I)

Describes a harmonious family life; observant and Zionist upbringing. Had two additional brothers and father was an accountant at a winery. She married in 1936.

1:07 to 1:15

Outbreak of War. Describes good relationships with gentiles until the war started, and when the Hungarians entered Munkacs. Then had to change schools and 1941 law required Jews to have gentile business partner. In 1942 all young men were taken into the army – her brothers and husband to military labor camp near German border, and were not heard from for 2-3 years. She was left with her young son and her parents. (shows three-year old sons' photo, all she has left)

1:16 to 1:17

Munkacs Ghetto was established by the Hungarians shortly after they entered town. She describes how they were moved – three times – to differed streets and apartments.

Were there 2-3 months, under very difficult conditions, especially meager food.

Hungarians were anti-Semitic.

1:19 to 1:22

Trains to Auschwitz. Describes how they were taken by trains; lack of food and water, Men were separated; women and children had to run. Hardly anyone left from the initial group of 80. Ended near crematorium though they did not know what it was.

1:23 to 2:15

Assigned to Mengele's Twin Group

Responding to calls for "Zwillinge" she was inspected by Mengele, who instructed her to hand her 7 year old son to her mother and join the twin group. She never saw them again. Describes the composition of the female twins' group (in Birkenau barracks) of whom she was the oldest.

Describes their work routine, the detailed daily examinations (e.g., eyes, blood, body measurements) carried out on the twins by assorted prisoners-professionals, all

according Mengele's instructions, and his 'Haftlingers'.

Several children and a set of triplets among the twins did not survive. Finding out (after five months) that her twin brother was among Auschwitz prisoners gave her reason to live, as she had contemplated suicide. She does not know what were the effects of the examinations; but believes her twin group had slightly better living conditions because Mengele needed them for his examinations (e.g. received more food, could keep own hair, clothes, washed during examination). She worked in 'revier.' for 9 months. Knew nothing about the war outside.

2:16 to 2:22

Moved – running - to Ravensbruck

As the Russians approached on January 18, '45, Germans had them run out of camp to Breslau where they were put on trains, via Berlin, to Ravensbruck. She describes the 10-day run without rest or food, and all who couldn't run were killed. She was in the women's camp in Ravensbruck till May. It was full of lice and no food, and she got weaker and sicker. Finally, she was expelled to Malchov cowshed, the Germans fled.

2:23 to 2:41

War's End. Return to Munkacs Describes the initial period after liberation as extremely sick and saved by three hometown sisters .Sick from 'overeating.' Long train ride to Munkacs.

Help from refugee organizations. Re-connecting with relatives and twin-brother in Romania. Reconnected with husband (who was prisoner in Russia for 3 years). Other brothers returned as well. Mourned parents and son.

2:41 to 2:44

Recuperation, Carlsbad

Lived in Carlsbad for 5 years (in German's house). Son born.

2: 45 to 2:48 (end tape 1/1)

Move to Israel. Describes her first years in Israel. A daughter born. Husband died recently.

Only now started telling her children about her war-time experiences. Initially she Did not tell to protect them, but now she believes it is important; also to dispel Those who deny the past.

Translated and transcribed By Hava Bonne'
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