

Interview with Helen Balsam
March 15, 1992
Bronx, New York

Summary

Helen Balsam discusses her childhood in Poland during World War II; witnessing the destruction and burning of homes and synagogues early in the war; her father's registration for the Polish Army; early resistance against Germany; her father's capture in Russia and internment in various labor camps; her family's placement in a ghetto; her family's internment in Auschwitz; the hardships she experienced during her internment in a labor camp in Hirschberg, Poland; her reunion with her father in Hirschberg; her experiences being transported to multiple camps near the end of the war; her experiences walking through "the roads of death" in Austria; her traumatic experiences in the labor camp, Gunskirchen; her rescue from the labor camp by the American Army; her stay at the German soldiers' camp, Hirscheegg; her long-term hospitalization, post-war; marrying a Christian man from the Hirscheegg camp.

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Labor camps; hospitalization