

Summary of Oral History: Molly Ingster

RG#:RG-50.233.0058

This Summary was written by a USHMM Volunteer on [03/2022]

Molly Ingster was born Malka Pesketska in Vilna, Poland. The war broke out in '39. She had a baby in '41 when the Germans ordered her to go to the Ghetto in 24 hours. She went with her mother. Two months before, her brother, his wife, children, older sister and her husband, two other sisters and their children, Mollie's husband, her brother-in-law and father had been taken and shot along with 4 to 5,000 people. As they walked to the Ghetto, the dead could be seen lying on the street. She found a room with 40 people so there was only room to stand. Her mother sat down and held the baby. Molly was 20 years old and in shock. When the Germans took her to work, she left her baby with her mother. There was no food so she saw children in the street with swollen stomachs. A soldier gave her a piece of bread. The Ghetto had a Jewish Theatre with performers, poets and writers. Her baby survived whooping cough and pneumonia with hospital treatment. Her father-in-law came to the Ghetto out of hiding and had the Judenrat Council make an ID showing she was his wife and her baby was his daughter. He obtained a yellow pass to obtain work and obtained bread. He escaped to Estonia when they were taking men and she followed as relatives were permitted to join them. They took women without children out of the cattle car, but Molly would not leave her baby. Later, she learned that the women died. Molly and her baby and another girl hid under the train and then in the woods and ran to a farmhouse. When a German soldier came, she hid in the straw. She smuggled herself into a camp but she and the baby got typhoid. After seven months, they were taken to a larger camp, Kaiserwald. Then they were taken to Auschwitz where she was tattooed, and the baby was gassed which depressed her. She saw men electrocute themselves on the wires. The Jewish prisoners exploded one of the gas chambers. On January 28, 1945 she was in the last transport. She had no shoes and could not walk and got to Bergen-Belsen which was crowded. She was liberated by the British who gave them food that was too rich so many prisoners died. Molly got married and went to the US, because she had relatives there. She had a baby which made her happy. She still suffers from nightmares. Molly is giving this interview so her story will live on.