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ABSTRACT of Interview of Lea Heimler, Nee Rieberger, recorded December, 12, 1995 at the Jewish Holocaust Centre in Melbourne, Australia.

Mrs. Heimler was born March 3, 1927 in Gyor, Hungary. Her father who owned a pub was killed in an accident in 1939. Lea and her mother then moved to the small town of Farad nearby to live near other family members. The local jewish population consisted of only 8 families and her mother ran a small store. Shortly after the Germans occupied Hungary in March 1944 the local Jews were forced into a small ghetto in Czorno. Several weeks later they were moved to a larger ghetto/camp in Sarvar where all area Jews were concentrated. In June of 1944 the camp inmates, mostly women and children, were transported to Auschwitz by cattle cars. Lea gives very few details of their journey. Upon arrival in Auschwitz a selection by Mengele took place. Lea was separated from her mother and never saw her again. The young women that were spared were held in barracks for about 6 weeks. In August 1944 they were transported to a camp in Altendorf (near Kassel), Germany and were made to work in an underground munitions factory. Conditions are described as "not good" but "Sanatorium-like" when compared to other camps. Towards the end of the war (presumable late April to beginning May 1945) they were marched for app. 60 km to the vicinity of the town of Homburg (Kreis Kassel). At that point their German guards disappeared and they were liberated the next day by American troops.

In 1946 Lea returned to Gyor and was married in 1948. In 1956 she escaped with her husband and daughter to Austria and emigrated the same year to Australia.