

A L I Z A G R E E N

Background

1:00(Tape 1)

She was born in December 1923 in Czechoslovakia, Her family was observant and made a living working in their general store. She describes her five siblings, including a twin sister. When they were expelled from school because of anti-Semitism, they had a Hebrew teacher at home.

Outbreak of War

When the Germans entered their town (Spitzkasaravik?) in Sept. 1939 their family tried to hide the girls, also with relatives in neighboring Keshmoro (?), but returned home. The local Slovaks took all their valuables and they had difficult time providing for their needs. Anti Semitism started at the time of Glinka.

Transported to Auschwitz

Rumors that young women can go to work (in labor camps?) had even her mother help them pack. Describes in details how she and her sister Lenka (Glenka?), with other young women, were transported to military camp Poprat by bus and then by train to the camp, believing they'll be able to work and help their family. Nobody knew where they were going; they were given chalk to mark the train car to indicate the route. Arrived

There Mid-March 1942.

1:15 to 1:30

Initial Experiences in Auschwitz

Describes how the buildings and prisoners looked upon arrival. Describes in detail their initial painful medical (Gynecological) examination (or "treatment" as it stopped their menstrual period?); Sauna, clothes and utensils given; sleeping and work arrangements, food rations. Describes political prisoners,

Being selected for better jobs to serve commando and able to use food and other things for bribes to improve conditions. Fear of beating.

130: to 1:53

Birkenau

Transferred there in July-August. Somewhat better conditions. Describes Mengele's visit (knew all Germans names) Biggest selection occurred on Shabat-Hannuka . Had "Spot-Typhoid". Women in her group looked after each other. Using bribes, she managed to meet her younger brother Miki, her emaciated father and .see sister Lenka daily. All three perished later either in the selections or from disease. Worked there till March '43. Transferred with other girls to "better commando quarters (called "Canada") where they collected clothes and valuables which they sometimes could use as bribes.

1:54 to 2:12

"Estate" Farm..

Transferred there (6 KM from Birkenau) to work with animals. Hard work but better food Describes living arrangements including those of SS. Describes her group of 40 girls from various backgrounds, and two cousins with her. Describes Passover. Worked with 1500 chicken, relatively better relation with some SS, for whom she did thing, and female supervisors ('Aufseherin'); bribes possible. One 'Polish' prisoner who smuggled arms to Warsaw ghetto.

2:14 to 2:26

Continued Transfers

Describes becoming sick, operated by Dr. Fisher and treated in Birkenau. (Jan '45) Forced to march (Vermacht enabled her to use sled) to Grossrosen-Ravensbruck to Plestoff , working in SS kitchen/laundry in Malchov and then in munitions factory till April 45.

2:28 to 3:00

Liberation

Describes initial signs of change, bombardment by allies, uncertainty and hiding. Encounter with Russian Jewish soldier and French Officers. Returns to Staetien and bus to Prague. Her experiences in Prague and difficulty of proving her Jewish/camp identity

Quarantine. All alone after discharge

Connecting with Relatives , (most perished), visiting family home, looking for work.;

Ruptured appendix and surgery, and needing recuperation following surgery..

3:01 to 4:00 (end of first tape)

Elaboration on earlier topics

Repeats family background. Twin sister died in '41. Shows family photos

3:07 German anti Jewish laws when they entered, but anti-Semitism from Glinka's period. Jewish-gentiles relationship before relatively OK..

3:16

"Jewish Army" in blue uniforms (photos), How Anti Semitism was handled. It became impossible to escape. Were members of youth movement - Bnei Akiva.

3:27 Describes again how 100 girls 17 to 35 were taken by bus to Poprak (PopraT?) nobody knew where to and father sent detective.

3:38 Poprat in detail, 35 girls from her home town and again Auschwitz, the camp and their initial reception. Birkenau Describes her work there with the political prisoners and her supervisors. Describes the crying at night and many death and suicides..Describes again the 35 girls from her town, the 10 blocks of the camp and their initial reception, how she and her two cousins (Margit and Eddi) worked in the Aussenkommando Vorarbiter (not in Birkenau, but smelled the gas.

4:00 (start tape 2) to 5:02 (end)

Repetition of previous testimony with some minor additions:

401 Crying at night, suicide at fence (at Birkenau toilet), fear of dogs

4:09 German “Puffcommando” (?) where blond pretty women were presumably sent to serve the soldiers.

Her work at “Hermansee (the animal farm?)

4:14 Visits by Mengele, Gresser, Muller, even Eichman. Whether she knew who they were, The. Sadistic treatments by Germans. Avoided lures to escape by Volksdeutsch, bad treatment by female “Ausserin”

s All women of block 10 moved to Birkenau; Final Block 25 and some of the women
t she was with. Saw the women taken by car to extermination; they yelled :”tell,
s tell !” Sent to Hermansee where Germans treated them better because ‘they were Slovaks and not Poles’ .

4:40 Repeats story of surgery

4:50 to 5:00 **Life In Israel**

Describes difficult life in Israel, being without family was also missed by her children.

Told oldest son many of her terrible holocaust. experiences, because she wanted him to know too and share her suffering. He cried together with her.

Translated and transcribed by Hava Bonne’

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P.S. This record/summary may be of questionable reliability: the testimony was often repetitive, confusing, and saturated with irrelevant detail. Time sequences were often missing, overlapping, not clearly connected. I am not even sure my limited summary is free of errors.